

**ECPM**

ensemble contre  
la peine de mort  
together against  
the death penalty

Consultative status  
at ECOSOC  
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at ACHPR

# VOTE FOR

# THE UNIVERSAL MORATORIUM ON THE USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY!

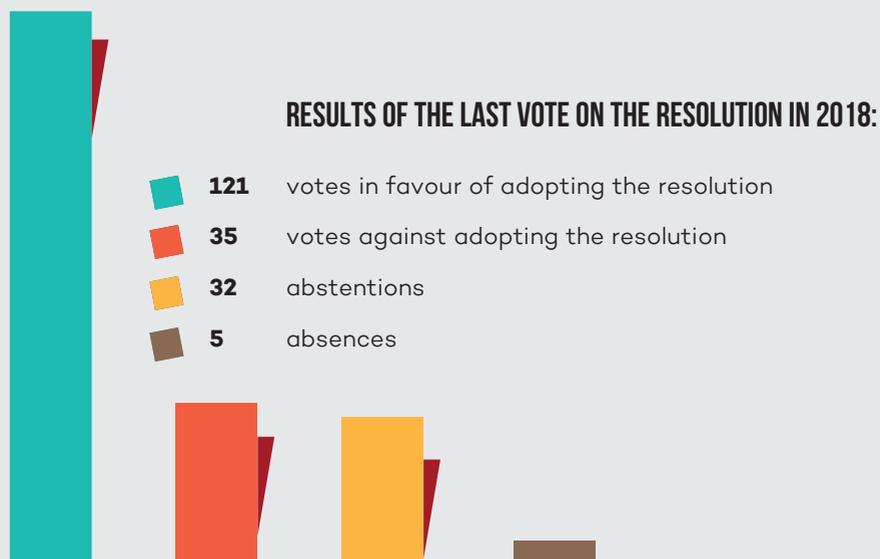
## ANALYSIS OF THE 2018 VOTE

# VOTE FOR THE UNIVERSAL MORATORIUM ON THE USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY!

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

A resolution for a universal moratorium on the use of the death penalty has been put to the vote at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) every two years since 2007.

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.” 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 2018 resolution introduced new elements to strengthen the text and to encourage all States to take steps to respect international law and restrict use of the death penalty. Paragraphs 7(e) and (g) thus call on States to consider “removing the mandatory application of the death penalty” and to “ensure that the death penalty is not applied [...] as a result of discriminatory or arbitrary application of the law.” In order to improve transparency surrounding capital punishment, the UNGA also called on States to provide information about its application, specifying the gender, age and origins of those sentenced.



## LIST OF COUNTRIES BY TYPE OF VOTE

### 121 COUNTRIES VOTING IN FAVOUR OF THE RESOLUTION

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Pakistan\*, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Venezuela.

*\*Pakistan has reported a technical problem and requested to change its vote to “No”. As of 22 January 2019, there is no information on the outcome of this request.*

### 35 COUNTRIES VOTING AGAINST THE RESOLUTION

Afghanistan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Egypt, Ethiopia, Grenada, India, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Maldives, Nauru, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

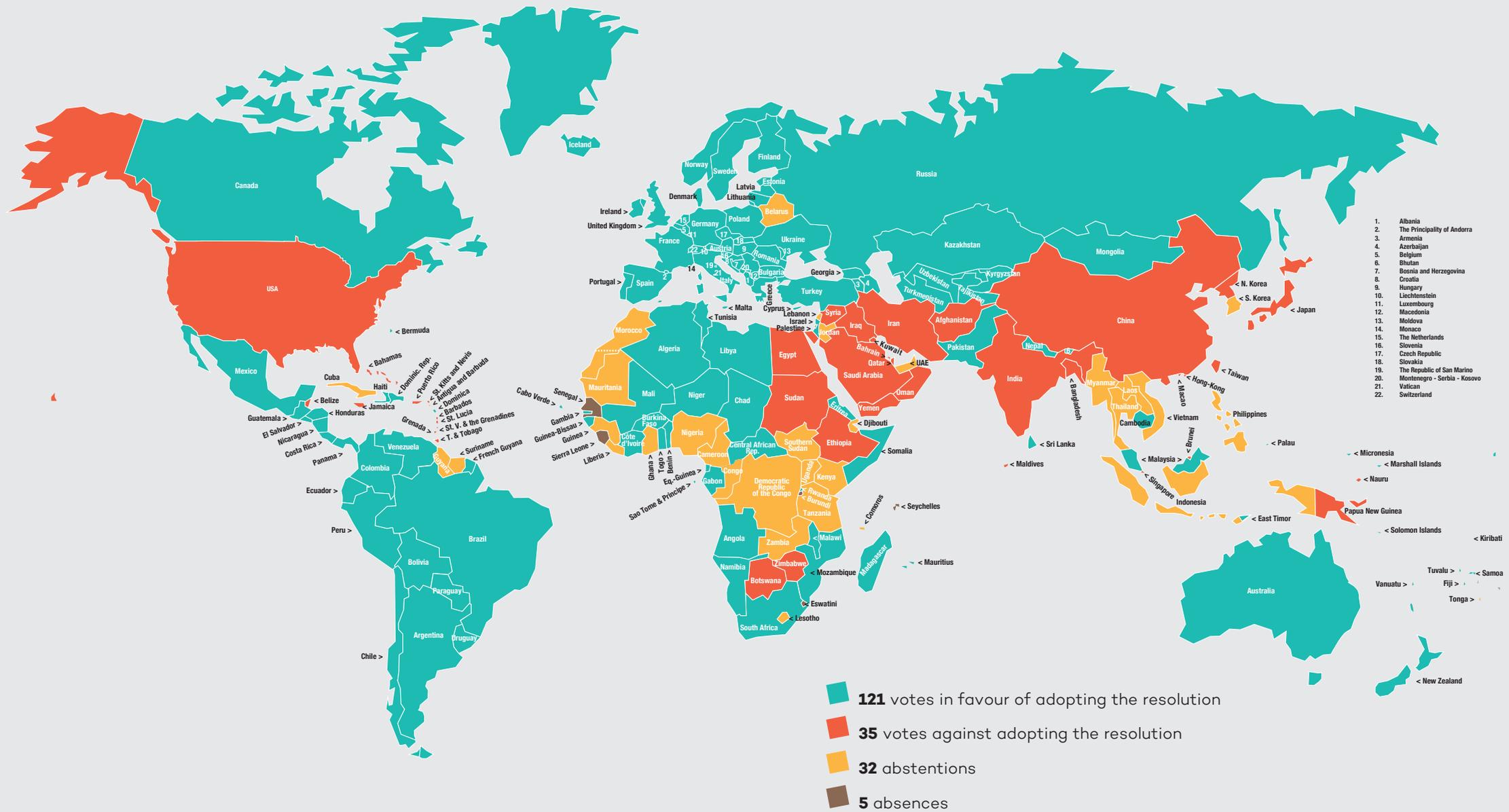
### 32 COUNTRIES ABSTAINING

Antigua and Barbuda, Belarus, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, Philippines, Republic of Korea, South Sudan, Thailand, Tonga, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Vietnam and Zambia.

### 5 COUNTRIES ABSENT

Burundi, Eswatini, Senegal, Seychelles and Sierra Leone.

# VOTES ON THE UN RESOLUTION FOR A UNIVERSAL MORATORIUM ON THE USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN 2018



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

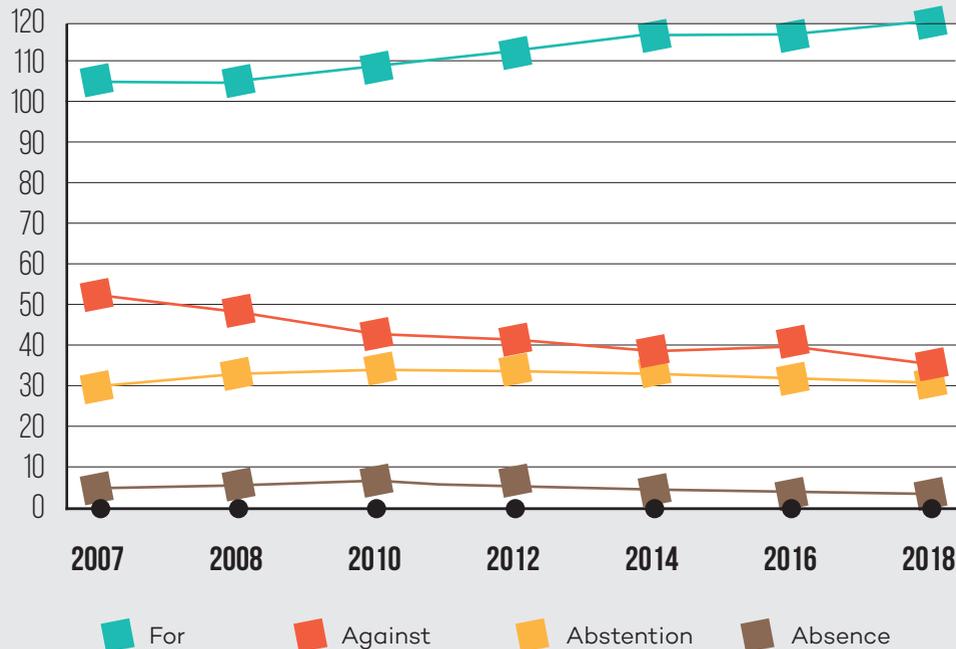
■ 121 votes in favour of adopting the resolution  
■ 35 votes against adopting the resolution  
■ 32 abstentions  
■ 5 absences

# VOTE FOR THE UNIVERSAL MORATORIUM ON THE USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY!

## A RESOLUTION WITH GROWING SUCCESS

Since 2007, the UN General Assembly has adopted seven resolutions calling for the establishment of a universal moratorium on the use of the death penalty. Each resolution has provoked increasingly significant support. Of the 193 UN Member States, an overwhelming majority, 121, voted in favour of the resolution on 17 December 2018. Only 35 States voted against and 32 abstained. With regard to the next vote, planned for December 2020 in New York, the international community expects each State to vote consistently with their national situation. As the number of countries with 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 has been the case thus far.

EVOLUTION OF VOTES



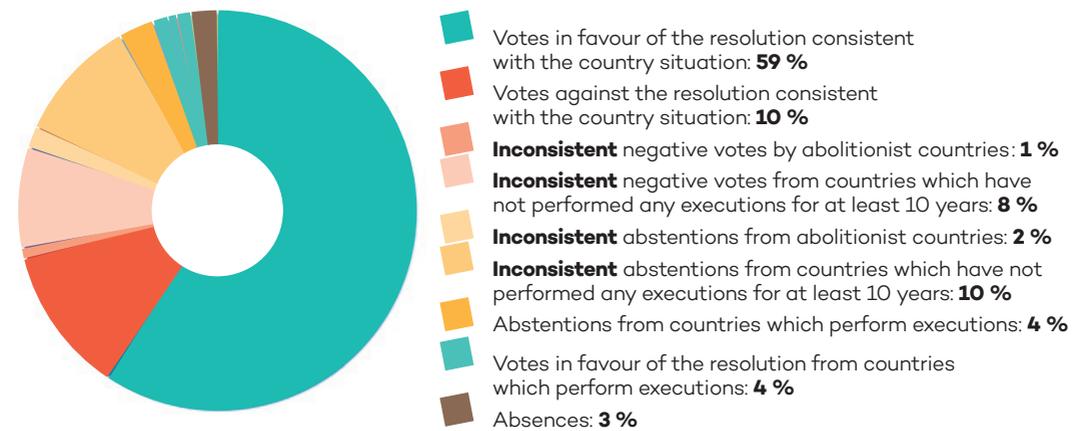
## LIST OF THE 14 COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE ALWAYS ABSTAINED FROM VOTING:

Belarus, Cameroon, Cuba, Djibouti, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Morocco, Republic of Korea, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Vietnam and Zambia.

## AFFINITIES AND INCONSISTENCIES

Of the 90 States which have not legally abolished the death penalty for all crimes, 56 have not performed any executions for at least 10 years (as of 31 December 2018). Of those 56 States, only 19 consistently voted in line with their situation and therefore approved the resolution for a universal moratorium on the use of the death penalty in 2018.

CONSISTENCY OF VOTES IN 2018



## 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:** Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brunei Darussalam, Ethiopia, Grenada, Jamaica, Maldives, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and Zimbabwe.

**Countries abstaining from the vote:** Antigua and Barbuda, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Tonga, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

**Absent countries:** Burundi, Eswatini, Senegal, Seychelles and Sierra Leone.

## ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS OF THE VOTE IN 2018

For the fourth consecutive time, the positive news came from Africa, giving hope to abolitionists on that continent. The Central African Republic and Burkina Faso co-sponsored the resolution for the first time; 4 countries switched from an absence or an abstention to a positive vote (the Gambia, Equatorial Guinea, Mauritius and Rwanda). The French-speaking Sub-Saharan Africa, in which a majority of States have a *de facto* moratorium on executions in place, voted overwhelmingly in favour of the resolution: no negative votes were recorded. Half of the Maghreb countries supported the resolution (Tunisia, Algeria and Libya). However, the Congo and Guinea, though abolitionists, abstained in the vote; DRC, which supported the text for the first time in November 2018 in the Third Committee vote, also abstained.

Other parts of the world saw some positive progress in the 2018 vote. Antigua and Barbuda and Guyana abstained, and Dominica co-sponsored and supported the resolution, in a predominantly retentionist region. Similarly, Malaysia voted in favour of the resolution for the first time, in a region where most States continue to carry out executions. This positive development followed the announcement by the Malaysian government, in October 2018, of its will to abolish the death penalty in the country.

## SPONSORSHIP OF THE RESOLUTION

Despite a record high number of votes supporting the resolution on a universal moratorium on the use of the death penalty in 2018, the number of countries co-sponsoring the text decreased, reaching 83 (against 87 in 2007). There remains room for improvement, as 38 member States have voted in favour of the resolution but have still not sought to sponsor it.

## OPPOSITION TO THE RESOLUTION BY CERTAIN STATES

The number of countries opposed to the resolution dropped from 54 in 2007 to only 35 in 2018. A small group of countries, led by Singapore, was very active against the resolution in 2018. Similarly as in 2016, an amendment to the text was passed, reaffirming the sovereignty of States over their legal systems and the presence of capital punishment in their national legislation. Presented by Singapore, this amendment was adopted at the Third Committee more widely than in 2016: 96 countries in favour and 73 against. However, it is interesting to note that the amendment did not have any repercussions on the outcome of the vote.

## 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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