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Conseil des droits de l'homme

Trente-quatrième session

27 février-24 mars 2017

Point 3 de l'ordre du jour

**Promotion et protection de tous les droits de l'homme,
civils, politiques, économiques, sociaux et culturels,
y compris le droit au développement**

Note verbale datée du 22 mars 2017 adressée au secrétariat du Conseil des droits de l'homme par la Mission permanente de Singapour auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des autres organisations internationales à Genève

La Mission permanente de la République de Singapour auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des autres organisations internationales à Genève présente ses compliments au secrétariat du Conseil des droits de l'homme et a l'honneur de se référer à la déclaration commune, qui a été prononcée le 1^{er} mars 2017 à la réunion-débat biennale de haut niveau sur la question de la peine de mort tenue dans le cadre de la trente-quatrième session du Conseil.

La Mission permanente, au nom des Missions permanentes du Royaume d'Arabie saoudite, du Commonwealth des Bahamas, du Royaume de Bahreïn, de la République populaire du Bangladesh, de la Barbade, du Brunéi Darussalam, de la République populaire de Chine, de la République populaire démocratique de Corée, de la République arabe d'Égypte, des Émirats arabes unis, de la République fédérale démocratique d'Éthiopie, de l'Inde, de la République d'Indonésie, de la République islamique d'Iran, de la République d'Iraq, de la Jamaïque, de l'État du Koweït, de la République démocratique populaire lao, de la Malaisie, de la République de l'Union du Myanmar, du Sultanat d'Oman, de la République de l'Ouganda, de la République islamique du Pakistan, de l'État du Qatar, de la République de Singapour, de la République du Soudan et de la République du Yémen, prie le secrétariat du Conseil des droits de l'homme de bien vouloir faire distribuer la présente note verbale et son annexe* en tant que document de la trente-quatrième session du Conseil.

* Distribuée telle qu'elle a été reçue, dans la langue originale seulement.



[Anglais seulement]

Annex to the note verbale dated 22 March 2017 from the Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva addressed to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council

Joint statement at the biennial high-level panel discussion on the question of the death penalty on 1 March 2017, at the thirty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council

Mr President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of a group of 27 countries.

Ensuring our people's fundamental human right to safety and security is of paramount importance to us. Our view is that the rights of the offenders must always be weighed against the rights of their victims and their families, and the broader rights of the community and society to be able to live in peace and security. For many countries, the death penalty remains an important component of their criminal justice system and deterrent against what their societies regard as the most serious crimes.

The death penalty is only applied after adhering to the full due process of law, pursuant to a final judgment rendered by a competent court, and with the right to seek pardon or appeal for commutation.

There is no international consensus for or against the death penalty when imposed according to the due process of the law. This has repeatedly been affirmed by the votes on past UNGA resolutions on the death penalty. As reported by the UNSG in 2015, the death penalty remains lawful in 97 countries and territories.

There is also no international consensus that the death penalty, when applied in accordance with due process of law and judicial safeguards, violates the prohibition against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Diversity of States and the right of States to exercise their sovereignty in pursuit of their people's welfare are recognized principles, including in the UN. Every State thus has the inalienable sovereign right to choose its legal and criminal justice systems, without interference by other States. The adoption of OP1 in the 71st UNGA resolution "Moratorium on the use of the death penalty" clearly and explicitly reaffirms the sovereign right of all countries to develop their own legal system.

The issue of capital punishment and the types of crimes for which the death penalty is applied to, is therefore a question that every State has the sovereign right to decide for itself, taking into account its own circumstances.

Thank you Mr President.

List of co-sponsors

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 4. Barbados
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