

**STATEMENT BY DR. M.GANDHI, COUNSELLOR & LEGAL ADVISER ON 6
NOVEMBER 2003 SUPPORTING THE MOTION MOVED BY IRAN UNDER RULE 116
OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ADJOURN
THE DEBATE ON THE AGENDA ITEM 158 UNTIL THE 60TH SESSION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to support the motion moved by Iran under rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly to adjourn the debate on the agenda item 158 until the 60th session of the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation considers agenda item 158 to be an important one, dealing with the question of an International Convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings. We have two competing draft resolutions contained in documents A/C.6/58/L.2, and A/C.6/58/L.8. The Sixth Committee has not yet been able to find a negotiating mandate. The Sixth Committee is known for its tradition of arriving at decisions on the basis of consensus. Voting on any of these two proposals would be counter-productive as we feel that an issue of vital importance such as this should be decided with the widest possible support. This would be possible only if any decision on the question were to be adopted with the agreement and support of the largest number of member states. Moreover, co-operation of all countries is essential for the implementation of the Convention in a meaningful and effective way. Statements made under this item in the Sixth Committee indicate that every member state is in favour of banning reproductive cloning. However, some countries appear to have still not made up their mind with regard to the manner and method by which reproductive cloning could be banned in an effective way.

In these circumstances, we believe that it would be appropriate to adjourn the debate on item 158 until 60th session of the General Assembly, so as to give sufficient time for further consultations in order to reach agreement among all the interested delegations.

We would like to clarify that by extending support in favour of this motion, we are not deciding for or against either of the above-mentioned two resolutions.

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