



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Twenty-second session

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Note verbale dated 28 March 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Singapore to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council and has the honour to refer to the statement attached,\* which was delivered on 22 March 2013 during the segment allocated for general comments by observer States at the end of the twenty-second session of the Council on Singapore's concerns at the adoption of draft decision A/HRC/22/L.28<sup>1</sup> and draft resolution A/HRC/22/L.18.<sup>2</sup>

The Mission also has the honour to request that the statement be circulated as a document of the twenty-second session of the Human Rights Council under agenda item 3.

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\* Reproduced in the annex as received, in the language of submission only.

<sup>1</sup> Decision 22/117.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution 22/11.

## Annex

*[English only]*

### **Statement by the delegation of Singapore during the general comments by observer States at the end of the twenty-second session of the Human Rights Council**

Singapore wishes to place on record our concerns with regard to the adoption of first, the decision L.28 on “High-level panel discussion on the question of the death penalty” and second, the resolution L.18 on a “Panel on the human rights of children of parents sentenced to the death penalty or executed”.

The scope of the panel discussion in L.28 is to address the implementation of a moratorium on the use of death penalty and is premised on the abolition of the death penalty as a universal goal. This completely ignores the fact that there is no international consensus on the abolition of or moratorium on the use of death penalty to begin with. It also ignores the principle that every country has the sovereign right to decide its own criminal justice system based on the best interests of its people, according to its unique circumstances.

L.18 tries to draw a fallacious link between the rights of the child and the application of the death penalty. It disingenuously misconstrues the Convention on the Rights of the Child to advance a narrow agenda to abolish the death penalty. The proposed panel also contravenes paragraph 117e of the HRC institutional building package which calls for States to exercise restraint in resorting to resolutions, especially when HRC resolution 19/37, in particular its paragraph 70(c), already provides for a considered and structured approach to addressing children’s rights issues holistically in the HRC.

Furthermore, the biased scope of the proposed panels in L.28 and L.18 contradicts General Assembly resolution 60/251 which articulates that the promotion and protection of human rights should be based on the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue.

The adoption of the two proposals undermines and discredits the Council as a forum for promoting dialogue and mutual understanding on the issue of the death penalty.

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