

Committee: WHO/OMS

Issue: Towards a New Deal for World Health

Author: The Republic of Indonesia

In 2020, the world was subjected to a global pandemic created by SARS-CoV-2; this virus took the lives of an estimated 27 million people worldwide. The Republic of Indonesia recognizes the need for further and better global cooperation in the field of pandemic resistance, and it believes that global health agreements such as the ones made in 2023 and 2024 concerning IHR (International Health Regulations) are a great start. However, several important topics are missing or not highlighted enough in these agreements, such as the need for IHRs concerning HGE (Human Genetic Engineering) and the need for more cooperation concerning vaccinations.

The Republic of Indonesia currently does not have any national regulations concerning Human Genetic Engineering. However, there are regulations on the subject of “changing God’s creation.” Currently, assisted reproductive technology in the form of ‘in vitro fertilization’ is legal. However, it is under strict restrictions (It is only legal when the two adults are married and one of them is infertile). Abortion is generally illegal except for several scenarios (Health of the mother or rape), and euthanasia is illegal in any form (active and passive). Indonesia’s general stance on gene modification of any kind is that the sanctity of human life must be respected. As of today, the Republic of Indonesia does not have a legal framework regulating Human Genetic Engineering. Nevertheless, ethical committees have been set up to address these bioethical dilemmas. The Republic of Indonesia is open to international health regulations on genetic manipulation if cultural laws and traditional values are respected.

Since the outbreak of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), the need for more vaccination cooperation has arisen. The Republic of Indonesia believes that international health regulations need to be amended to fit the needs of the time. A majority of the world, including the Republic of Indonesia, has proven to be more susceptible to pandemics or global health crises. Indonesia, therefore, wishes to assert the need for equitable solutions regarding vaccinations. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted major flaws in the allocation and distribution of vaccines, whilst more economically developed countries were able to easily access vaccines. Countries with more vulnerable economic situations were neglected, causing major health crises in these countries. The Republic of Indonesia wishes to prevent similar situations in the future by urging the international community to seek more equitable solutions concerning the circulation of vaccines (for example, COVAX). To conclude this point, the Republic of Indonesia demands more cooperation within the international community in the field of vaccinations and general pandemic resilience.

To conclude, the Republic of Indonesia is very much aware of the need for a new global agreement regarding global health. According to the Republic of Indonesia, such an agreement must include regulations regarding human genetic engineering. These regulations will need to consider religious and cultural ethical boundaries. It must also include a new pandemic response plan. The pandemic response plan will need to include equitable vaccine allocation programs like COVAX that will ensure that more vulnerable countries receive the correct number of vaccines. The Republic of Indonesia will agree to a new deal once these criteria are met.