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Written statement* submitted by Beijing Changier Education Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[22 August 2023]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Promoting Human Rights through the Accessible Use of Gene and Cell Therapy for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Patients

This statement is to shed light on an essential matter concerning the human rights of individuals affected by AIDS and the crucial role that Gene and Cell Therapy can play in ensuring their well-being and quality of life, to recognize and promote the right to access Gene and Cell Therapy as a fundamental human right for AIDS patients worldwide.

Gene and Cell Therapy, as revolutionary medical advancements, hold immense promise for treating and potentially eradicating AIDS. These cutting-edge therapies involve the modification and manipulation of genes and cells to enhance the immune system's ability to combat the virus, offering new hope for those living with this debilitating condition.[1] By harnessing the power of scientific innovation, we have the potential to transform the lives of millions.

However, despite the remarkable potential of Gene and Cell Therapy, many individuals affected by AIDS are unable to access these groundbreaking treatments due to numerous barriers. These barriers may be rooted in economic, social, or cultural factors, limiting equal access to life-saving interventions. [2] Such inequitable access not only hinders individuals' ability to receive appropriate medical care but also violates their fundamental human rights, including the right to health, dignity, and equality.

In light of this, it is an opportunity for the United Nations to take action to promote and protect the human rights of individuals affected by AIDS by ensuring the accessible use of Gene and Cell Therapy.[3] The following measures can be undertaken to achieve this goal:

1. **Awareness and Education:** Collaborate with member states, healthcare organizations, and scientific communities to raise awareness about the potential of Gene and Cell Therapy for AIDS treatment. Conduct educational campaigns, disseminate accurate information, and provide resources to empower individuals, healthcare professionals, and communities to understand and advocate for these therapies.
2. **Affordability and Accessibility:** Encourage member states to ensure that Gene and Cell Therapy for AIDS treatment is affordable and accessible to all individuals, regardless of their economic background or geographical location. Advocate for policies prioritizing the equitable distribution of these therapies, reducing financial burdens, and eliminating disparities in access.
3. **Research and Development:** Support and incentivize research and development efforts in the field of Gene and Cell Therapy for AIDS treatment. Foster collaboration between scientists, researchers, and healthcare professionals to accelerate progress, enhance efficacy, and ensure the safety of these innovative treatments.
4. **Regulation and Ethical:** By taking these steps, the United Nations can play a pivotal role in safeguarding the rights and well-being of individuals affected by AIDS. By recognizing the accessibility of Gene and Cell Therapy as a fundamental human right, we can strive towards a world where no one is denied the transformative potential of these life-saving interventions.

In conclusion, we suggest United Nations promote the accessibility of Gene and Cell Therapy for AIDS patients as a matter of utmost importance. By championing the right to access these groundbreaking therapies, we can make significant strides toward ending the AIDS epidemic and upholding human rights principles for all, especially the attention and commitment to the well-being of individuals affected by AIDS. Together, let us work towards a future where equitable access to Gene and Cell Therapy is a reality for every person in need.

1. Kris Elverum and Maria Whitman, “Delivering Cellular and Gene Therapies to Patients: Solutions for Realizing the Potential of the next Generation of Medicine,” *Gene Therapy* 27, no. 12 (December 2020): 537–44, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41434-019-0074-7>.
2. “Landscape Report | ASGCT - American Society of Gene & Cell Therapy,” accessed August 14, 2023, <https://asgct.org/publications/landscape-report>.
3. Dr Si Hyung Yoo, “WHO Considerations on Regulatory Convergence of Cell and Gene Therapy Products,” WHO Technical Report Series (Expert Committee on Biological Standardization, 2021), 22.