



General Assembly

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Agenda item: Moratorium on the execution of the death penalty

Sponsors: Bangladesh, China, Cuba, India, Iran, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Netherlands, Panama, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkiye, United Arab Emirate, United States of America, Viet Nam,

The General Assembly,

Noting with deep concern that national sovereignty is being increasingly overlooked in discussions regarding the death penalty, disregarding the diverse contexts and situations faced by different countries in determining their legal frameworks,

Reaffirming the principle of non-interference in the domestic affairs of sovereign states in which each country has the right to determine its own legal and judicial practices in accordance with its national circumstances and obligations,

Believing the importance of respecting religious values and their role in shaping the legal framework, as these different values guide the formulation of laws and contribute to the moral foundations of justice systems,

Recognizing that there is no conclusive evidence to support the claim that the death penalty does not contribute to the deterrence of crimes,

Emphasizing the critical importance of holding fair trials and maintaining an unbiased legal system in order to ensure equality before the law for all individuals,

Recalling the annex to the 1984 resolution adopted by ECOSOC, which sets minimum standards for the executions of death penalty in retentionist states,

Recognizing that serious crimes demand serious consequences to ensure justice and uphold societal order,

Recognizing the importance of reforming the legal system and ensuring fairness in the procedures in order to limit miscarriages of the death penalty,

Approving the increasing number of Member States that have introduced age restrictions to the death penalty in order to ensure that it is not applied to individuals under 18,

Recognizing the importance of considering the offender's situations such as mental health when conducting trials,

Recognizing the importance of making the death penalty only applicable for the most serious crimes.

1. *Reaffirms* the sovereign right of all countries to develop their own legal systems, including determining appropriate legal penalties, in accordance with their international law obligations;
2. *Encourages* Member States to restrict the death penalty to the most serious of crimes and reduce the number of crimes applicable to it;
3. *Also welcomes* the steps taken by member states to reduce the number of offences for which the death penalty may be imposed, as well as steps taken to limit its application;
4. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen the judicial system to promote impartiality in legal proceedings in order to ensure that every individual has equal access to justice and protection under the law;
5. *Stresses* the necessity of respecting the religious contexts of each member state in discussing the abolishment of the death penalty in order to protect national sovereignty;
6. *Affirms* that in some Member States, retribution through the death penalty is essential in providing a proportionate response for the most serious crimes;
7. *Calls upon* Member states to adopt measures to strengthen safeguards and minimize the misuse of the death penalty by guaranteeing access to competent legal representation at all stages of the judicial process;
8. *Encourages* Member States to gather experts to investigate the case if there is a possibility of the offender sentenced to the death penalty having mental illness;
9. *Further encourages* Member States to implement a five year moratorium which would be concluded with a retrial at the end for offenders under the age of 18 who got sentenced to the death penalty in order to reduce the number of executions for juveniles.