



Asamblea General

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Consejo de Derechos Humanos

22º período de sesiones

Tema 3 de la agenda

**Promoción y protección de todos los derechos humanos,
civiles, políticos, económicos, sociales y culturales,
incluido el derecho al desarrollo**

Nota verbal de fecha 12 de marzo de 2013 dirigida a la secretaría del Consejo de Derechos Humanos por la Misión Permanente de Singapur ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra

La Misión Permanente de la República de Singapur ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas y otras organizaciones internacionales en Ginebra saluda atentamente a la secretaría del Consejo de Derechos Humanos y tiene el honor de referirse a la declaración conjunta que figura en anexo, pronunciada el 8 de marzo de 2013 durante el debate general sobre el tema 3 de la agenda, en el 22º período de sesiones del Consejo de Derechos Humanos, relativa al proyecto de decisión propuesto acerca de la "Mesa redonda sobre los avances, intereses, debates y desafíos relacionados con la abolición de la pena de muerte y sobre la adopción de una moratoria de las ejecuciones".

La Misión tiene asimismo el honor de solicitar, en nombre de las misiones permanentes de la Arabia Saudita, Bahrein, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, China, Egipto, los Emiratos Árabes Unidos, la India, Irán (República Islámica del), el Iraq, las Islas Salomón, Jamaica, Kuwait, Libia, Malasia, Myanmar, Omán, Qatar, la República de Singapur, la República Democrática Popular Lao, la República Popular Democrática de Corea, Swazilandia, Uganda, Viet Nam, el Yemen y Zimbabwe, que la declaración conjunta* se distribuya como documento del 22º período de sesiones en relación con el tema 3 de la agenda.

* Se reproduce en el anexo como se recibió, en el idioma en que se presentó únicamente.

Anexo

[Inglés únicamente]

Statement delivered on 8 March 2013 on the proposed draft decision on a panel on advancements, stakes, debates and challenges relating to the abolition of the death penalty and on the introduction of a moratorium on executions, during the general debate on item 3, ‘Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development’, at the twenty-second session of the Human Rights Council

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of a group of countries (as indicated at the end of the statement) to express our concern on the proposed draft decision on “Panel on advancements, stakes, debates and challenges relating to the abolition of the death penalty and on the introduction of a moratorium on executions”.

There is no international consensus on imposing a moratorium on the use of the death penalty. This is confirmed by the votes on the UNGA resolution on the moratorium on the use of death penalty in the 67th session of the General Assembly. In the absence of international agreement on a moratorium to begin with, a panel to address implementation of such a moratorium is clearly ill-conceived.

Every country has the sovereign right to decide its own criminal justice system, including whether to maintain the death penalty. Each society has to judge what is best for its people according to its unique circumstances. Respect for human rights must include respect for differences in systems and practices. We respect the right of states who have chosen to abolish the death penalty and we expect that these states will similarly respect the rights of states that wish to retain it. Tolerance of diversity cannot be restricted only to positions with which one agrees.

The Human Rights Council should not be a forum for countries to impose contested beliefs and practices on a diverse world as if those beliefs were universal. This goes against the principles which are meant to guide the work of the Council, particularly constructive international dialogue and cooperation and will only serve to undermine the Council’s credibility. We therefore urge the co-sponsors against further burdening the Council’s overstretched resources to advance the contested agenda of advocating the abolition of the death penalty.

I would like to request for this statement to be circulated as an official document of the 22nd session of the Human Rights Council.

LIST OF CO-SPONSORS

1. Kingdom of Bahrain
 2. Republic of Botswana
 3. Brunei Darussalam
 4. People's Republic of China
 5. Democratic People's Republic of Korea
 6. Arab Republic of Egypt
 7. Islamic Republic of Iran
 8. Republic of Iraq
 9. Jamaica
 10. Libya
 11. Malaysia
 12. Republic of the Union of Myanmar
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