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

ANALYSIS OF THE VOTE IN 3RD COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 2026

133	16	11	33
In favour	Abstentions	Absences	Against

On 13 November 2026, the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, which focuses on human rights issues, voted by an overwhelming majority in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/81/L.43 calling for **a universal moratorium on the use of the death penalty**[1]**.** The resolution was adopted by 133 States, 33 States voted against, 16 abstained and 11 did not take part in the vote. **The number of votes in favour once again set a new record, the highest ever since the first resolution was tabled in the General Assembly in 2007.**

The stakes surrounding the resolution remain particularly high ahead of the vote in plenary session scheduled for December, and mobilisation efforts must continue. In 2024, 6 States changed their vote between the Third Committee and the plenary session, both positively and negatively, not counting those that were absent.

KEY CHANGES COMPARED TO THE 2024 PLENARY SESSION VOTE

POSITIVE CHANGES can be noted in the votes of 10 States:

- **7 States voted in favour of the resolution, while they had abstained in the 2024 plenary session vote** (the Bahamas, Burundi, the Comoros, Guinea, Lesotho, Nigeria and Zimbabwe);
- **2 States voted in favour after having been absent from the previous vote** (Marshall Islands and Central African Republic);
- **1 State switched from voting against to abstaining** (Saint Kitts and Nevis).

OTHER STATES BACKTRACKED:

- **6 States did not reiterate their support** for the resolution as in 2024 **and switched to a vote against** (Burkina Faso), **an abstention** (Algeria) **or did not take part in the vote** (Bolivia, Israel, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Tuvalu);
- **1 State, that was absent in 2024, voted against** the new text (Grenada).

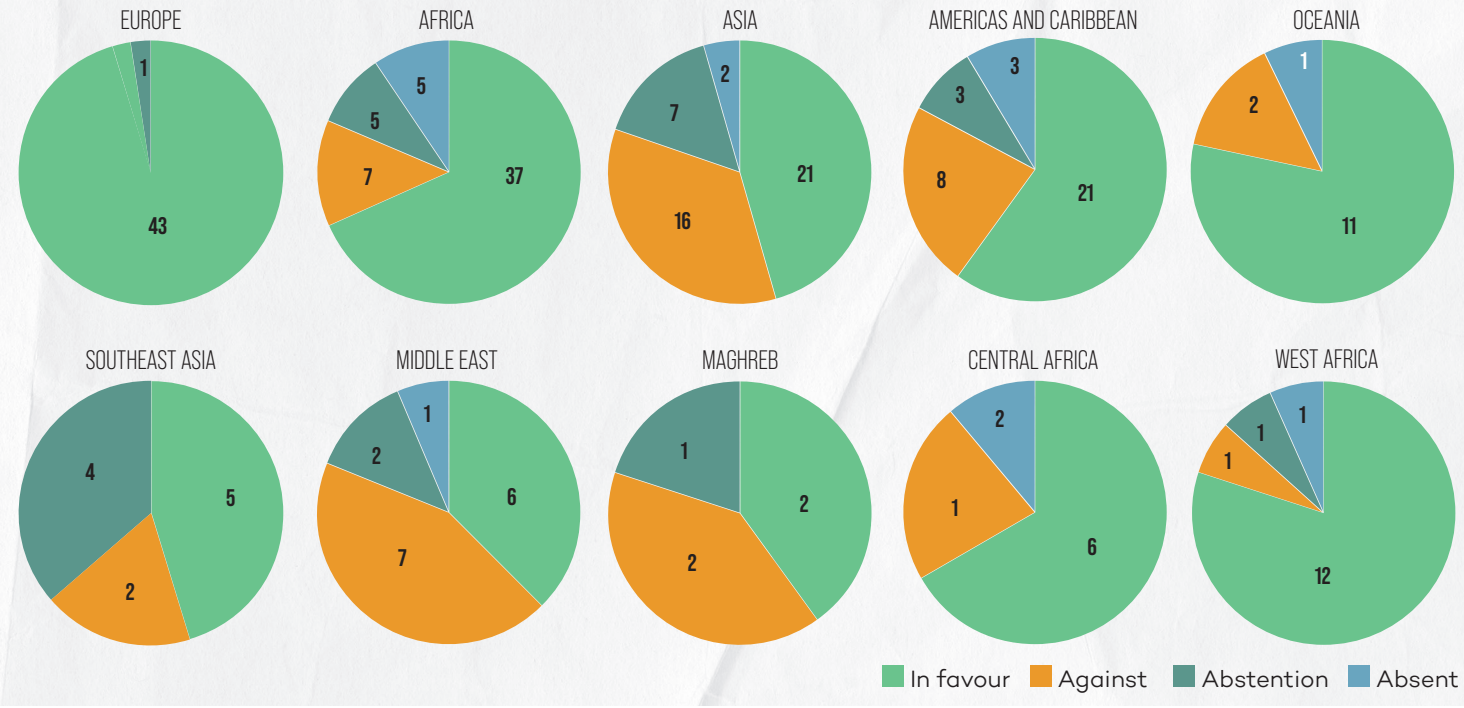
In addition, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Eswatini did not take part in the vote, whereas they had abstained in 2024. Conversely, Syria moved from being absent in 2024 to abstaining in this vote.

INCONSISTENCY IN VOTING IN RELATION TO THE NATIONAL SITUATION IN CERTAIN STATES

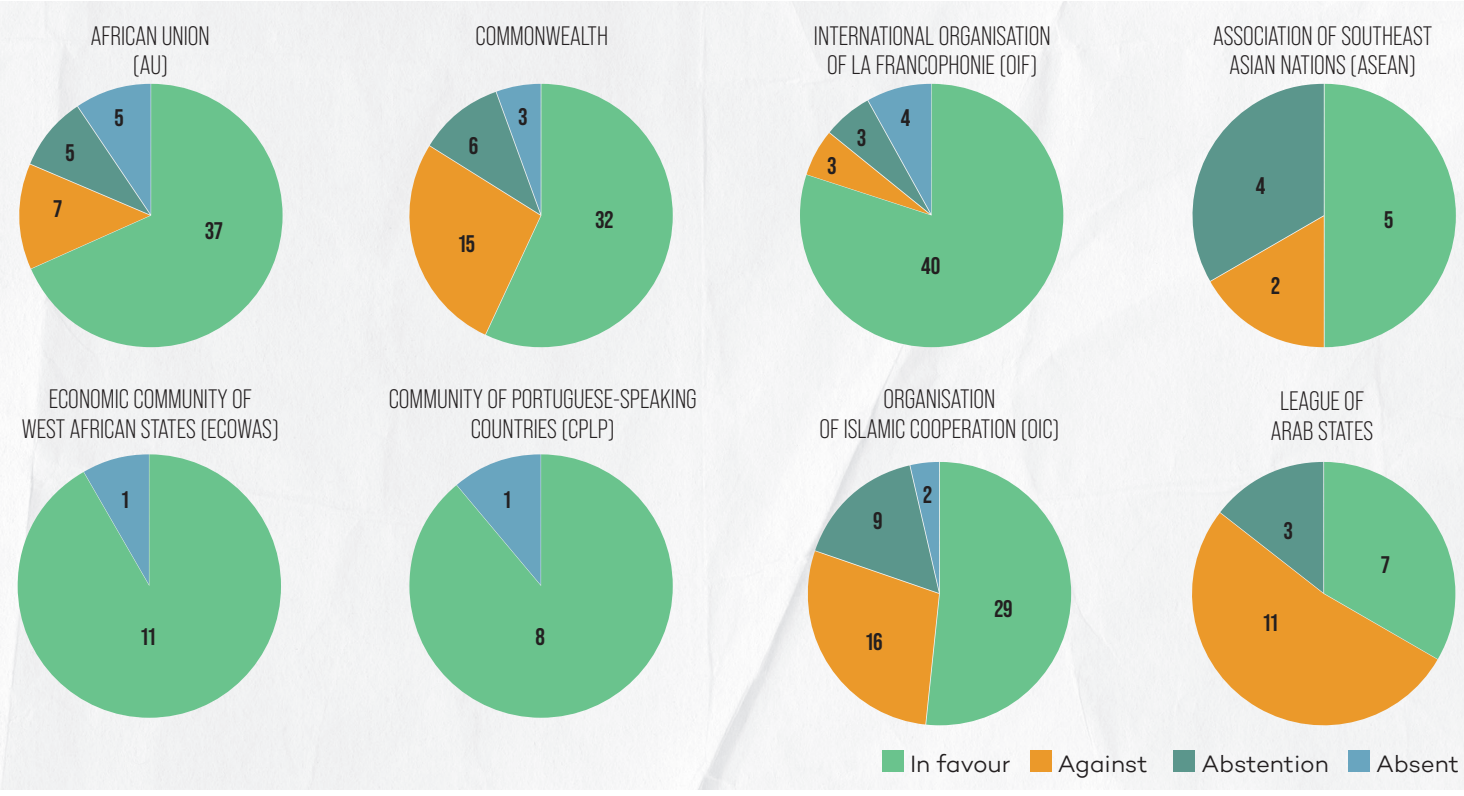
- **Of the 33 States that voted AGAINST**, 15 States are not voting in line with their national situation: 1 State is abolitionist (Papua New Guinea) and the other 14 States have not carried out any executions for 10 years or more.[2]
- **Of the 16 States that ABSTAINED**, 10 have not carried out executions for 10 years or more.
- **Of the 11 States ABSENT from the vote in the Third Committee,** 6 are abolitionist for all crimes or ordinary crimes (Bolivia, Israel, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Tuvalu and Venezuela) and 3 are under a moratorium, having carried out no executions for more than 10 years (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica and Eswatini).

1 The text of the resolution is available online: https://docs.un.org/en/A/C.3/81/L.43
2 Among the 15 States that voted against the resolution despite having had no executions for 10 years or more is Burkina Faso, which, despite abolishing the death penalty for ordinary crimes in 2018, reinstated it in October 2026.

ANALYSIS OF THE VOTE BY REGION



ANALYSIS OF THE VOTE BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION (IGO)



Positive evolutions were recorded in most regions of the world. **Once again, the main supporters of the resolution come from Europe, Africa and Oceania.** Asia remains the continent least favourable to the text despite positive developments in recent votes.

Within international organisations, a minority of member States of OIF and the AU opposed the resolution. Within the OIC and ASEAN, more than half of States voted in favour of the resolution or abstained. The League of Arab States is the only organisation in which a majority of member States voted against the resolution.

ECPM TOGETHER AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

To explore ECPM's resources on the vote on the moratorium resolution, including our in-depth brochure, check out our dedicated webpage.