



General Assembly

**Topic A “*The Ethics of Memory Editing:
Should We Regulate Forgetting?*”**



Welcoming letter

Dear delegates,

Welcome to this edition of Colegio Fontanar Model of the United Nations. We are very excited to have you at the General Assembly, thank you for choosing this committee.

We will be debating the ethics of memory editing, and technological advancements as a threat and in cryptocurrency as national currency.

We look forward to each delegate participating in thoughtful discussions about how to address these urgent challenges and find achievable solutions, but above all, we hope you enjoy your experience at CFMUN and have fun.

We wish you all the best in your preparations and in your participation throughout this model.

Sincerely,

Natalia Gascón and Regina Muñoz

Moderator and Chair of General Assembly

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I. Committee Background

The UN General Assembly is the main policy-making organ of the UN. With the participation of all Member States, it has a unique forum for multilateral discussion of international issues. Each of the 193 Member States of the United Nations has an equal vote.

General Assembly also makes key decisions for the UN, including:

- Naming the Secretary-General on the recommendation of the Security Council
- Electing the non-permanent members of the Security Council
- Approving the UN budget

The Assembly meets in regular sessions from September to December each year, and thereafter as required. It discusses specific issues through dedicated agenda items or sub-items, which lead to the adoption of resolutions.

II. Introduction to the Topic

Memory editing was something that only happened in science fiction, however now with the advances in technology and in neuroscience techniques, are making it possible to modify or even erase a person's memory, raising a major ethical dilemma.

This concept is still under research and development, however, practical clinical applications are becoming more possible every day. Initially it is developed to treat post-traumatic events, drug craving or psychological disorders, however these technologies could be used to alter identities, the perception of things, and change behaviors.

Memory editing implies ethical concerns that must be considered as well as its effects, since it is unknown what consequences it may have on people's lives.

III. Evolution of the Topic

Memory editing has become one of the greatest ethics debates from the 21st century, and has evolved alongside with advances of technology and neuroscience.

This concept has developed fast in the last years and with the integration of AI and neurotechnology it is transforming to a threat for human life affecting a person's dignity and integrity.

The concept of being able to alter memory has evolved over the years to become a reality.

At the beginning of the 20th century, it was discovered that memory can be modified thanks to its dynamic nature; between the 1970s and 2000s, new experiments gave rise to the scientific term "memory editing" and the theory of reconsolidation; and in recent years, experiments have allowed for the manipulation of memory in animals, and technological advances and AI are making this process possible in humans, which has sparked a global ethical debate.

Countries, international organizations, and the UN have begun to worry about the previously stated and start to address the need for regulations; however, there are no laws that regulate memory editing as such, this because it is a really recent concept that is not completely developed, but there are some that seek to protect human integrity in the face of technology and neuro-rights.

Memory editing is viewed as a global issue requiring countries to start protecting psychological integrity and human dignity.

IV. Relevant Events

A. Panorama

Recent scientific advances have shown that modifying memories in animals is possible, and for this reason, experiments are beginning to be conducted on humans. Although the techniques and effects in animals are different from those in humans, a way to do it has been found and its practice is getting closer every day.

B. Points of view

Chile: The Republic of Chile is the first country to establish in its constitution the protection of neuro-rights, focusing on legislative and ethical aspects, giving specific laws that seek to safeguard mental integrity and privacy in the face of technological advances.

United States of America: The United States Is

the world leader in neurotechnology and artificial intelligence. It has no legal regulations regarding memory editing however it seek to protect neural data.

China: People's Republic of China has on one side, a rapid technological advancements, and on the other, a general regulatory framework on technologies such as AI and personal data, but none on neuro-rights or neurodata, which raises the question of whether it will truly have effective security against memory editing.

V. UN and External Actions

A. UN Actions

As memory editing is becoming a big ethical concern, the UN has taken action to control it.

UNESCO has discuss about the intersection between neurotechnology, ethics, and human rights and gives recommendations to guarantee neuro-rights, however it hasn't established mandatory standards.

The World Health Organization has written about the benefits and challenges of neurotechnology in human health and how it has witnessed a fast development on applications in different neurological conditions.

B. EXTERNAL ACTIONS

There are organizations out of the UN treating advancements in technologies and how it threatens human rights, one of them is The Neurorights Foundation (NRF), which is a non-profit organization that leads global effort to

ensure that neurotechnologies are use ethically and for social good to protect human rights, such as free will, mental privacy, and personal identity.

Other example is The organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which has work in the development of the Recommendation on Responsible Innovation in Neurotechnology: a guideline that aims to address ethical, legal, and social challenges raised by this technology.

And there are more organizations like these, that look for the same thing: to safeguard human integrity against technologies with ethical concerns, and in the future, to limit memory editing to the safest extent possible, for example:

- The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
- Mozilla Foundation

VI. Conclusion

The United Nations addresses technological advances mainly through an ethical and principle-based approach, focusing on universal values such as human rights, equality, security, and sustainability. Through its specialized agencies and cooperation with NGOs, the UN promotes international frameworks and guidelines to encourage the responsible use of emerging technologies. However, the implementation of these policies is not uniform, as it largely depends on each Member State. While global ethical standards exist, their application is influenced by national laws, political priorities, and levels of technological development. As a result, technological governance varies from country to country. Therefore, one of the UN's main challenges is not only to establish ethical principles at the global level, but also to strengthen international cooperation in order to reduce technological gaps and ensure that technological progress benefits societies in a fair and responsible manner.

VII. Committee Focus

The General Assembly must look for achievable solutions to solve the problem mentioned before and all solutions discussed must be feasible to implement in each delegation.

There must be short, middle and long term solutions, each one with possible ways to reach them, and supported by arguments.

The committee should take into account the next points:

- Does it apply to the country?
- Is it individual or general? (relativistic)
- Who decides which memories can be edited and which cannot?
- To what extent does memory editing affect authenticity or personal identity?
- Can there be social or medical pressure to edit certain memories?
- Is there a risk of creating inequality between those who have access to these technologies and those who do not?

- Should certain uses, such as memory editing in criminal or judicial contexts, be prohibited? How?
- What international standards are necessary to protect mental privacy, human autonomy, neurotechnological safety?
- What are the benefits that memory editing brings to human life and medical advancements?

VII. Participation List

- Argentine Republic
- Canada
- Federal Republic of Germany
- Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Federative Republic of Brazil
- French Republic
- Japan
- Kingdom of Norway
- Kingdom of Spain
- Kingdom of Sweden
- Kingdom of the Netherlands
- People's Republic of China
- Portuguese Republic
- Republic of Chile
- Republic of Colombia
- Republic of El Salvador
- Republic of Finland
- Republic of India
- Republic of South Korea
- Republic of Singapore

- Republic of South Africa
- Republic of Türkiye
- Russian Federation
- Socialist Republic of Vietnam
- Swiss Confederation
- The Commonwealth of Australia
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- United States of America
- United Mexican States

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