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VOTE

FOR A UNIVERSAL MORATORIUM ON THE USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY

CHALLENGES OF THE 2022 VOTE

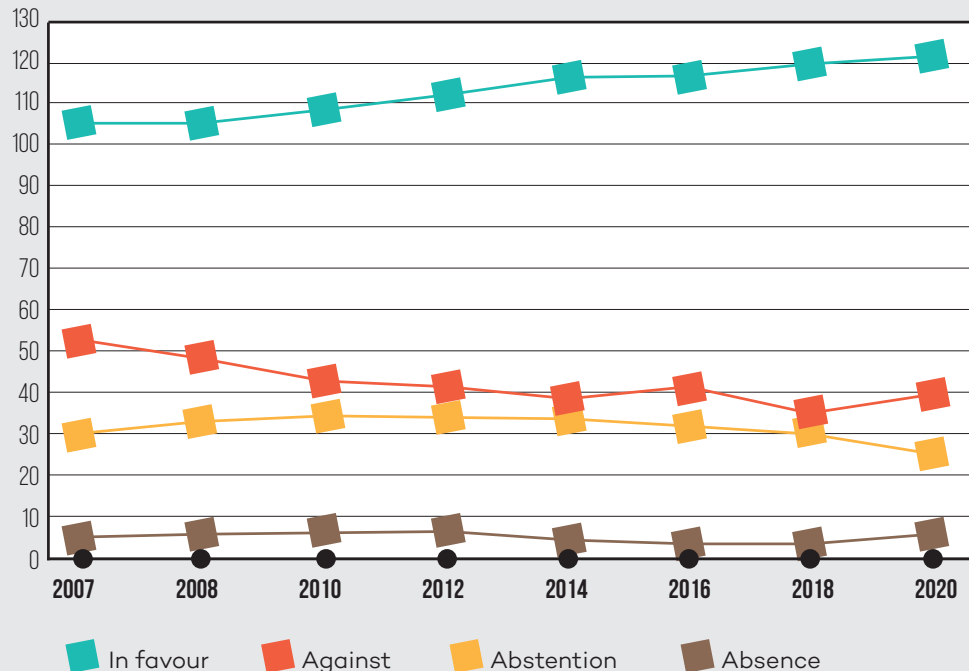
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

Since 2007, the United Nations General Assembly has adopted eight resolutions calling for the establishment of a universal moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

Through this text, which is always adopted by a large majority of States, the UN reaffirms that the use of the death penalty damages human dignity and “calls on all States which still maintain it to establish a moratorium on executions.” 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.

EVOLUTION OF VOTES



LIST OF THE 11 COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE ALWAYS ABSTAINED FROM VOTING:

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

RESULTS OF THE 2020 VOTE:

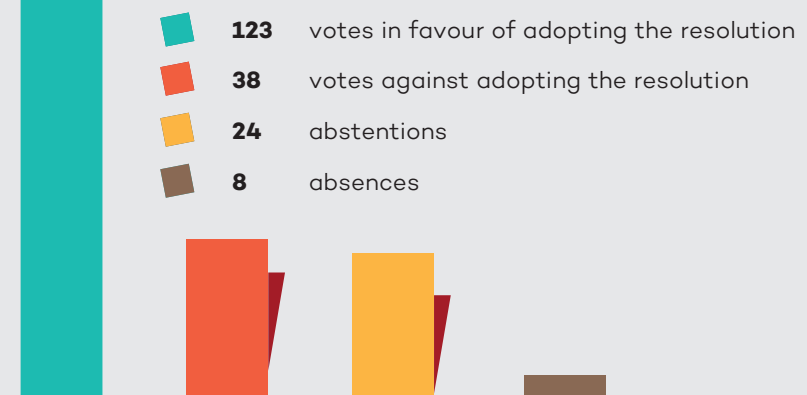
Positive developments have been observed in most regions of the world. For the first time, South Korea, Djibouti, Jordan and Lebanon voted in favour of the resolution. 9 States moved from abstention (Djibouti, Guinea, Jordan, Lebanon, Philippines, Republic of Congo, South Korea) or absence (Seychelles,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

The year 2020 was particular; marked by the Covid-19 pandemic, 8 States could not take part in the vote (Burundi, Gabon, Nigeria, Palau, Solomon Islands, DRC, Senegal and Somalia) while only 5 were absent in 2018. Of these, 5 States are abolitionist (Burundi, Gabon, Palau, Solomon Islands, Senegal) and 4 had voted in favour of the resolution in 2018 (Gabon, Solomon Islands, Palau, Somalia). 1 State (DRC) voted in favour in the 3rd Committee vote held on 17 November 2020.

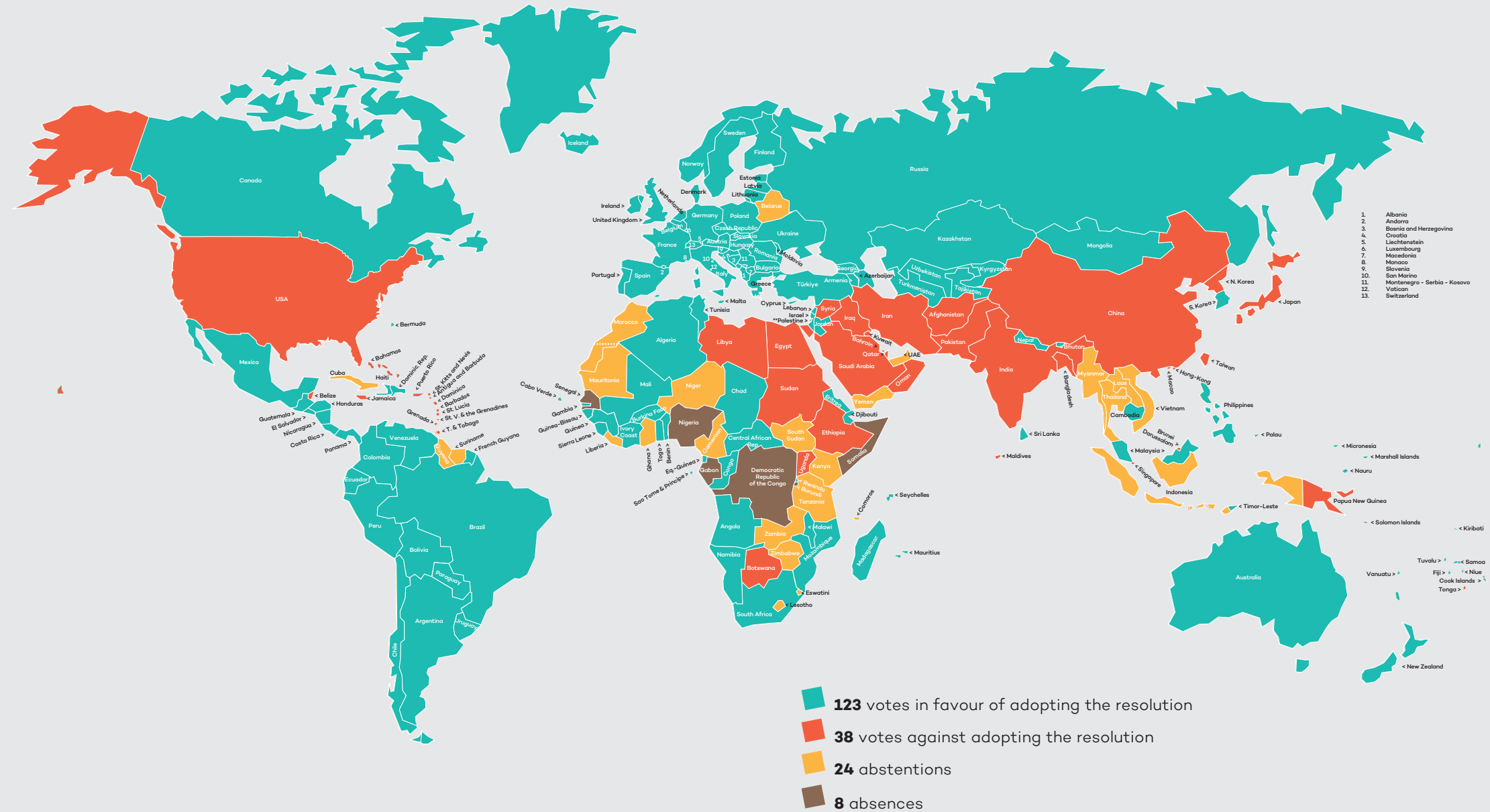
Apart from the States that did not vote, 6 States changed their vote negatively.

2 States changed from a positive vote (Dominica and Libya - in 2018, Pakistan reported a technical problem and requested that its yes vote be changed to «no») and 3 from an abstention (Antigua and Barbuda, Uganda and Tonga) to a no vote. 1 State abstained despite having voted in favour in the 2018 plenary (Niger).

RESULTS OF THE VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION IN 2020:



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



ANALYSIS OF THE 2020 VOTE

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

LIST OF COUNTRIES BY TYPE OF VOTE

123 COUNTRIES VOTING IN FAVOUR OF THE RESOLUTION

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Germany, South Africa, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, **Congo**, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, **South Korea**, Croatia, Denmark, **Djibouti**, Ecuador, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, Spain, France, Gambia, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, **Guinea**, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Marshall Islands, 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, Central African Republic, Paraguay, Netherlands, Peru, **Philippines**, Poland, Portugal Republic, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, San Marino, El Salvador, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, United Kingdom, **Seychelles**, **Sierra Leone**, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Suriname, Tajikistan, Chad, East Timor, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Ukraine, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Venezuela

38 COUNTRIES VOTING AGAINST THE RESOLUTION

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

24 COUNTRIES ABSTAINING

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 COUNTRIES ABSENT

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

AFFINITIES AND INCONSISTENCIES

In 2020, of the 92 States which have not legally abolished the death penalty for all crimes, 57 have not carried out any execution for 10 years or more. Of these 57 states, only 21 voted in line with their situation and therefore approved the resolution for a universal moratorium on the use of the death penalty in 2020.

In June 2022, the number of states that have not legally abolished the death penalty stands at 89, of which 55 have not carried out any executions for 10 years or more.

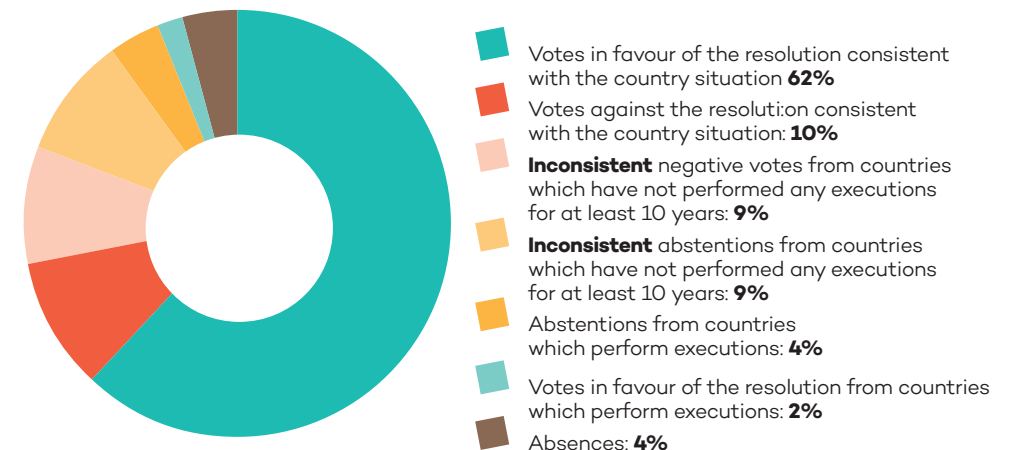
ABOLITIONIST COUNTRIES OR COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE NOT PERFORMED ANY EXECUTIONS FOR AT LEAST 10 YEARS BUT WHICH DID NOT VOTE IN FAVOUR OF THE RESOLUTION

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

Countries abstaining from the vote: Cameroon, Comoros, Cuba, Eswatini, Ghana, Guyana, Kenya, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Myanmar, Niger, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Absent countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Nigeria, Palau, Solomon Islands, Senegal and Somalia.

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

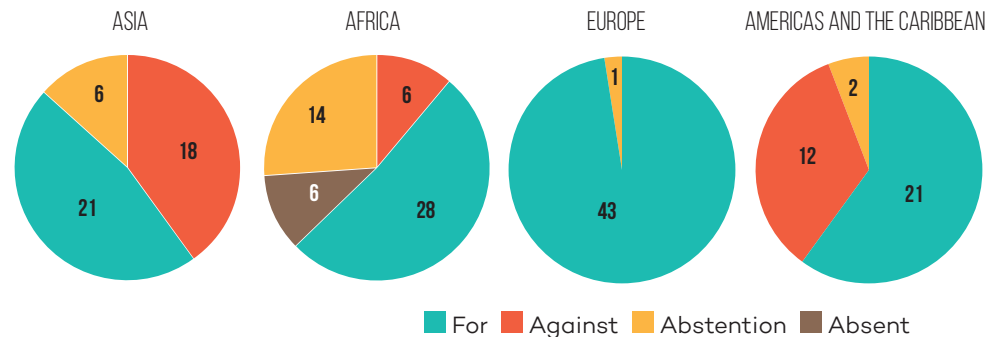
Once again, the main support for the resolution comes from Europe (97% votes in favour) and Africa (50% in favour and only 11% of negatives votes). Improvements can be seen in the Americas and the Caribbean (60% of votes in favour and 34% against) while Asia (46% of favourable votes and 40% negative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

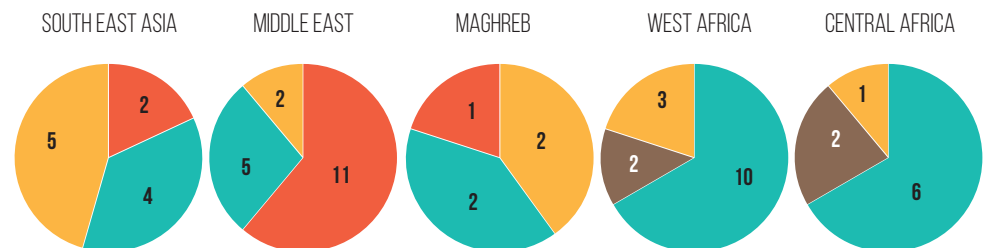
ANALYSIS BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

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.

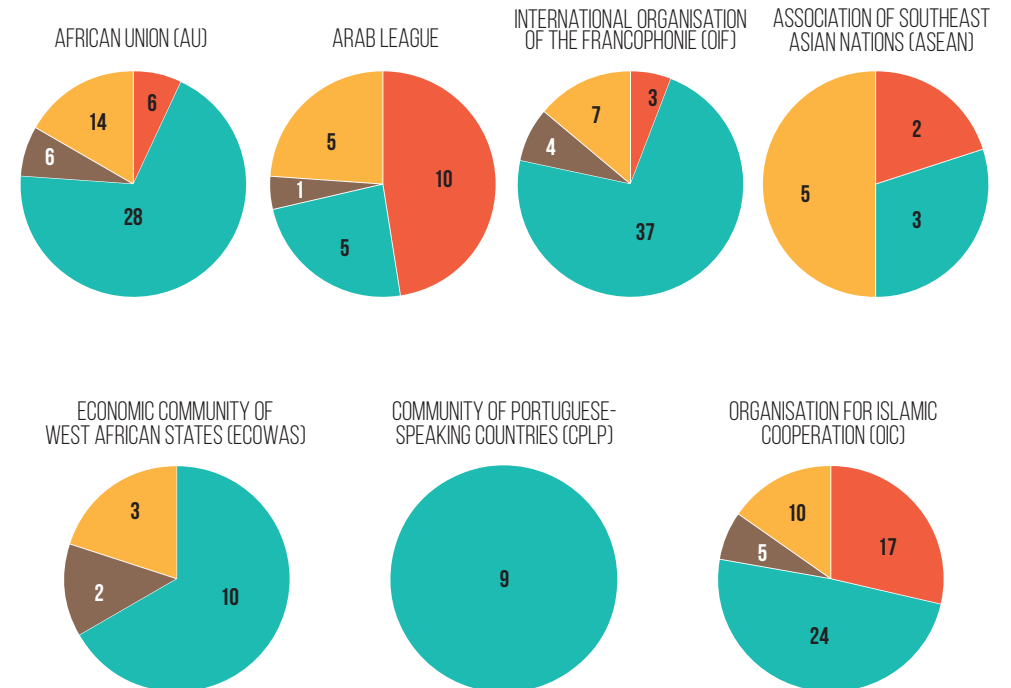
REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF VOTES



SUB-REGIONAL ANALYSIS



ANALYSIS OF VOTES BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

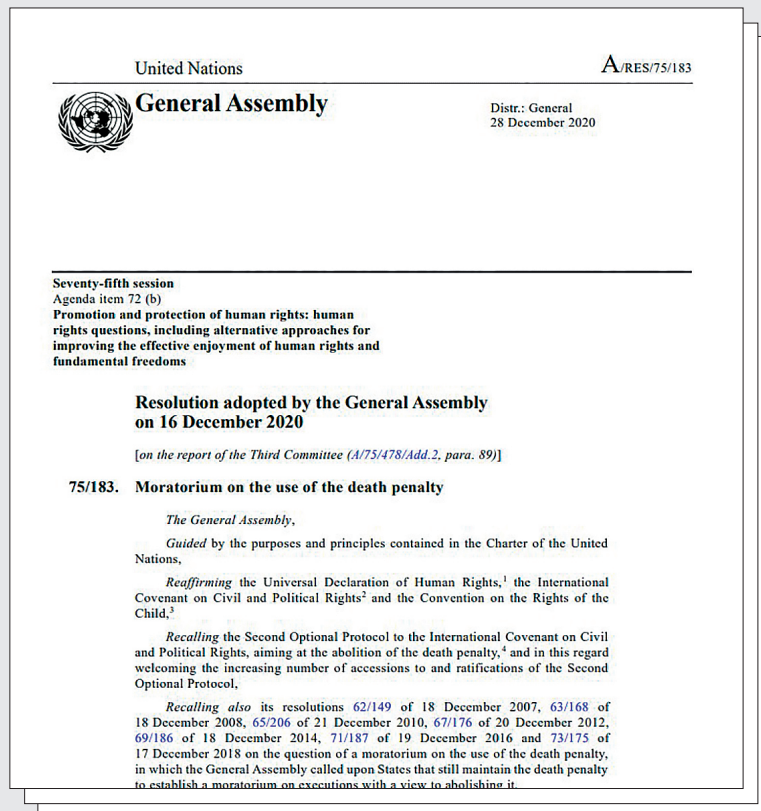


THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

THE TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION IN 2020

The 2020 resolution (A/RES/75/183) introduced new elements to strengthen the text and called on States to provide better protection for 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 capital punishment for offences committed by persons whose age above 18 years at the time of the commission of the crime cannot be accurately determined” 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”.



CHALLENGES OF THE 2022 VOTE

With regard to the next vote, planned for December 2022 in New York, the international community expects each State to vote consistently with its national situation. As the number of countries under a moratorium is constantly increasing, that should be translated into an increase in the number of positive votes in favour of a universal moratorium on the use of the death penalty, as it has been the case so far.

However, this year again, the stakes of the vote on the resolution are particularly high. The past two years of the health crisis prevented all actors of the abolition from working properly and made death row prisoners even more vulnerable.

A number of states had slowed or suspended executions of death row prisoners during the pandemic. However, this did not last, as civil society actors warned that executions would rise again in 2021. Since the beginning of 2022, executions have continued to intensify, notably in Iran and Saudi Arabia. The resuming of executions in Singapore in March 2022 also marks a turning point.

In this context, the mobilisation around the vote on this resolution remains crucial in order to promote progress towards its effective adoption by all participating States.

INDICATIVE TIMELINE

13 September 2022:
opening of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly

First half of November 2022:
vote of the resolution in 3rd Committee

Mid-December 2022:
vote of the resolution in UNGA plenary session

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP PROMOTING 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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**EC
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**TOGETHER
AGAINST
THE DEATH
PENALTY**

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