Dear Members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR),

It is with great interest that The Global Alliance for Genomics and Health\* received the call for comments on the Draft General Comment on Science.

After careful consideration of the Draft General Comment (authors: R.Uprimny and M. Mancisidor), we wish to highlight and underscore the importance of the final paragraph #89 which reads as follows:

“**A human right to science 89.** This set of rights, entitlements, liberties, duties or obligations related to science analyzed in this General Comment, might bring together in a single broad concept named the human right to science, in the same way that, for example, the human right to health encompasses a set of rights and freedoms. This approach and name has already been adopted by the Special Rapporteur on cultural Rights, by UNESCO, by some international conferences and summits and by some important scientific organizations and publications”

It is our considered opinion that this final paragraph encapsulates both the spirit and content of article 15 of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and that special emphasis should be placed on this human right to science as a major conclusion of the extensive work leading to the draft  Comment. As such, GA4GH wishes to endorse paragraph #89 in particular.

 Best regards,



Peter Goodhand              Ewan Birney

CEO, GA4GH                           Chair, GA4GH Executive Committee

\*The Global Alliance for Genomics and Health (GA4GH) is an international consortium that frames policy and establishes standards for the international exchange of genomic and health related data. It maintains that data sharing between institutions, sectors and countries is essential for accelerating research, ensuring databases are ethnically diverse, and improving health care. Since 2014, the GA4GH has promoted a human rights Framework for international data sharing. The Framework  aims to activate the right of everyone to benefit from the progress of science. The GA4GH now includes 580 member organizations including research institutes, academic health centres, technology and pharmaceutical companies, and patient advocacy organizations.