



Asamblea General

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Consejo de Derechos Humanos

24º 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 30 de septiembre de 2013 dirigida a la secretaría del Consejo de Derechos Humanos por la Misión Permanente de Singapur ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas y otras organizaciones internacionales 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 remitir la declaración adjunta*, formulada el 27 de septiembre de 2013 durante el segmento destinado a comentarios generales de los Estados observadores al final del 24º período de sesiones del Consejo, con relación a la aprobación del proyecto de resolución A/HRC/24/L.23, sobre la objeción de conciencia al servicio militar.

La Misión Permanente tiene el honor de pedir asimismo que la declaración se distribuya como documento del Consejo en su 24º período de sesiones, en relación con el tema 3 de la agenda.

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

Anexo

[Inglés únicamente]

Statement by Singapore on the adoption of the resolution on conscientious objection to military service at the end of the 24th Human Rights Council session, 27 September 2013

Mr President,

My statement refers to the adoption of the resolution A/HRC/24/L.23 on conscientious objection to military service.

Singapore does not recognise the universal applicability of the right to conscientious objection to military service¹. This so-called right cannot be viewed in isolation from the circumstances of the society in which it is embedded, and must be considered within the broader scope of the right of a sovereign State to defend itself and preserve its sovereignty. In this regard, we note that the resolution has reaffirmed an important fact that the exercise of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, from which the right to conscientious objection can be derived, is subject to limitations prescribed by law and the necessity of ensuring public safety and order, as laid down in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Small countries like Singapore do not have the luxury of a sizeable professional defence force. Compulsory military service is the only credible means to defend our sovereignty. Every male Singapore Citizen and Permanent Resident, regardless of race or religion, is required by law to defend our country. To make exceptions to the law for any individuals or groups will undermine our system of universality and be unfair to those who do their part to defend our country because all have reaped the benefits of peace.

Singapore believes that the Human Rights Council should not be a politicised forum to impose beliefs and values. A constructive dialogue on the issue of conscientious objection to military service has to be achieved through genuine efforts to better appreciate national circumstances and respect for different systems and practices.

Thank you, Mr President.

¹ Please refer to Singapore's statements at the end of the 20th HRC session, as well as at the General Debate on item 3 during the 23rd HRC session which is also contained in A/HRC/23/G/6.