



*Check Against Delivery*

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR CRISPIN GREY-JOHNSON  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GAMBIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON**

**AGENDA ITEM 150: INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AGAINST  
THE REPRODUCTIVE CLONING OF HUMAN BEINGS DURING  
THE MEETING OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE**

**NEW YORK  
22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2004**

***Mr. Chairman,***

We are gathered once again to discuss the topical issue of human cloning. The significance of the issue lies not only in its promise but also in its threat to the inherent dignity of man. None of us on either side of this debate is anti-science. However, if the ultimate aim of all science is to advance the wellbeing of mankind then its pursuit must be based on absolute respect for human life.

***Mr. Chairman,***

The natural development of an embryo leads to the development of a complete human being. We are fully aware of the use of terminology to confuse the line between reproductive cloning and therapeutic cloning. The fact remains that if we are outraged by reproductive cloning we should equally be outraged by so-called therapeutic cloning which, in effect, is a technique that ultimately leads to the destruction of an embryo for the purpose of harvesting embryonic stem cells. It represents nothing but the deliberate interruption of the natural development of one life for the sake of saving another.

***Mr. Chairman,***

Adult stem cell research is ethical and has great potential. There is ample evidence that it can work. We can act now by supporting adult stem cell research if our goal is to cure debilitating diseases. No one wants to live with disease and no one wants to see a loved one suffer beyond a second if a cure is available. Adult stem cell research holds great promise in this regard.

My delegation stands ready to collaborate fully in elaborating a convention that would comprehensively ban human cloning.

We are indeed aware of the numerous efforts underway to move our work on this agenda item forward. We caution, however, against any hasty actions that might end up dividing the world on this important, though sensitive issue, or lead to an agreement that proves not to be enforceable. We would certainly not object to a continuation of the dialogue, until a wider consensus on the subject can be reached.

Thank you.

---

***Statement by H.E. Ambassador Crispin Grey-Johnson, Permanent Representative of The Gambia to the United Nations, on agenda item 150: International Convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings***

***22 October 2004***