

VOTE

FOR A UNIVERSAL MORATORIUM ON THE USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY

**CHALLENGES
OF THE 2024 VOTE**



**EC
PM** **TOGETHER
AGAINST
THE DEATH
PENALTY**

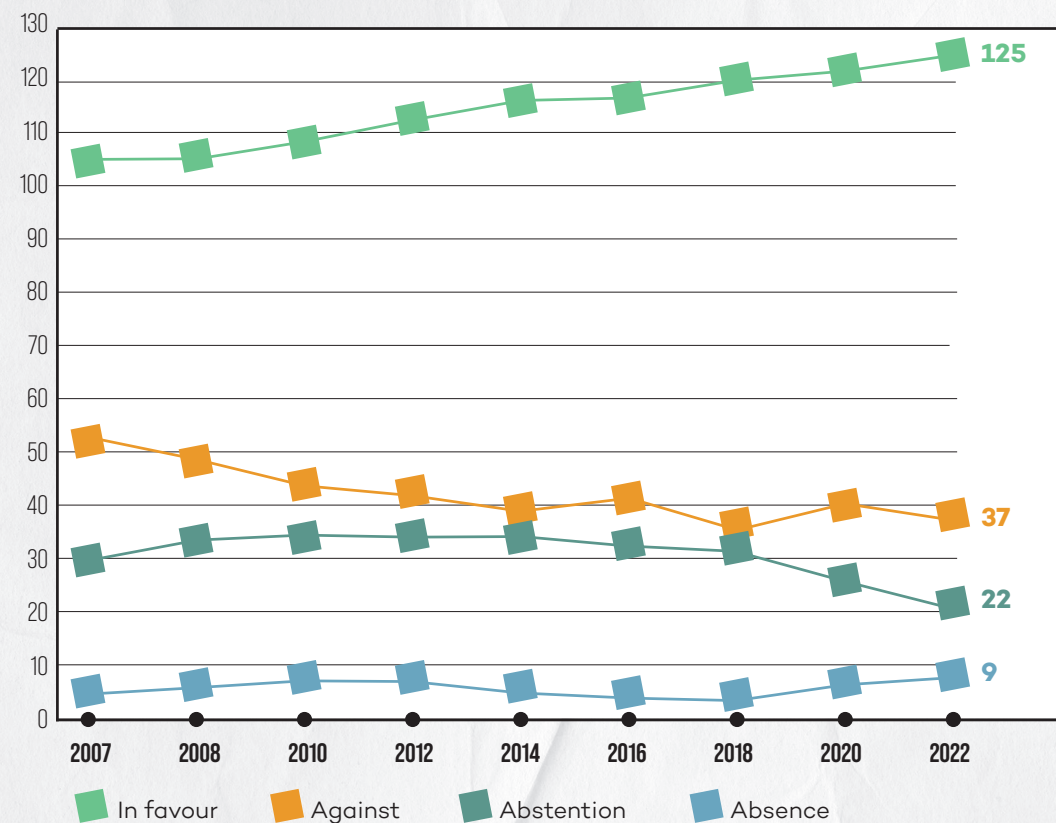
Consultative status at ECOSOC
Observer status at ACHPRP

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 nine 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 125 in 2022. The resolution is voted in two steps, first in 3rd Committee, which is responsible for human rights issues, and then in plenary.

EVOLUTION OF VOTES



#2

RESULTS OF THE 2022 VOTE

Developments since the 2020 vote: Positive developments took place in Ghana, Liberia and Myanmar, shifting from abstaining to a favourable vote, as well as in Uganda, which voted in favour in 2022 after opposing the text in 2020. Two States which were absent during the 2020 plenary session voted in favour of the text (Solomon Islands and Palau). One State shifted from a negative vote to an abstention (Papua New Guinea). And two other States backtracked by voting against the resolution: Yemen which abstained in 2020 and the Democratic Republic of the Congo which did not take part in the vote.

Changes in voting between 3rd Committee and plenary: Uganda showed positive signs by voting in favour after abstaining from voting during the 3rd Committee vote. Besides, Lesotho shifted from a negative vote to an abstention. Three States which had voted in favour during the 3rd Committee (Seychelles, Somalia and Vanuatu) were absent during the vote in plenary. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, which did not take part in the vote during the 3rd Committee, opposed the text for the first time.

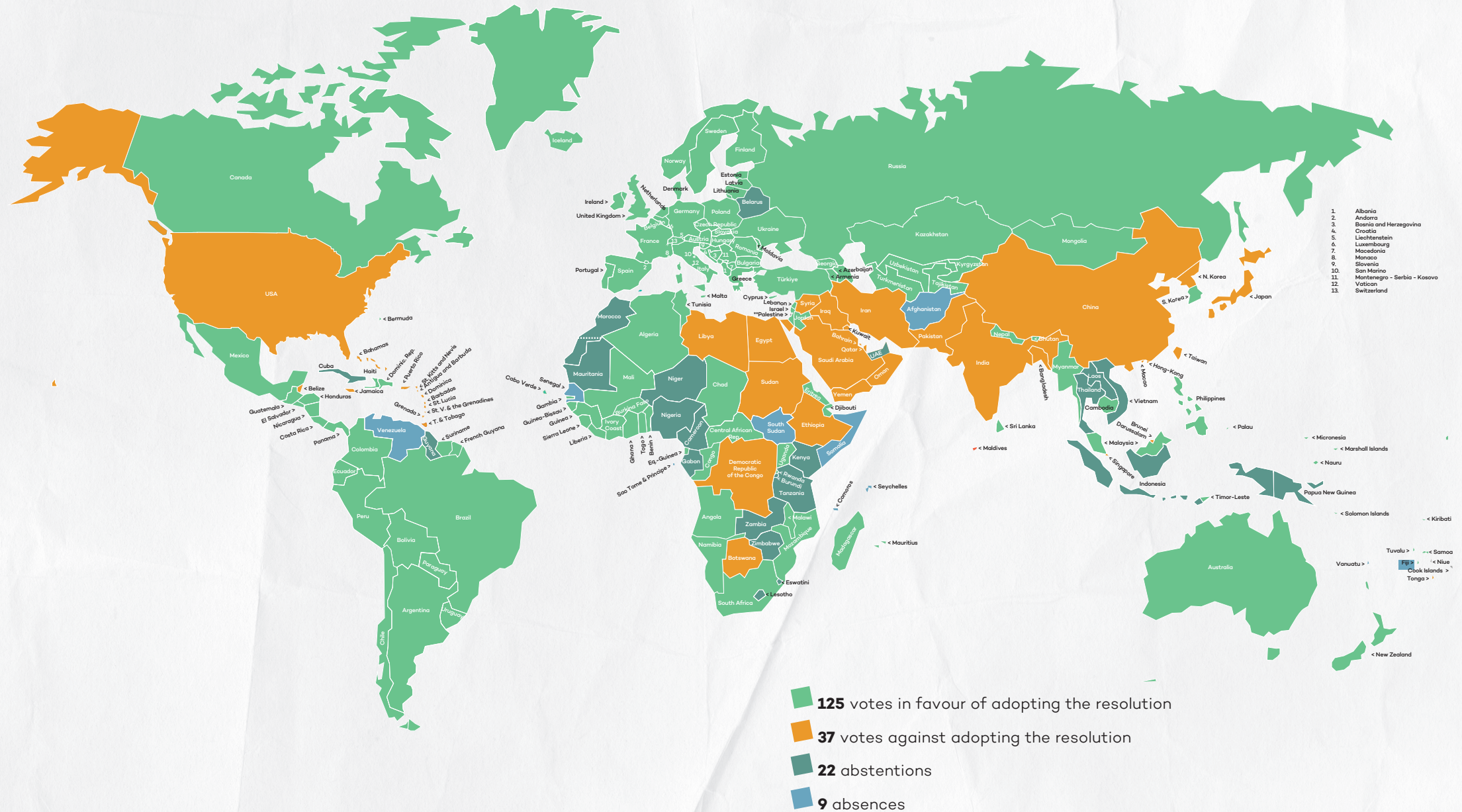
Inconsistency of votes with national situations: Among the 9 States which were absent during the vote in plenary session, 5 States are abolitionist (Seychelles, Vanuatu, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and Venezuela) and 1 State (Comoros) has not carried out any execution for at least 10 years. Among the 37 States which voted against the resolution, 17 States have not carried out any execution for at least 10 years and hence did not vote consistently with their situation. Among the 22 abstaining States, 14 did not vote in line with their situation since 11 of them have not carried out any execution for at least 10 years, 2 are abolitionist (Burundi and Gabon) and 1 State voted for the abolition of the death penalty in 2022 (Papua New Guinea).

To review the voting trends of each Member State since 2007, please visit the ECPM website



#3

VOTES ON THE UN RESOLUTION FOR A UNIVERSAL MORATORIUM ON THE USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN 2022



ANALYSIS OF THE 2022 VOTE

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

LIST OF STATES BY TYPE OF VOTE

125 STATES 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, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, East Timor, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, **Ghana**, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kirghizstan, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, **Liberia**, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldavia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, **Myanmar**, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, **Palau**, Panama, Paraguay, Netherlands, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, San Marino, Samoa, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, **Solomon Islands**, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Suriname, Tadjikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Tuvalu, **Uganda**, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan.

37 STATES VOTING AGAINST THE RESOLUTION

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

22 STATES ABSTAINING

Belarus, **Burundi**, Cameroon, Cuba, Eswatini, **Gabon**, Burundi, Cameroon, Cuba, Eswatini, Gabon, Guyana, Indonesia, Kenya, Laos, Lesotho, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

9 STATES ABSENT

Afghanistan, Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, South Soudan, Vanuatu, Venezuela.

AFFINITIES AND INCONSISTENCIES

In 2022, of the 85 voting States which have not legally abolished the death penalty for all crimes, 52 have not carried out any execution for 10 years or more. Of these 52 states, only 22 voted in line with their situation and therefore approved the resolution for a universal moratorium on the use of the death penalty in 2022.

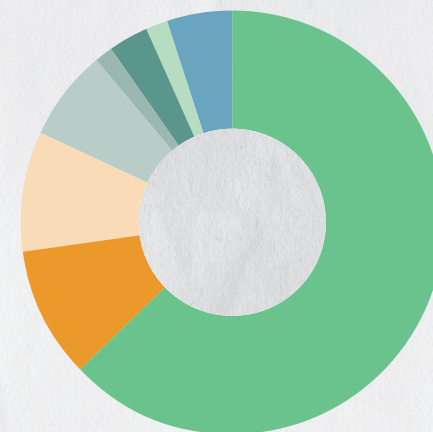
ABOLITIONIST COUNTRIES OR COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE NOT PERFORMED ANY EXECUTIONS FOR AT LEAST 10 YEARS BUT WHICH DID NOT VOTE IN FAVOUR OF THE RESOLUTION

States voting against the resolution: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brunei Darussalam, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominica, Ethiopia, Grenada, Jamaica, Libya, Maldives, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago.

States abstaining from the vote: Burundi, Cameroon, Cuba, Eswatini, Gabon, Guyana, Kenya, Laos, Lesotho, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Absent states: Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Vanuatu, Venezuela.

CONSISTENCY OF VOTES IN 2022



- Votes in favour of the resolution consistent with the country situation: **63 %**
- Votes against the resolution consistent with the country situation: **10 %**
- Inconsistent** negative votes from countries which have not performed any executions for at least 10 years: **9 %**
- Inconsistent** abstentions from countries which have not performed any executions for at least 10 years: **7 %**
- Inconsistent** abstentions from abolitionist countries: **1.5 %**
- Abstentions from countries which perform executions: **3 %**
- Votes in favour of the resolution from countries which perform executions: **1.5 %**
- Absences: **5 %**

ANALYSIS OF THE 2022 VOTE

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Once again, the main supporters of the resolution come from Europe and Africa. Asia remains the continent the least favourable to the text despite positive evolutions since 2020 (20 votes in favour in plenary in 2020, 22 positive votes in 2022). A significant number of States did not take part in the vote in plenary session this year, affecting negatively the results.

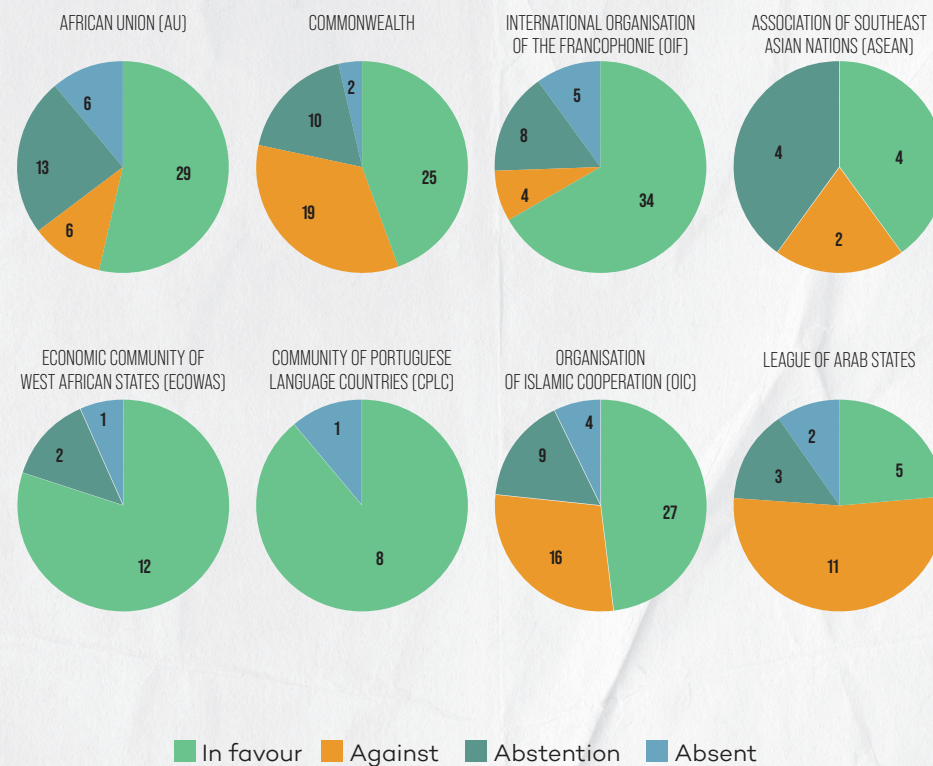
ANALYSIS BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

Within the intergovernmental organisations, a minority of member states from OIF and AU are opposed to the text. Within the OIC and ASEAN, more than half of the states vote in favour or are abstaining. The Arab League is the only organisation registering a majority of negative votes.

REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL ANALYSES OF THE VOTE



ANALYSIS OF VOTES BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

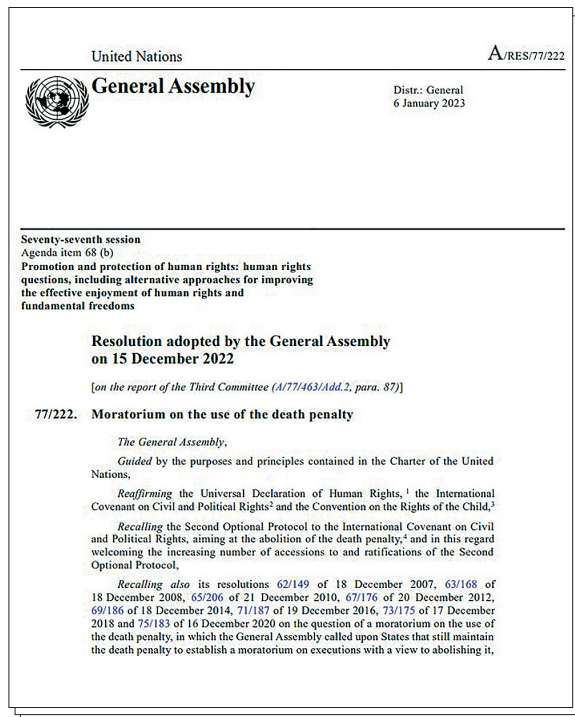


■ In favour ■ Against ■ Abstention ■ Absent

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

THE TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION IN 2022

The 2022 resolution (A/RES/77/222) introduced new elements to strengthen the text and called on States to provide better protection for death row prisoners. The text calls for more transparency regarding the application of the death penalty, in order to eliminate the “discriminatory practices or impact”. The resolution invites the States to guarantee access to a fair trial, by ensuring that the rights to “a fair and public trial and the right to legal assistance” are respected during the legal procedures of capital cases. The text stresses the need to improve conditions of detention on death row, “in particular by evaluating, promoting, protecting and improving [the] physical and mental health” of prisoners.



LIST OF CO-SPONSORS

Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, East Timor, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldavia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, United Kingdom, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela.

CHALLENGES OF THE 2024 VOTE

With regard to the next vote, planned for December 2024 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.

A number of countries had slowed or suspended executions of death row prisoners during the pandemic. However, this did not last, as civil society actors have raised concerns over a troubling increase in executions since 2021.

Executions are continuing to intensify, particularly in Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Yemen and the United States. In Iran, the number of executions more than tripled between 2020 and 2023.

In the DRC, the decision to lift the moratorium on executions, taken at the beginning of 2024, 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

10 september 2024:
opening of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly

November 2024:
vote of the resolution in 3rd Committee

December 2024:
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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