



# LET'S MOBILISE FOR THE PLENARY VOTE SCHEDULED FOR MID-DECEMBER 2020

## UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION FOR A UNIVERSAL MORATORIUM ON THE USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY

On 17 November 2020 the UN Third Committee, which works specifically on human rights issues, voted by a very large majority in favour of the resolution entitled "Moratorium on the use of the death penalty". **The resolution was adopted by 120 States, 39 voted against it, 24 abstained and 10 did not take part in the vote. These results confirm the global trend towards the abolition of the death penalty.**

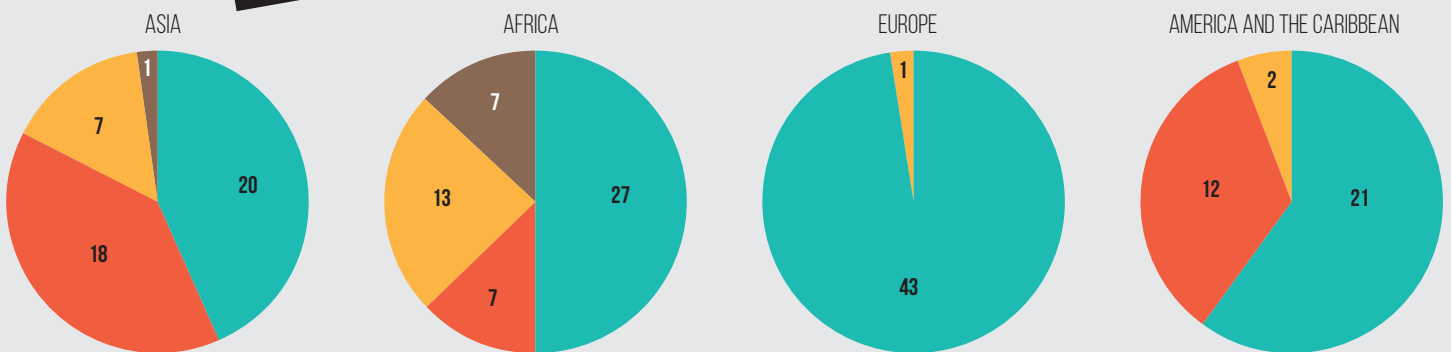
## CHALLENGES FOR THE PLENARY VOTE

The stakes of the vote on the resolution remain particularly high in view of the plenary session to be held in mid-December. In 2018, 13 countries had changed their vote, both positively and negatively. In the current context, mobilization work around the vote of this resolution therefore remains crucial.

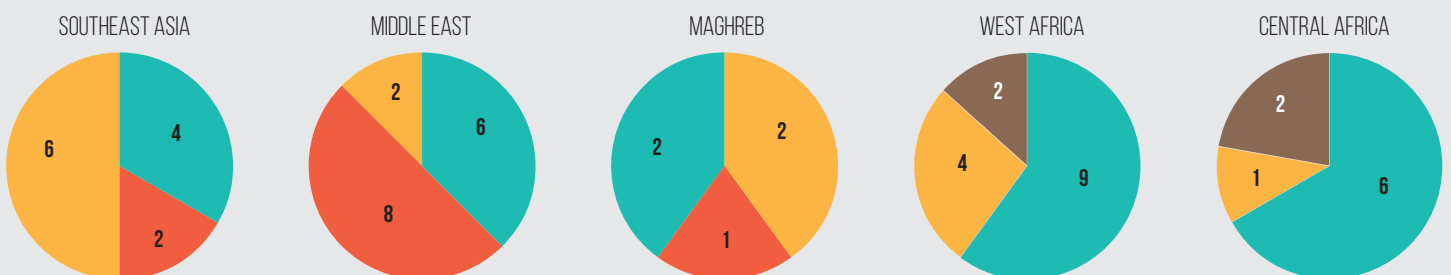
## MAIN DEVELOPMENTS COMPARED TO 2018

In this particular year, marked by the Covid19 pandemic, **10 countries<sup>1</sup> were unable to take part in the vote, whereas there were only 5 absences during the 2018 plenary session.** Among them, **7 countries are abolitionist** (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Gabon, Palau, Senegal, Seychelles, Vanuatu) and **6 had voted in favour of the resolution in 2018** (Burkina Faso, CAR, Gabon, Palau, Somalia, Vanuatu).

### REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF VOTES



### SUB-REGIONAL ANALYSIS



■ In favour  
■ Against  
■ Abstention  
■ Absent

<sup>1</sup> Bangladesh, Burundi, Burkina Faso, CAR, Gabon, Palau, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia and Vanuatu

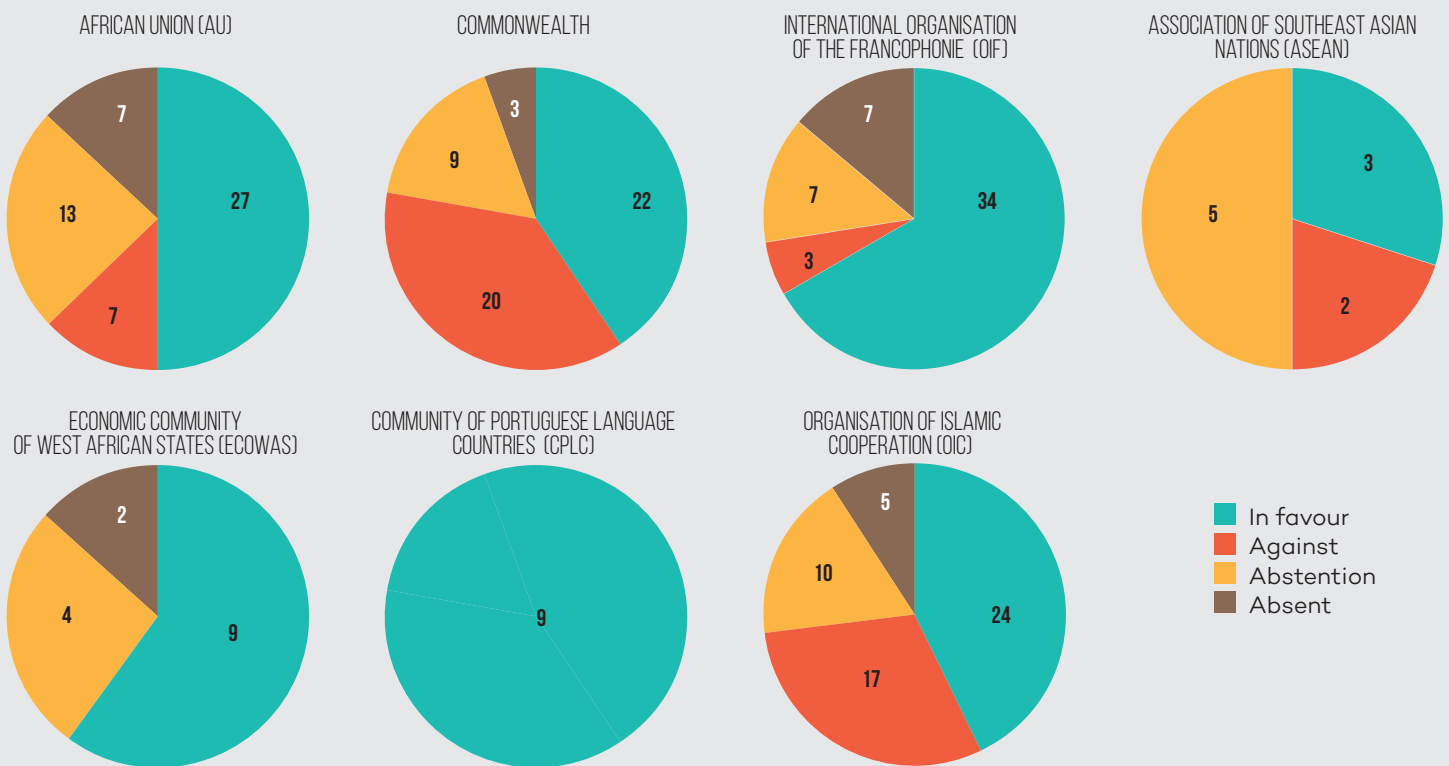
Positive evolutions were observed in most regions of the world. For the first time, **Djibouti, South Korea and Lebanon** voted in favour of the resolution. **8 countries** moved from an abstention (Republic of Congo, DRC, South Korea, Djibouti, Guinea, Lebanon, Philippines) or an absence (Sierra Leone) to a favourable vote. **2 countries** went from a negative vote to a favourable vote (Nauru) or an abstention (Zimbabwe).

Apart from the countries that did not vote, **8 countries changed their vote in a negative way. 6 countries** changed their vote from a positive vote (Dominica and Libya) or an abstention (Antigua and Barbuda, Uganda, South Sudan and Tonga) to a negative vote. **2 countries** abstained from voting although they had voted in favour at the plenary in 2018 (Solomon Islands, Niger).

**Once again, the main supporters of the resolution come from Europe** (97% in favour) and **Africa** (50% in favour and only 13% against). Improvements were noted **in America and the Caribbean** (60% in favour and 34% against), while **Asia** (40% in favour and 37% against) remains the continent the least favourable to the text.

At the sub-regional level, it should be noted that no country in West and Central Africa opposed the resolution. **In the Middle East** (37% in favour) and **in South East Asia** (54% abstention), **the debate on the resolution is still very significant.**

## ANALYSIS OF VOTES BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS



Within the intergovernmental organisations, only 6% of the members of the International Organisation of la Francophonie (IOF) opposed the text (67% of votes in favour) and 100% of the members of the community of Portuguese-speaking countries support it. Opinions are more divided among the members of ASEAN (50% abstaining) and the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (42% in favour).

