



General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 July 2014

Original: English

Human Rights Council

Twenty-sixth session

Agenda items 3

Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Note verbale dated 30 June 2014 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Singapore to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland addressed to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Singapore to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council, and has the honour to refer to the statement that was delivered by Singapore on 27 June 2014 during the segment for general comments by observer States at the end of the twenty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council, regarding the concerns of Singapore with regard to the adoption of draft resolution A/HRC/26/L.8/Rev.1 on the question of the death penalty (see annex).

The Mission has the further honour to request that the statement attached* be circulated as a document of the twenty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council under agenda item 3.

* Reproduced as received, in the language of submission only.



Annex

[English only]

Statement by the delegation of Singapore during general comments by observer states at the end of 26th session of the Human Rights Council

Mr President

Singapore wishes to place on record our concerns about the adoption of resolution L.8/Rev1 on “The question of the death penalty”.

The resolution attempts to portray the abolition of the death penalty as an already agreed universal goal. The fact is that there is no international consensus on the abolition of or moratorium on the use of the death penalty, as reflected by the consistent votes on the relevant United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolutions and more recently, yesterday when L.8/Rev1 was adopted by the 26th session of the HRC by a vote. It also tries to portray the use of the death penalty as a violation of the rights of the convicted prisoners, and ignores the violations of the rights of the victims and the right of the community to live in peace and security as a consequence of crimes that mandate the death penalty. Without framing the discussions in a balanced manner, there cannot be a genuine and constructive dialogue on the question of the death penalty in the Council.

Therefore, the biennial panel discussion on the question of the death penalty proposed in L.8/Rev1 is a misuse of the Council’s already scarce resources, for some countries to impose their views on others as if those beliefs were universal. Such disregard for the sovereign right of States to decide their own criminal justice systems contravenes the principles and spirit of the UN Charter and promotes confrontation, rather than cooperation, on human rights. It also discredits the Council and contradicts UNGA resolution 60/251 which articulates that the promotion and protection of human rights should be based on the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue.

The adoption of L.8/Rev1 has set the Council down the slippery path towards further polarisation. If efforts are not made to rectify this, the Council will be destined to meet the same fate as its predecessor.

Thank you, Mr President.
