

### **GENERAL DEBATE UNDER ITEM 3**

**51<sup>st</sup> SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 20 SEPTEMBER 2022 – GENEVA**

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Mr. President,

ECPM, FIACAT, Advocates for Human Rights, PGA, ASF-France, UIA, LAW-Pakistan, CPR-Japan, CHESO and COCAPEM, members of the World Coalition against the death penalty welcome the Secretary General's report and recommendations on the question of the death penalty.

We would like to draw your attention on worrying developments in retentionist countries. In 2022, executions increased alarmingly in Saudi Arabia and Iran, where two LGBT+ activists have been sentenced to death recently. Executions resumed in Oklahoma, Singapore and in Myanmar after a 30-year moratorium.

2022 has seen positive developments in Africa with the recent abolition of the death penalty in Central African Republic and the submission of a death penalty abolition bill by the President of Zambia to the Parliament. Good news is also coming from Asia. Recently, Malaysia announced a moratorium on executions and is now working on alternative sentences to the mandatory death penalty.

The end of 2022 will be marked by the 20<sup>th</sup> World Day against the death penalty, the 8<sup>th</sup> World Congress against the death penalty and the vote for the UNGA resolution calling for a universal moratorium on the use of the death penalty. We hope that UN member states will take advantage of these events to work towards universal abolition.

The 8<sup>th</sup> World Congress, organised by ECPM, to be held in Berlin from 15 to 18 November 2022, under the sponsorship of Germany, France, Switzerland and the EU, is an opportunity for states to confirm positive developments towards the abolition of the death penalty.

Thank you.



Fédération internationale des ACAT – Action des chrétiens pour l'abolition de la torture  
International Federation of ACATs – Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture

**FIACAT Oral Statement cosponsored by Advocates for Human Rights, Avocats sans Frontières (ASF), Together Against the Death penalty (ECPM) and Parliamentarians for Global Actions.**

**General debate under item 3**

*51<sup>st</sup> session of the Human Rights Council*

*20 September 2022*

Thank you Mr. President,

FIACAT and several organisations member of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty welcome the Secretary-General's report on the question of the death penalty. They would like to highlight two opportunities to continue the abolitionist trend on the African continent.

As Ghana prepares for its 4th Universal Periodic Review, a private member's bill to abolish the death penalty is to be considered by Parliament.

In Liberia, the bill presented by the executive to abolish the death penalty would finally bring the State in line with its commitments as a State Party to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

Our organisations, therefore, encourage these two states to expedite these initiatives toward abolition.

Our organisations also appreciate that the link between the death penalty and torture, the theme of this 2022 World Day against the Death Penalty, is addressed in the report. We remain convinced that the death penalty and torture are intrinsically linked. The evolution of practices and international opinion highlights the difficulty, if not the impossibility, of imposing the death penalty while guaranteeing respect for the absolute prohibition of torture throughout the whole process.

Thus, our organisations believe that, from sentencing to execution, the death penalty inevitably causes physical harm and psychological suffering that amounts to torture or ill-treatment and calls on all States to abolish it definitively.

Thank you for your attention.