

Commission: World Health Organisation (WHO)

Issue: Bioethics, Transhumanism, Vaccines, towards a New Deal

Author: Morocco

Since the turn of the century, Morocco has seen significant improvements in its healthcare with major achievements taking place like the introduction of a mandatory healthcare plan (AMO) in 2005 which allowed to provide healthcare coverage to workers both in the public and private sectors. Whilst our state has been making steady improvements when it comes to healthcare, we still have some large holes to fill, and we are still far from being one of the world's most advanced countries when it comes to healthcare.

Bioethics is a topic on which our country has some strong opinions. We are a conservative country when it comes to this topic due to our religion. The official religion of our state is Islam and around 99% of our population is Muslim. According to the Qur'an the holy book of our religion we can eat most animal meats if we follow Islamic law which means that they are killed in a certain way that respects the soul of the animal and limits suffering to a maximum as we believe that we can be reincarnated into those animals. Following these core beliefs of our society, we are always open to treating animals more ethically and participate in a treaty involving bioethics if it respects the values of our religion. Meaning that we take a conservative stance on this topic as whilst we are not fully opposed to the idea there are some concerns that hold us back from wanting to participate in such an agreement.

Transhumanism is a topic in which Morocco is guided by religion. Although, we would be naive not to recognize the feats that are being made with technological advancements nowadays; we very strongly believe that these advancements should modify or interfere with the physical integrity of a human being just for the sake of improvement. That is because of what we are told to do by Allah. "The One Who has perfected everything He has created" (Qur'an 32:7) and "Let there be no change in God's creation." (Qur'an 30:30) Precisely show Morocco's stance on transhumanism. That means that our state is not open to collaborate when it comes to advancing the progress of transhumanism and has a very conservative stance on the topic.

Morocco is favorable to the prospect of reaching an agreement to improve cooperation in the research and development of vaccines. We are a state that encourages vaccination and has done in the past when for example the government of our country during the covid-19 epidemic order 65 million doses of vaccines, being one of the first countries in Africa to do so. An important thing to note though is that although we encourage vaccination, we do not make it compulsory for our citizens as Morocco believes that freedom of thought and opinion are very important.

As it is widely known we are suffering from problems of lack of drinking water and access to essential services and infrastructures like hospitals in our cities and most predominantly in Tanger. Because of that we seek help from the EU by sharing technological advancements that have already been developed by them like sea water treatment plants and infrastructure for us to have more hospitals. Morocco does not expect to receive help without giving anything in return we will assure to participate in the free trade agreement between the EU and the mediterranean African countries, allowing access to ports of great geographical advantage like the one of the previously mentioned Tanger.

Overall, Morocco is willing to participate and cooperate when it comes to agreements regarding vaccinations as we find doing research and global cooperation about vaccination vital. Although we are open to find an agreement for the case of vaccination our position on bioethics is more conservative and even more so when it comes to transhumanism.