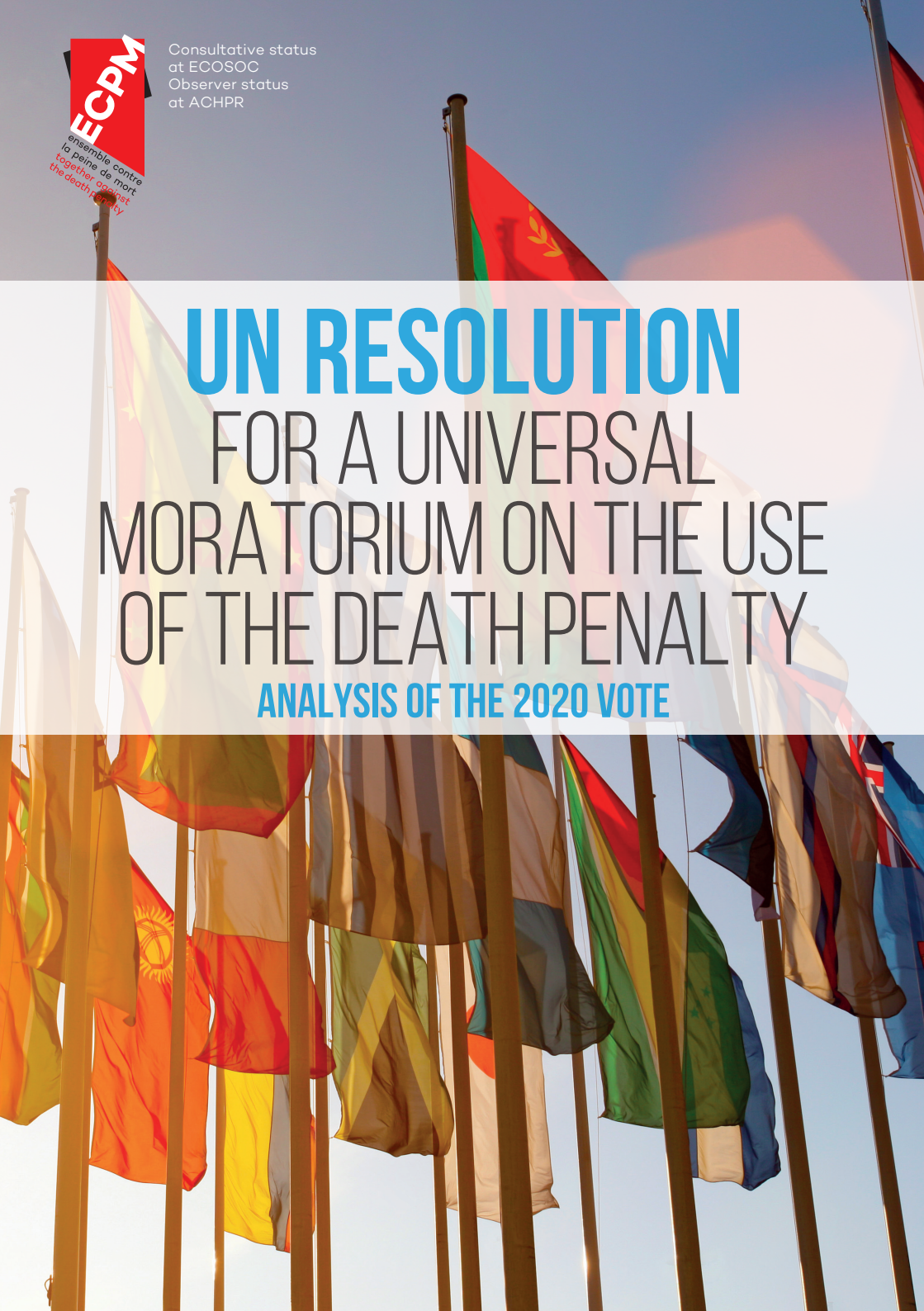


**ECPM**

ensemble contre  
la peine de mort  
together against  
the death penalty

Consultative status  
at ECOSOC  
Observer status  
at ACHPR



# UN RESOLUTION

## FOR A UNIVERSAL MORATORIUM ON THE USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2020 VOTE

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

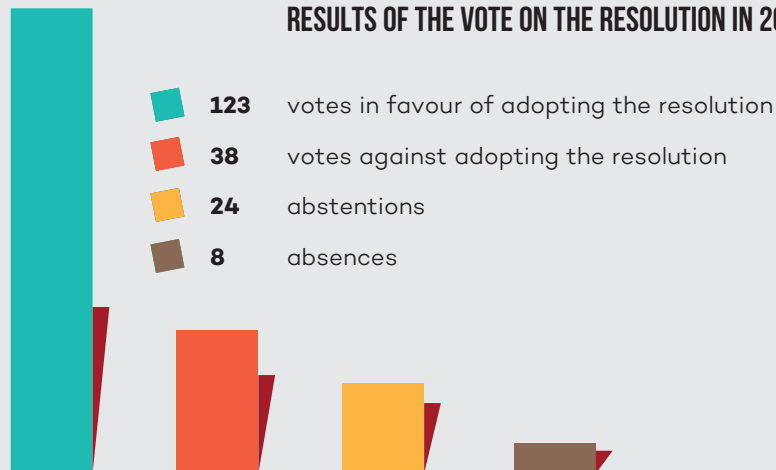
### WHAT IS THE RESOLUTION FOR A UNIVERSAL MORATORIUM ON THE USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY?

Since 2007, a resolution for a universal moratorium on the use of the death penalty has been put to a vote at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) every two years. Through this text, always adopted by a large majority of States, **the UN reaffirms that the application of the death penalty violates human dignity and “calls upon all States that still maintain it to establish a moratorium on executions”.**

As the resolution is not legally binding, it cannot prevent a State from performing an execution or sanction that State. However, a firm call from the UN’s most senior political body carries considerable moral weight and is a precious asset in creating a world without the death penalty.

The 2020 resolution (A/RES/75/183) introduced new elements to strengthen the text and called on States to provide **better protection for the death row prisoners**. The text stresses the need to **“improve living conditions in prisons”** and recognises **“that the death penalty is applied in a discriminatory manner against women”**. The text is also more protective of children, with the UNGA calling on States not to impose the death penalty on persons **“who cannot be established with certainty that they were 18 years old at the time of the offence”** and adds a new paragraph on the rights of children of parents sentenced to death. Finally, the 2020 resolution recognises the role of civil society **“in pursuing local and national debates and regional initiatives on the death penalty”**.

### RESULTS OF THE VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION IN 2020:



### LIST OF COUNTRIES BY TYPE OF VOTE

#### 123 STATES VOTING IN FAVOUR OF THE RESOLUTION:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia- Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Cyprus, Colombia, Congo, Czech Republic, Costa Rica, Ivory Coast, Croatia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, Spain, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Marshall Islands, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Uzbekistan, Panama, Paraguay, Netherlands, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, United Kingdom, United States of America, United Kingdom, Russia, Rwanda, San Marino, El Salvador, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Suriname, Tajikistan, East Timor, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Venezuela.

#### 38 STATES VOTING AGAINST THE RESOLUTION:

Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, China, Dominica, Egypt, Ethiopia, Grenada, India, Iraq, Iran, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Libya, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Maldives, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Singapore, Sudan, Syria, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United States of America.

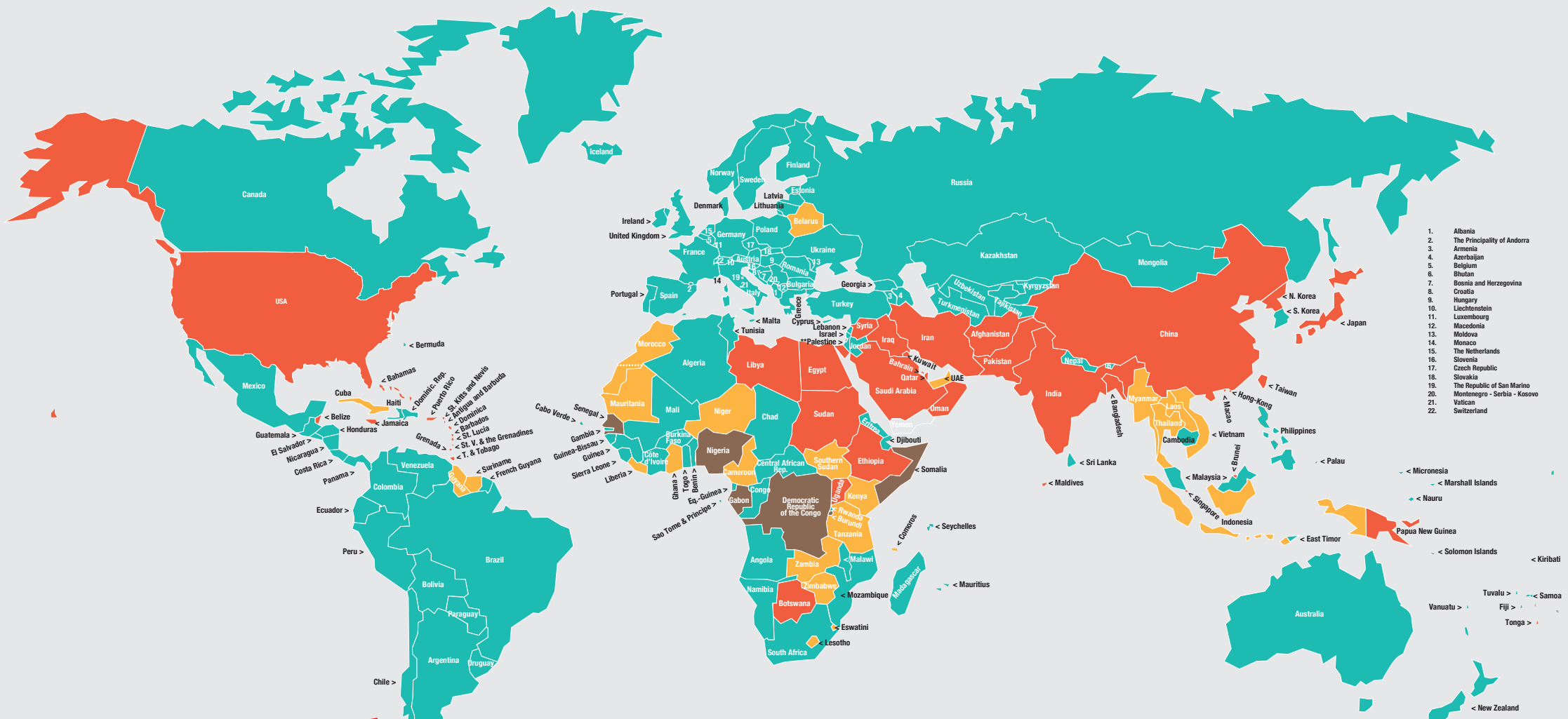
#### 24 STATES ABSTAINED FROM VOTING:

Belarus, Cameroon, Comoros, Cuba, Eswatini, Ghana, Guyana, Indonesia, Kenya, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Myanmar, Niger, South Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

#### 8 ABSENT STATES:

Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Nigeria, Palau, Solomon Islands, Senegal and Somalia.

# VOTES ON THE RESOLUTION FOR A UNIVERSAL MORATORIUM ON THE USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY AT THE UN IN 2020



1. Albania
2. The Principality of Andorra
3. Armenia
4. Azerbaijan
5. Belgium
6. Bhutan
7. Bosnia and Herzegovina
8. Croatia
9. Hungary
10. Liechtenstein
11. Luxembourg
12. Macedonia
13. Moldova
14. Monaco
15. The Netherlands
16. Slovenia
17. Czech Republic
18. Slovakia
19. The Republic of San Marino
20. Montenegro - Serbia - Kosovo
21. Vatican
22. Switzerland

Find the results of the 2020 vote in the section UN Instruments of our interactive map on [www.ecpm.org](http://www.ecpm.org).

- 123 votes in favour of adopting the resolution
- 38 votes against adopting the resolution
- 24 abstentions
- 8 absences

# ANALYSIS OF THE 2020 VOTE

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

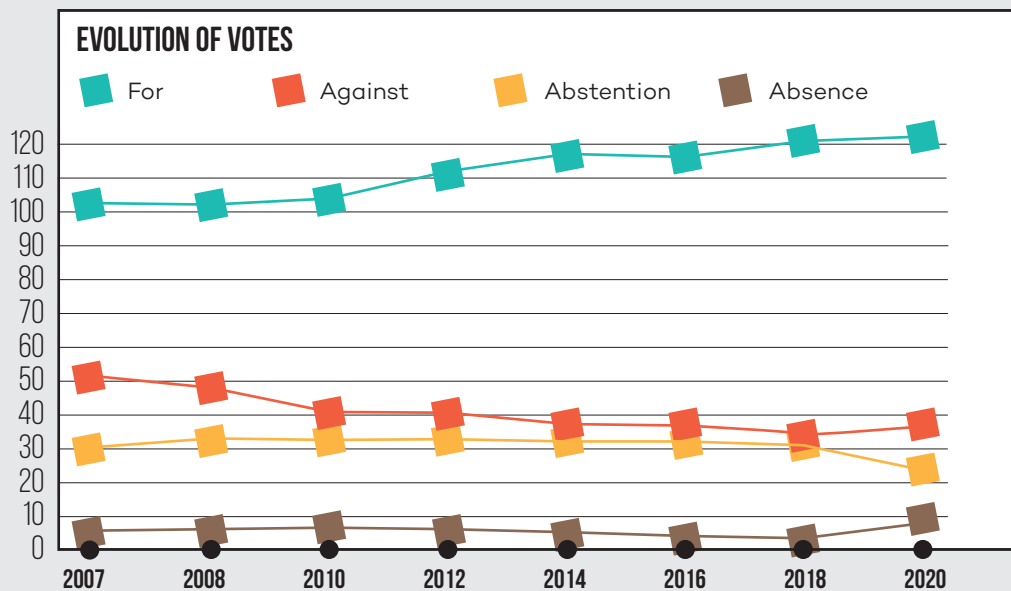
### ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS OF THE 2020 VOTE

Since the introduction of the resolution in 2007, the number of voters supporting the resolution has steadily increased to a new record of 123 in 2020.

Positive progress has been observed in most parts of the world. **For the first time, South Korea, Djibouti, Jordan and Lebanon voted in favour of the resolution. 9 States moved from one abstention (South Korea, Djibouti, Guinea, Jordan, Lebanon, Philippines, Republic of Congo) or an absence (Seychelles, Sierra Leone) to a favourable vote. 3 States went from a negative vote to a favourable vote (Nauru) or an abstention (Yemen, Zimbabwe).**

In this particular year, marked by the Covid19 pandemic, 8 States were unable to take part in the vote (Burundi, Gabon, Solomon Islands, Nigeria, Palau, DRC, Senegal and Somalia) while there were only 5 absent in 2018. Among them, 5 States are abolitionist (Burundi, Gabon, Solomon Islands, Palau, Senegal) and 4 had voted in favour of the resolution in 2018 (Gabon, Solomon Islands, Palau, Somalia). 1 State (DRC) had voted in favour during the vote in the 3rd committee held on 17 November 2020.

Apart from the States that did not vote, 6 States changed their vote negatively. 2 States changed their votes from 'Yes' (Dominica and Libya - in 2018 Pakistan reported a technical problem and requested that its 'Yes' vote be changed to 'No') and 3 from 'Abstention' (Antigua and Barbuda, Uganda and Tonga) to 'No'. 1 State abstained although it had voted in favour at the plenary in 2018 (Niger).



### SPONSORSHIP OF THE RESOLUTION

Despite a record number of votes in favour of the resolution in 2020, the number of co-sponsors of the text has decreased to 75 (compared to 87 in 2007 and 83 in 2018). There is still room for improvement, as 48 states voted in favour of the resolution but did not sponsor it.

### THE OPPOSITION OF CERTAIN STATES TO THE RESOLUTION

The number of States opposed to the resolution has decreased from 54 in 2007 to only 38 in 2020. A small group of countries, led by Singapore, has been very active in 2020 against the resolution. As in 2018, this group presented an amendment to the text, reaffirming the sovereignty of States over their legal systems and over the existence of provisions providing for capital punishment in their national legislation. This amendment was adopted in the Third Committee by 95 votes in favour and 69 votes against. In 2016, 96 States had voted in favour and 73 against. However, this amendment had no impact on the outcome of the vote.

### ABOLITIONIST STATES OR STATES THAT HAVE NOT EXECUTED FOR AT LEAST 10 YEARS BUT DID NOT VOTE IN FAVOUR OF THE RESOLUTION

**States that voted against the resolution:** Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brunei, Qatar, Darussalam, Dominica, Ethiopia, Grenada, Jamaica, Maldives, Uganda, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tonga and Trinidad and Tobago.

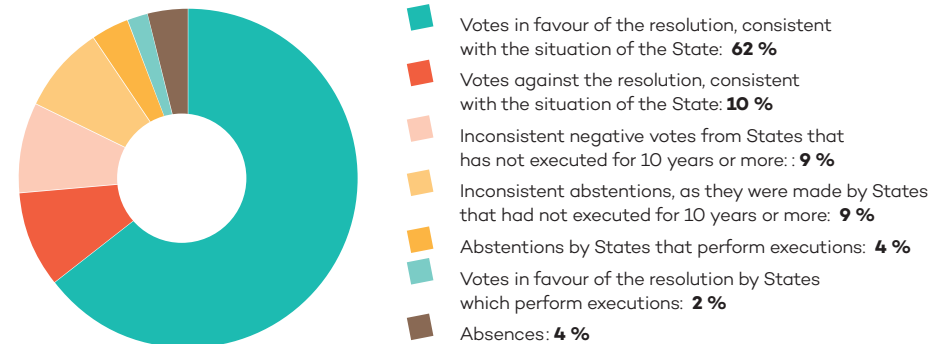
**States abstaining from voting:** Cameroon, Comoros, Cuba, Eswatini, Ghana, Guyana, Kenya, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Myanmar, Niger, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

**Absent States:** Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Palau, Solomon Islands and Senegal.

### LIST OF THE 11 STATES THAT HAVE ALWAYS ABSTAINED FROM VOTING:

Belarus, Cameroon, Cuba, Kenya, Laos, Liberia, Morocco, Tanzania, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam and Zambia.

### CONSISTENCY OF VOTES IN 2020



# ANALYSIS OF THE 2020 VOTE

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

### REGIONAL ANALYSIS

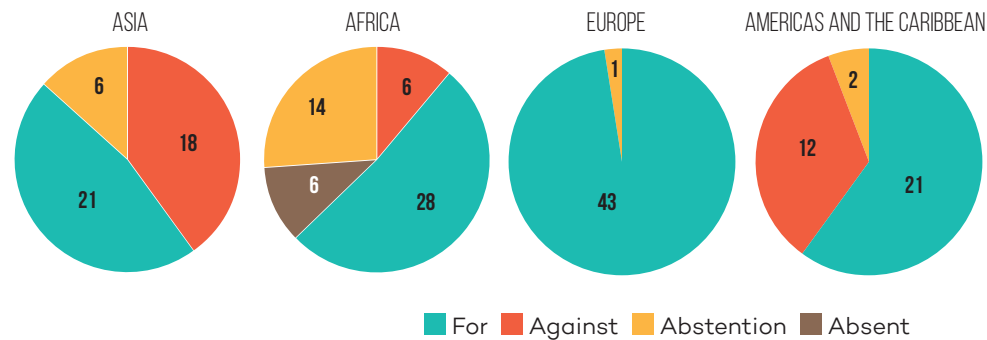
Once again, the main support for the resolution comes from Europe (97% from votes in favour) and Africa (50% in favour and only 11% of negatives votes). Improvements can be seen in the Americas and the Caribbean (60% of votes in favour and 34% against) while Asia (46% of favourable votes and 40% negative votes) remains the continent least favourable to the text.

At the sub-regional level, it should be noted that **no West and Central African States opposed the resolution**. In the Middle East (28% in favour) and South-East Asia (45% of abstentions), the resolution is still intensely debated.

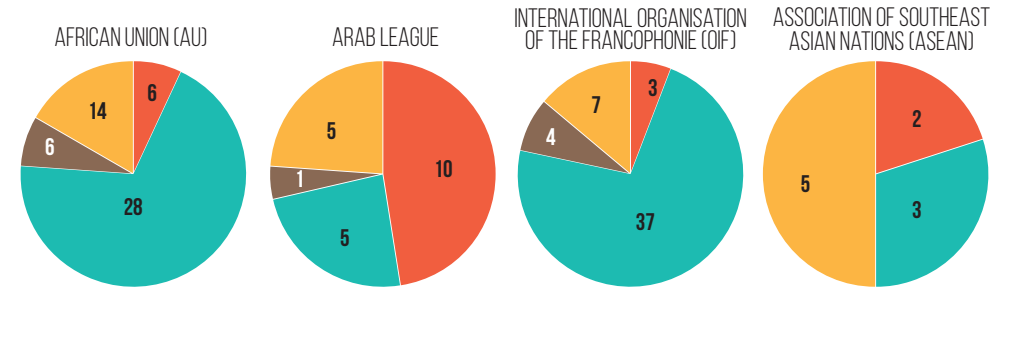
### ANALYSIS BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

Within intergovernmental organisations, only 6% of OIF members opposed the text (72% of votes in favour) and 100% of the members of the community of Portuguese-speaking countries support it. Opinions are more divided among ASEAN (50% abstaining) and OIC (46% in favour) members.

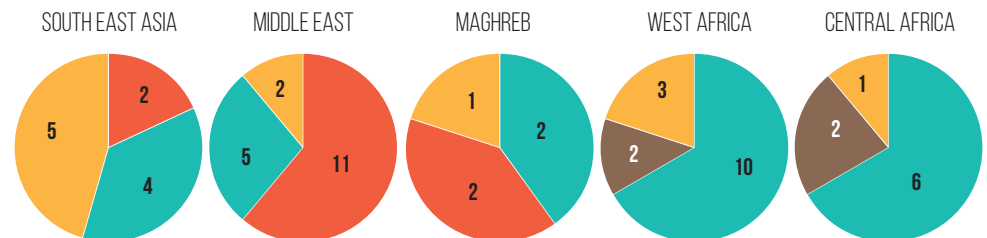
### REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF VOTES



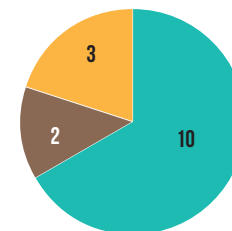
### ANALYSIS OF VOTES BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS



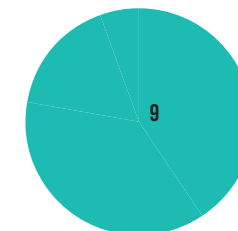
### SUB-REGIONAL ANALYSIS



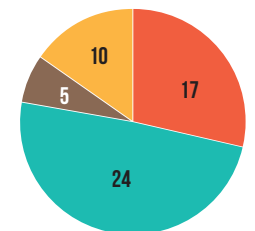
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)



COMMUNITY OF PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES (CPLP)



ORGANISATION FOR ISLAMIC COOPERATION (OIC)



## ECPM - WHO ARE WE?

Since 2000, ECPM (Together Against the Death Penalty) has been fighting against the death penalty worldwide by federating and mobilising abolitionist forces around the world.

Through its programmes and campaigns, ECPM advocates before national and international bodies, strengthens the capacity of abolitionist actors in the field and carries out education and awareness-raising activities. Organiser of the World Congress Against the Death Penalty created in 2001, ECPM co-founded in 2002 the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

Find the results of the 2020 vote in the UN Instruments tab of our interactive map on [www.ecpm.org](http://www.ecpm.org).

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP PROMOTE THE RESOLUTION?

Would you like more information?

Would you like to hear from experts or witnesses?

Would you like to co-organise a side-event at the UN?

### Contact us:

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