



Asamblea General

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Consejo de Derechos Humanos

27º 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 19 de septiembre de 2014 dirigida a la secretaría del Consejo de Derechos Humanos por la Misión Permanente de la República de Singapur ante a 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 y otras organizaciones internacionales en Ginebra saluda atentamente a la Secretaría del Consejo de Derechos Humanos, y tiene el honor de transmitir la declaración adjunta*, formulada el 15 de septiembre de 2014 durante el debate general de los temas 2 y 3 del Consejo de Derechos Humanos en su 27º período de sesiones, con relación al informe del Secretario General sobre la cuestión de la pena capital (A/HRC/27/23).

La Misión Permanente tiene el honor de pedir asimismo que la declaración se distribuya como documento oficial del Consejo en su 27º período de sesiones, en relación con los temas 2 y 3 de la agenda.

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



Anexo

[Inglés únicamente]

Statement by the delegation of Singapore during general debate on items 2 and 3

Mr President

My statement refers to the report of the Secretary General on the question of the death penalty (A/HRC/27/23).

Singapore agrees that the death penalty is a severe penalty and should only be imposed for the most serious crimes. But what constitutes a “most serious crime” must be examined contextually in terms of its impact on the immediate and third party victims, as well as society at large.

Singapore rejects the view expressed in the report that drug-related offences do not meet the threshold of “most serious crimes”. Singapore regards drug trafficking as a “most serious crime” along with those involving lethal force, given its pernicious and widespread impact on the community and society at large. Drug use affects not only the individual users, but also their families and loved ones. Children and young persons have the right to be free from the harms of drug abuse. Drug traffickers typically belong to criminal organisations, including transnational criminal organisations that prey on the young and vulnerable to supply harmful substances to sustain the addiction of drug users for profit. Drugs also generate crime, street violence and other social problems that harm communities. Given our proximity to one of the largest centres of heroin production in the world and position as a major global transport node, Singapore views the death penalty as an essential and effective deterrence against international drug traffickers.

Singapore has one of the lowest rates of violent crime in the world and we have managed to keep Singaporeans free from the scourge of drugs because of our robust and comprehensive policy on drugs. Singaporeans understand that the death penalty has been an effective deterrent and an appropriate punishment for very serious offences, and largely support it.

But we constantly review our laws, including those involving drug offences. The latest review of our death penalty regime in 2012 reaffirmed the relevance of the death penalty for all the offences to which it currently applies. At the same time, the courts have been given more discretion in the application of the death penalty to the specific offences of drug trafficking and murder where these offences occur in certain prescribed circumstances.

There is also no international consensus on the question of the death penalty. Every state has the sovereign right, under international law, to decide whether to abolish or retain the death penalty, taking into account its own circumstances. Singapore respects the right of states which have chosen to abolish the death penalty and we expect similar respect in return for our decision to retain it.