



# Asamblea General

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## Consejo de Derechos Humanos

### 25º período de sesiones

Temas 2 y 3 de la agenda

### Informe anual del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos e informes de la Oficina del Alto Comisionado y del Secretario General

**Promoción y protección de todos los derechos humanos,  
civiles, políticos, económicos, sociales y culturales,  
incluido el derecho al desarrollo**

## **Nota verbal de fecha 13 de marzo de 2014 dirigida a la Secretaría del Consejo de Derechos Humanos por la Misión Permanente de la República de Singapur ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra y otras organizaciones internacionales en Suiza**

La Misión Permanente de la República de Singapur ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra y otras organizaciones internacionales en Suiza saluda atentamente a la Secretaría del Consejo de Derechos Humanos, y tiene el honor de referirse a la declaración conjunta que figura en el anexo, formulada el 5 de marzo de 2014 en la Mesa redonda de alto nivel sobre la cuestión de la pena de muerte, durante el 25º período de sesiones del Consejo de Derechos Humanos (véase el anexo).

La Misión tiene asimismo el honor de solicitar, en nombre de las misiones permanentes de la Arabia Saudita, Bahrein, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, China, Egipto, los Emiratos Árabes Unidos, Eritrea, Etiopía, la India, Kuwait, Malasia, Myanmar, Omán, el Pakistán, Qatar, la República Islámica del Irán, la República Democrática Popular Lao, la República Popular Democrática de Corea, Singapur, Somalia, el Sudán, Uganda, Viet Nam y el Yemen, que la declaración conjunta\* se distribuya como documento del 25º período de sesiones del Consejo de Derechos Humanos en relación con los temas 2 y 3 de la agenda.

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\* Se reproduce tal como se recibió, en el idioma en que se presentó únicamente.



## Anexo

*[Inglés únicamente]*

### **Joint statement delivered at the high-level panel discussion on the question of death penalty on 5 March 2014, at the twenty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council**

Mr President

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of a group of 26 countries (as indicated at the end of the statement). As reflected by the vote on the Human Rights Council's Decision 22/117 to hold the high-level panel discussion on the Question of Death Penalty, the simplistic approach to characterise death penalty as a human rights issue in the context of the right to life of the convicted prisoner is deeply flawed and controversial. Death penalty is first and foremost an issue of the criminal justice system and an important deterring element vis-à-vis the most serious crimes. It must thus be viewed from a much broader perspective and weighed against the rights of the victims and the right of the community to live in peace and security. A constructive dialogue in the Council on this issue is possible only if the legitimate interests of all States are taken duly into account.

There is no international consensus for or against death penalty imposed according to the due process of the law. This has repeatedly been confirmed by the votes on past UNGA resolutions on the moratorium on the use of death penalty, most recently in the 67th session of the General Assembly.

The United Nations Charter clearly stipulates that nothing in the Charter shall authorise the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State. Every State has the inalienable right to choose its legal and criminal justice systems, without interference in any form by another State. Accordingly, the question of whether to retain or abolish death penalty and the types of crimes for which the death penalty is applied should be determined by each State. Key international instruments that apply to countries with wide divergence in cultures and values do not proscribe the use of death penalty in their texts. The issue of death penalty is a question that every State has the sovereign right, under international law, to decide, taking into account its own circumstances.

Thank you, Mr President.

#### **List of co-sponsors**

1. Kingdom of Bahrain
2. Republic of Botswana
3. Brunei Darussalam
4. People's Republic of China
5. Democratic People's Republic of Korea
6. Arab Republic of Egypt
7. Islamic Republic of Iran
8. Malaysia

9. Republic of the Union of Myanmar
  10. Sultanate of Oman
  11. State of Qatar
  12. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
  13. Republic of Uganda
  14. Republic of Yemen
  15. Lao People's Democratic Republic
  16. United Arab Emirates
  17. India
  18. Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
  19. Republic of Singapore
  20. State of Kuwait
  21. People's Republic of Bangladesh
  22. Eritrea
  23. Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
  24. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
  25. Federal Republic of Somalia
  26. Republic of the Sudan
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