

CLASS 4 48(2) UN RESOLUTION ON HUMAN CLONING

A United Nations panel has adopted a political declaration calling on all UN members to impose a ban on human cloning technology.

The UN legal committee voted to approve the nonbinding resolution, with 71 members in favor, 35 against and 43 in abstention on Friday.

The statement says all forms of human cloning are incompatible with human dignity and protection of human life, and requests that countries create laws to prohibit the research and use of such techniques.

The text is seen as a setback for the committee, which had originally aimed at establishing a globally binding treaty for a comprehensive ban. A group including the U.S. were in favor of such a legal ban, while others, Britain and Japan among them, asked for permission to do research with the technology for medical purposes. Their division remained so intense that the panel finally failed to reach a unanimous agreement.

The statement now goes to the General Assembly of the United Nations for final approval, but sources say the resolution could end up as a mere recommendation equipped with no binding power.