

Delegate Handbook



ARGOS PREPARATORY ACADEMY



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WELCOME LETTER

Dear Delegates,

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the UNESCO Bioethics Committee at ArgosMUN. We are honored to accompany you throughout this Model United Nations experience and hope that it becomes an opportunity for you to develop your diplomatic, research, negotiation, and public speaking skills.

As delegates, you will have the responsibility of representing the position and interests of your assigned country rather than your personal opinions. The topics before this committee involve complex ethical, scientific, and legal challenges, requiring you to consider different perspectives while seeking realistic and responsible international solutions.

We hope this handbook provides you with the necessary guidance to prepare for the conference and understand the procedures that will govern our sessions.

We look forward to seeing you actively participate in the debate and make the most of your ArgosMUN experience.

Sincerely,

Isabella Molina Monroy
President

Leonardo Giron Villareal
Moderator

Paulina Nogez Rojas
Conference Officer



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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

UNESCO Bioethics Committee

The UNESCO Bioethics Committee is dedicated to discussing ethical principles related to science, medicine, biotechnology, and human health. Its work is connected to UNESCO's efforts to promote international cooperation and responsible approaches to scientific and technological development.

Bioethics examines the ethical questions that arise from scientific and medical advances and considers how these developments may affect individuals, communities, and society.

The committee focuses on issues including human dignity, human rights, equality, privacy, informed consent, social responsibility, and respect for individuals. These principles are particularly relevant to areas such as genetic research, medical treatments, reproductive technologies, organ transplantation, biotechnology, and the use of biological information.

One of UNESCO's most important contributions to bioethics is the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, adopted in 2005. The Declaration establishes principles related to human dignity, autonomy, informed consent, equality, social responsibility, and the sharing of benefits from scientific progress.

UNESCO has also developed international instruments concerning the human genome and human genetic data, establishing important principles for the relationship between scientific development, human rights, privacy, and human dignity.

The committee also encourages dialogue among scientists, healthcare professionals, philosophers, lawyers, governments, and civil society. This international dialogue is essential because bioethical questions often involve different cultural, social, scientific, and legal perspectives.

The purpose of this committee is not to stop scientific progress. Instead, delegates should explore how scientific and technological development can take place responsibly while protecting human rights, animal welfare, human dignity, and the well-being of society.

II. THE UNESCO BIOETHICS COMMITTEE

Key Areas of Focus

- Human dignity and human rights
- The committee considers the protection of human dignity and fundamental rights in scientific and medical development.
- Equality and social responsibility
- Bioethical decisions should consider equality, social responsibility, and the fair sharing of benefits from scientific progress.
- Privacy and informed consent
- Privacy, informed consent, and respect for individuals are central principles in areas involving genetic information, medical treatments, and biotechnology.
- Scientific and technological development
- The committee examines how scientific and technological development can take place responsibly while protecting individuals, communities, animals, and society.
- International cooperation
- The committee promotes dialogue and cooperation among governments, scientists, healthcare professionals, philosophers, lawyers, and civil society.



III. PARTICIPATION OF THE DELEGATE DURING THE DEBATE

Preparation and Training

Successful participation in a Model United Nations requires thorough preparation. Delegates must always represent the official position and interests of their assigned country rather than their personal opinions.

- Delegates should prepare in four main areas:
- The United Nations and the Committee: Understand the purpose, mandate, functions, and limitations of the committee.
- The Country Represented: Research its history, political system, economy, culture, social conditions, international relations, treaties, and national interests.
- The Topics: Research the historical background, current situation, international responses, and possible solutions related to each topic.
- Rules of Procedure: Understand the rules governing debate, motions, points, voting, and resolution writing.

IV. RESEARCH FOR THE DEBATE

Delegates should conduct clear and reliable research before the conference. Recommended sources include:

- Official United Nations and UNESCO websites.
- Government websites and diplomatic missions.
- International organizations.
- Academic institutions and libraries.
- Scientific and academic publications.
- Reputable non-governmental organizations.
- Delegates should distinguish between reliable information and personal opinions or unsupported claims.
- Since electronic devices will generally not be permitted during formal sessions, delegates must bring their relevant research in printed or handwritten form.

V. SUPPORT FROM FACULTY

Faculty members may guide students during their preparation by helping them understand the topics, research reliable information, and identify their country's official position.

- Faculty members should:



- Help students understand the topics.
- Encourage independent research.
- Help students distinguish their personal opinions from their country's official position.
- Encourage respect for the country's culture, policies, and international relations.
- Faculty members must not make decisions on behalf of delegates or influence their positions during the conference.
- During committee sessions, faculty members act as observers and must not intervene in the debate.

VI. ROLE-PLAYING

During ArgosMUN, delegates become diplomatic representatives of their assigned countries.

Their main responsibilities are to:

- Represent the interests and policies of their country.
- Participate actively in debate.
- Negotiate with other delegations.
- Develop realistic and internationally applicable solutions.
- Work toward consensus.
- Successful diplomacy is not simply about giving the strongest speech. It is about listening, negotiating, compromising, and building support for solutions.

VII. DRESS CODE

Delegates must wear formal business attire or formal school uniforms. Military uniforms, national costumes, sportswear, and inappropriate clothing are not permitted.

Formal Attire — Ladies

- Formal trousers or a knee-length skirt.
- Formal dress at or below knee length.
- Blouse or formal shirt.
- Blazer or sweater when necessary.
- Discreet necklines.
- Formal shoes.



Gentlemen

- Suit or formal trousers.
- Formal shirts.
- Tie.
- Blazer or sweater when necessary.
- Formal shoes.

The following are not permitted:

- Denim or leather/vegan-leather clothing or accessories.
- Leggings as pants.
- Tennis shoes or sneakers.
- Tracksuits.
- Extremely oversized or excessively tight clothing.
- Tube tops or tops with thin straps.
- Neon or excessively bright clothing.
- Political symbols or messages on clothing or accessories.
- Inappropriate accessories that interfere with formal protocol.
- If weather conditions require delegates to remove their blazers, they may do so quietly without requesting a Point of Personal Privilege.

Failure to comply with the dress code may result in a warning.

VIII. RULES OF PROCEDURE DURING THE DEBATE

General Principles

These rules govern the debate of the UNESCO Bioethics Committee. They are considered self-sufficient unless the Secretariat or Chair establishes a specific modification.

Language

English shall be the official language of the committee. Delegates must use English during formal debate and in official documents unless the Chair authorizes otherwise.

Committee Authorities

The Chair consists of:



- President
- Moderator
- Conference Officer

The Chair is responsible for maintaining order, guiding debate, enforcing the rules, recognizing speakers, and resolving procedural questions.

The President is the highest authority within the committee. The Secretary-General of ArgosMUN remains the highest authority of the conference.

President

- Opens and closes formal sessions.
- Guides the debate.
- Recognizes speakers.
- Ensures compliance with the rules.
- Announces decisions and voting results.
- Resolves procedural conflicts.

Moderator

- Directs the debate.
- Recognize delegates who wish to speak.
- Maintains the Speakers' List.
- Assists the President.
- May temporarily assume the President's functions when necessary.

Conference Officer

- Records the development of the sessions.
- Keeps records of votes.
- Coordinates ushers.
- Assists the Chair with official documents.

IX. FORUM

The Forum is the formal space in which the committee conducts its debate. When the Forum is open, delegates may introduce points and motions according to the rules.

- When the Forum is closed, delegates may not introduce motions or points unless specifically permitted by the Chair.



X. WARNINGS

Delegates may receive a warning for:

- Disrespectful behavior.
- Failure to follow the rules.
- Inappropriate use of parliamentary notes.
- Misuse of points or motions.
- Repeated procedural interruptions.
- Two warnings during the same session may result in the delegate being asked to leave the committee until the following session.

Four warnings during the conference may result in cancellation of the delegate's participation.

XI. PARLIAMENTARY NOTES AND USHERS

Delegates may communicate with other delegations or the Chair through parliamentary notes during formal debate.

Ushers are responsible for delivering these notes. The Chair may review notes before delivery.

The misuse of parliamentary notes may result in a warning.

XII. COURTESY

Delegates must maintain a respectful and diplomatic attitude at all times.

Delegates must refer to their country or delegation in the third person. Personal attacks, offensive language, discrimination, and disrespectful comments are not permitted.

XIII. USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Electronic devices are not permitted during formal debate unless specifically authorized by the Chair.

Delegates must bring printed or handwritten research to the committee.

Electronic devices may be authorized for specific activities such as drafting a resolution or reviewing an official document.

XIV. QUORUM AND ATTENDANCE

Before each session, the Conference Officer will conduct a roll call. Delegates must answer:

"Present" or "Present and Voting."

The committee may begin formal debate once the minimum quorum established by the conference has been reached.



A simple majority is required for ordinary substantive votes unless these rules are established otherwise.

A delegate who is absent during roll call may receive a warning unless the Chair determines that there was a valid reason.

XV. RIGHT OF REPLY

A delegate whose personal or national integrity has been seriously insulted may submit a Right of Reply to the Chair through an usher.

The President will determine whether the request is in order.

If granted, the delegate may briefly address the Forum to explain the offense. A Right of Reply may not be used to respond to another Right of Reply.

XVI. POINTS AND MOTIONS

Point of Order

A Point of Order is used when a delegate believes that the rules of procedure have not been correctly followed.

It may interrupt a speaker only when necessary to address an immediate procedural error.

Point of Personal Privilege

A Point of Personal Privilege is used when an external or personal condition prevents a delegate from participating effectively.

Examples include difficulty hearing the speaker or an uncomfortable environmental condition.

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry

A Point of Parliamentary Inquiry is used to ask the Moderator about the rules of procedure. It may not interrupt a speaker.

Motion of Procedure

A Motion of Procedure is used to propose a change in the flow or structure of the debate.

Motion to Sit by Blocks

A delegate may propose a motion to organize delegations into strategic blocks based on a relevant variable established by the Chair.



XVII. VOTING

Each member of the state has one vote.

Votes may generally be:

- For
- Against
- Abstain

Once voting has begun, delegates may not interrupt the process except through a Point of Order or Point of Personal Privilege directly related to the voting procedure. Every voting member present must participate in the vote.

XVIII. FORMAL DEBATE

The formal debate is conducted through the Speakers' List. Delegates raise their placards to request the floor. The Chair establishes the Speakers' List and recognizes delegates in order. Speaking time may be established by the Chair, normally between 30 seconds and 2 minutes. Delegates must remain relevant to the topic and maintain diplomatic language.

XIX. SETTING THE AGENDA

The committee determines which topic will be discussed first. A delegate may propose:

"The delegation of [country] moves to open Topic A."

The motion requires a second and may be debated according to the Chair's instructions.

XX. EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF QUESTIONS

After a speech, a delegate may propose an Extraordinary Session of Questions. The motion must specify whether there will be two or three questions.

If approved, questions are directed to the speaker and must remain relevant to the speech.

XXI. YIELDING THE FLOOR

A. To another delegate

The remaining time is given to another delegate.

B. To questions

The remaining time is used to answer questions from the Forum.



C. To the Chair

The remaining time is returned to the Chair. The minimum time that may be yielded is 20 seconds.

XXII. CAUCUSES

Moderated Caucus

A Moderated Caucus suspends the Speakers' List, so delegates can discuss a specific aspect of the topic.

The delegate proposing the motion must specify:

- Total duration.
- Speaking time.
- Specific topic of discussion.
- The motion requires a second and a majority vote.

Unmoderated Caucus

An Unmoderated Caucus is an informal period during which delegates may move around the room and negotiate directly.

During this time, delegates may:

- Form diplomatic blocs.
- Negotiate proposals.
- Develop Working Papers.
- Draft resolutions.
- Discuss amendments.
- The Chair may determine the duration of the caucus.

XXIII. FLOW OF THE DEBATE

- Roll Call
- Setting the Agenda
- Speakers' List
- Extraordinary Session of Questions
- Yielding the Floor
- Caucuses
- Working Papers



- Draft Resolutions
- Amendments
- Closure of Debate
- Roll-Call Voting

XXIV. WORKING PAPERS

A Working Paper is a compilation of proposals developed by delegates. It may be submitted when the Forum is open and after review by the Chair. A Working Paper must receive the required number of signatures established by the committee. Signing a Working Paper does not necessarily mean that the delegate supports all of its content.

XXV. DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

A Draft Resolution contains the proposed solutions that the committee intends to adopt.

A Draft Resolution must:

- Follow the official format.
- Address the topic under discussion.
- Contain realistic and applicable solutions.
- Obtain the required signatures.
- Be approved by the Board of Approval before presentation.
- Each delegate may sign only one Draft Resolution.

XXVI. RESOLUTION

A Resolution consists of proposed solutions that have been developed through the committee's debate and negotiation process.

XXVII. BOARD OF APPROVING

The Board of Approval consists of the President and Moderator. The Board reviews Draft Resolutions to ensure that they comply with the required format and address the topic appropriately.

XXVIII. AMENDMENTS

Delegates may propose amendments to a Draft Resolution.

Amendments must:

- Be submitted to the Chair through an usher.
- Follow the established format.
- Receive the required signatures.
- Be approved before being presented to the Forum.



- The Chair determines whether an amendment is in order.

XXIX. CLOSURE OF DEBATE

Once the discussion of the Draft Resolution and its amendments is complete, a delegate may propose a motion to close the debate. If approved, the committee proceeds to voting.

XXX. ROLL-CALL VOTING

The Conference Officer calls the delegations alphabetically. The Chair will establish the exact voting procedure before the vote. The Draft Resolution requires a simple majority unless otherwise established by the Secretariat.

XXXI. OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

Position Paper

The Position Paper represents the official position of the assigned country regarding the topics discussed by the committee. Delegates should not invent or assume their country's position. The position must be based on reliable research and official sources.

The Position Paper should include:

- Country Background
- Position on Topic A
- Position on Topic B
- Proposed Solutions
- References
- Each topic should be approximately one page.

Research should address:

- International relations.
- Treaties and international agreements.
- National policies.
- Previous actions taken by the country.
- Relevant laws and regulations.
- The country's interests.
- Possible international solutions.
- All sources must be cited using APA 7th edition.

XXXII. RESOLUTION WRITING



A resolution consists of two types of clauses.

Preambulatory Clauses

Preambulatory clauses explain the background, concerns, principles, and reasons for the committee's action.

Common expressions include:

- Affirming
- Alarmed by
- Aware of
- Bearing in mind
- Concerned
- Convinced
- Emphasizing
- Guided by
- Noting
- Recognizing
- Recalling
- Taking into consideration
- Welcoming

Operative Clauses

Operative clauses establish actions and solutions.

Common expressions include:

- Accepts
- Affirms
- Calls upon
- Condemns
- Encourages
- Endorses
- Invites
- Recommends
- Requests



- Resolves
- Supports
- Urges

Operative clauses should be realistic, specific, and consistent with the mandate of the committee.

XXXIII. TOPIC A

Legal and Ethical Restrictions on Biological Engineers in Mammalian Cloning

Mammalian cloning is a scientific process used to create an organism that is genetically very similar to another organism. Technologies such as somatic cell nuclear transfer have created potential applications in agriculture, research, conservation, and medicine.

However, cloning also raises important ethical and legal questions. One major concern is animal welfare. Cloning procedures can involve unsuccessful pregnancies, developmental abnormalities, and health complications. Regulatory systems must therefore consider the welfare of animals used as donors, surrogate animals, and clones.

Governments also face the challenge of determining what forms of cloning should be permitted and under what conditions. Regulations may differ between countries, particularly in areas such as research, agriculture, conservation, and food production.

Another concern is the possible relationship between advances in animal cloning and future human applications. Although animal cloning does not automatically imply human reproductive cloning, scientific developments can raise broader questions concerning human dignity, safety, consent, and the responsible governance of biotechnology.

The committee should therefore examine how governments can encourage scientific research while establishing appropriate ethical safeguards, transparency, oversight, and animal welfare protections.

Questions to Consider

- What legal restrictions should governments establish for mammalian cloning?
- How should animal welfare influence decisions about cloning research?
- Should cloning be permitted for agricultural, medical, research, or conservation purposes?



- What international safeguards could prevent unsafe or unethical applications of cloning technologies?
- Should international standards be established for mammalian cloning research?

XXXIV. TOPIC B

Legal and Ethical Distinction Between Therapeutic and Enhancement Uses in Bioengineering

Bioengineering can contribute to human health through genetic engineering, tissue engineering, prosthetics, regenerative medicine, and other technologies.

An important ethical distinction exists between therapeutic applications, which aim to treat or prevent disease or restore normal biological functions, and enhancement applications, which aim to improve characteristics beyond what is generally considered normal human functioning.

Therapeutic applications are often viewed as more ethically acceptable because their primary purpose is to improve health or quality of life. However, the distinction between treatment and enhancement is not always clear. A technology designed to restore a lost function could potentially also be used to increase that function beyond an ordinary level.

Enhancement technologies may also raise concerns about inequality. If advanced technologies are accessible only to wealthy individuals or countries, existing social and economic inequalities could increase.

Another important issue is consent. Adults may be able to make informed decisions about certain interventions, but ethical questions become more complex when technologies are applied to children or when genetic changes could affect future generations.

Governments and international organizations must therefore consider how to encourage innovation while protecting human dignity, equality, safety, informed consent, and fundamental rights.

Questions to Consider

- How should governments legally distinguish therapy from enhancement?
- Should therapeutic applications be subject to different regulations than enhancement technologies?
- Could human enhancement increase social or economic inequality?
- Should parents be permitted to choose enhancement technologies for their children?



- What ethical principles should determine which bioengineering applications are permitted?
- How can governments promote scientific innovation while protecting human rights?



XXXV. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (1997, November 11). Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights. <https://www.unesco.org/en/legal-affairs/universal-declaration-human-genome-and-human-rights>

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2003, October 16). International Declaration on Human Genetic Data. <https://www.unesco.org/en/ethics-science-technology/human-genetic-data>

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2005, October 19). Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights. <https://www.unesco.org/en/ethics-science-technology/bioethics-and-human-rights>

Una referencia adicional muy recomendable

Como tu Topic A aborda clonación, genética, dignidad humana y responsabilidad científica, también es pertinente incluir este documento del International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO, que actualiza la reflexión sobre el genoma humano y los derechos humanos:

International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO. (2015). Report of the IBC on updating its reflection on the human genome and human rights. UNESCO. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000233258>



.FINAL NOTE FOR DELEGATES

The purpose of ArgosMUN is not simply to win a debate. It is to understand international perspectives, develop diplomatic skills, negotiate responsibly, and work collaboratively toward realistic solutions.

Delegates are encouraged to:

Research. Listen. Negotiate. Compromise. Lead with diplomacy.

Good luck, Delegates, and welcome to ArgosMUN!