

Bogotá, February 18, 2026

Proposal from HLI Colombia – Colombian Foundation for Ethics and Bioethics (FUCEB) to the Honorable Dr. Zéphyrin Maniratanga, Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations and Chair of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Population and Development, to prepare the report for the 59th session of the Commission on Population and Development, in preparation for the theme “Population, Technology and Research in the Context of Sustainable Development.”

Taking into account the 2030 Agenda and its goals, particularly the goals “Good Health and Well-being” and “Peace, Justice and Social Institutions,” HLI-Colombia, on behalf of FUCEB, offers to serve as a research body to foster closer alignment between all UN actions and scientific advances concerning embryonic and fetal populations and their respective fundamental human rights. Recognizing these rights implies prioritizing the rights to life, integrity, health, and development, as a guarantee of the full recognition of the genetic identity of These populations are considered members of the human family, a term used in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Some of the scientific advances that justify this coordination between current knowledge and UN actions, primarily contributed by genetics and molecular biology, are: 1) that every living body belongs to its species throughout its entire life cycle, 2) that the identity of a living body is determined by its genome, 3) that the self-movement of a new human being is the main characteristic that distinguishes it from its parents, 4) that this self-movement, which biologically determines the presence of a new human being in the universe, has been verified in the laboratory using microscopy and published in the scientific journal *Cell* in 2002 by Zernika Goetz's research group in their article "The first two blastomeres contribute unequally to the human embryo," concerning the early post-fertilization stages.

Currently, science indicates that 4 to 6 hours after sexual intercourse, a new member of the human family can already exist, possessing its own independent movement. Therefore, it is a human being with fundamental rights, and the UN has a duty to promote a shift in all nations' culture, legislation, and conduct toward the better promotion and protection of vulnerable populations, including the embryonic and fetal, because the dignity of a human being demands respect and promotion at every moment of its existence.

The aforementioned research demonstrated that a human being is not simply a mass of amorphous cells, but rather that the majority of the cells of the future body (epiblast) originate from one of the two original blastomeres, while the other blastomere contributes a greater proportion to extraembryonic tissues (such as the trophoctoderm, which will form part of the placenta). In other words, the first two cells of the human embryo are not equivalent in their contribution to the organism, and this early asymmetry influences the cellular composition of the future body.

We therefore propose that the protection of the human rights of the embryonic and fetal population be added to the draft zero that brings us together today.

Bibliography

Zernicka-Goetz, M. “Patterning of the embryo: the first spatial decisions in the life of a mouse”, *Development*, 129: 815-829, 2002. Gardner, R. L. “The initial phase of embryonic patterning in mammals”, *International Journal of Cytology*, 203: 233-290, 2001.



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