



Assemblée générale

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Conseil des droits de l'homme

Vingt-huitième session

Points 2 et 3 de l'ordre du jour

Rapport annuel du Haut-Commissaire des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme et rapports du Haut-Commissariat et du Secrétaire général

**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 13 mars 2015, adressée au secrétariat du Conseil des droits de l'homme par la Mission permanente de la République de Singapour auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève et des autres organisations internationales en Suisse

La Mission permanente de la République de Singapour auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève et des autres organisations internationales en Suisse présente ses compliments au secrétariat du Conseil des droits de l'homme et a l'honneur de se référer à la déclaration commune jointe en annexe, qui a été prononcée le 4 mars 2015 à la réunion-débat biennale de haut niveau sur la question de la peine de mort, à la vingt-huitième session du Conseil des droits de l'homme (voir l'annexe).

La Mission permanente, au nom des Missions permanentes de l'Arabie saoudite, de Bahreïn, du Bangladesh, de la Barbade, du Brunéi Darussalam, de la Chine, de l'Égypte, des Émirats arabes unis, de l'Inde, de l'Indonésie, du Koweït, de la Malaisie, du Myanmar, d'Oman, de l'Ouganda, du Pakistan, du Qatar, de la République arabe syrienne, de la République démocratique populaire lao, de la République islamique d'Iran, de la République populaire démocratique de Corée, de Singapour, du Soudan, du Viet Nam et du Yémen, prie le secrétariat du Conseil des droits de l'homme de bien vouloir faire distribuer la déclaration commune* comme document de la vingt-huitième session du Conseil, au titre des points 2 et 3 de l'ordre du jour.

* La déclaration est reproduite telle qu'elle a été reçue, dans la langue originale seulement.



Annexe

[Anglais seulement]

Joint statement at the biennial high-level panel discussion on the question of the death penalty on 4 March 2015, at the twenty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council

Mr President

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of a group of 25 countries.

Any constructive dialogue must be based on mutual respect and an acknowledgement of different viewpoints. Yet, we find ourselves here again today engaging not in dialogue, but speaking across each other.

For many countries, the death penalty remains an important component of their criminal justice system and an important deterrent against what they rightly regard as the most serious crimes for their respective societies, be it terrorism, drug offences, or violent crimes.

The rights of the offender must always be weighed against the rights of the victims, their families and the broader rights of their community to live in peace and security. The State has a responsibility to protect the lives of its innocent citizens while ensuring that justice is rendered to the victims and their families. 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 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, most recently in the 69th session. Key international instruments that apply to countries with wide divergence in cultures and values also do not proscribe and/or prohibit the use of death penalty.

The UN Charter clearly stipulates that nothing in its Charter shall authorise the UN to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State. In this regard, in line with the UN Charter, no State shall intervene in such matters of other States.

Every State thus has the inalienable sovereign right to choose its legal and criminal justice systems, without interference by other States. Accordingly, the question of whether to retain or abolish the death penalty and the types of crimes for which the death penalty is applied should be determined by each State and the public they protect, taking into account their unique circumstances and threats to their societies.

Thank you, Mr President.

List of co-sponsors

1. Kingdom of Bahrain
2. People's Republic of Bangladesh
3. Barbados
4. Brunei Darussalam

5. People's Republic of China
 6. Democratic People's Republic of Korea
 7. Arab Republic of Egypt
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 10. Islamic Republic of Iran
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 21. Syrian Arab Republic
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