



人权理事会

第二十七届会议

议程项目 2 和 3

联合国人权事务高级专员的年度报告以及
高级专员办事处的报告和秘书长的报告

增进和保护所有人权——公民权利、政治权利、
经济、社会和文化权利，包括发展权

新加坡共和国常驻联合国日内瓦办事处和瑞士其他国际组织 代表团 2014 年 9 月 19 日致人权理事会秘书处的普通照会

新加坡常驻联合国日内瓦办事处和瑞士其他国际组织代表团向人权理事会秘书处致意，并谨此提及所附发言稿，* 这是新加坡代表团 2014 年 9 月 15 日在人权理事会第二十七届会议关于议程项目 2 和 3 的一般性辩论期间就秘书长关于死刑问题的报告(A/HRC/27/23)所做的发言。

代表团还谨请将发言稿作为人权理事会第二十七届会议议程项目 2 和 3 下的正式文件分发。

* 附件不译，原文照发。



Annex

[English only]

Statement by the delegation of Singapore during general debate on items 2 and 3

Mr President

My statement refers to the report of the Secretary General on the question of the death penalty (A/HRC/27/23).

Singapore agrees that the death penalty is a severe penalty and should only be imposed for the most serious crimes. But what constitutes a “most serious crime” must be examined contextually in terms of its impact on the immediate and third party victims, as well as society at large.

Singapore rejects the view expressed in the report that drug-related offences do not meet the threshold of “most serious crimes”. Singapore regards drug trafficking as a “most serious crime” along with those involving lethal force, given its pernicious and widespread impact on the community and society at large. Drug use affects not only the individual users, but also their families and loved ones. Children and young persons have the right to be free from the harms of drug abuse. Drug traffickers typically belong to criminal organisations, including transnational criminal organisations that prey on the young and vulnerable to supply harmful substances to sustain the addiction of drug users for profit. Drugs also generate crime, street violence and other social problems that harm communities. Given our proximity to one of the largest centres of heroin production in the world and position as a major global transport node, Singapore views the death penalty as an essential and effective deterrence against international drug traffickers.

Singapore has one of the lowest rates of violent crime in the world and we have managed to keep Singaporeans free from the scourge of drugs because of our robust and comprehensive policy on drugs. Singaporeans understand that the death penalty has been an effective deterrent and an appropriate punishment for very serious offences, and largely support it.

But we constantly review our laws, including those involving drug offences. The latest review of our death penalty regime in 2012 reaffirmed the relevance of the death penalty for all the offences to which it currently applies. At the same time, the courts have been given more discretion in the application of the death penalty to the specific offences of drug trafficking and murder where these offences occur in certain prescribed circumstances.

There is also no international consensus on the question of the death penalty. Every state has the sovereign right, under international law, to decide whether to abolish or retain the death penalty, taking into account its own circumstances. Singapore respects the right of states which have chosen to abolish the death penalty and we expect similar respect in return for our decision to retain it.
