



Assemblée générale

Distr. générale
30 septembre 2014
Français
Original: anglais

Conseil des droits de l'homme

Vingt-septième 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 19 septembre 2014, 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 à Genève présente ses compliments au secrétariat du Conseil des droits de l'homme et a l'honneur de lui faire tenir en annexe* la déclaration prononcée le 15 septembre 2014 au cours du débat général au titre des points 2 et 3 de l'ordre du jour de la vingt-septième session du Conseil des droits de l'homme, qui porte sur le rapport du Secrétaire général sur la question de la peine de mort (A/HRC/27/23).

La Mission a également l'honneur de demander que la déclaration soit distribuée comme document officiel de la vingt-septième session du Conseil des droits de l'homme au titre des points 2 et 3 de l'ordre du jour.

* Le texte de la déclaration est reproduit tel qu'il a été reçu, dans la langue originale seulement.



Annexe

[Anglais seulement]

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.