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人权理事会

第二十八届会议

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

2015 年 3 月 13 日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致人权理事会秘书处的普通照会

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向人权理事会秘书处致意,并谨此附上在 2015 年 3 月 4 日人权理事会第二十八届会议期间举行的两年一度的死刑问题高级别小组讨论会上发表的联合声明(见附件)。

新加坡代表团同时以巴林、孟加拉国、巴巴多斯、文莱达鲁萨兰国、中国、朝鲜民主主义人民共和国、埃及、印度、印度尼西亚、伊朗伊斯兰共和国、科威特、老挝人民民主共和国、马来西亚、缅甸、阿曼、巴基斯坦、卡塔尔、沙特阿拉伯、新加坡、苏丹、阿拉伯叙利亚共和国、乌干达、阿拉伯联合酋长国、越南和也门等国常驻代表团的名义,请求将此联合声明*作为人权理事会第二十八届会议议程项目2和3之下的文件分发。

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^{*} 附件不译,原文照发。

Annex

[English only]

Joint statement at the biennial high-level panel discussion on the question of the death penalty on 4 March 2015, at the twenty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council

Mr President

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of a group of 25 countries.

Any constructive dialogue must be based on mutual respect and an acknowledgement of different viewpoints. Yet, we find ourselves here again today engaging not in dialogue, but speaking across each other.

For many countries, the death penalty remains an important component of their criminal justice system and an important deterrent against what they rightly regard as the most serious crimes for their respective societies, be it terrorism, drug offences, or violent crimes.

The rights of the offender must always be weighed against the rights of the victims, their families and the broader rights of their community to live in peace and security. The State has a responsibility to protect the lives of its innocent citizens while ensuring that justice is rendered to the victims and their families. The death penalty is only applied after adhering to the full due process of law, pursuant to a final judgment rendered by a competent court, and with the right to seek pardon or appeal for commutation.

There is no international consensus for or against the death penalty imposed according to the due process of the law. This has repeatedly been affirmed by the votes on past UNGA resolutions on the death penalty, most recently in the 69th session. Key international instruments that apply to countries with wide divergence in cultures and values also do not proscribe and/or prohibit the use of death penalty.

The UN Charter clearly stipulates that nothing in its Charter shall authorise the UN to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State. In this regard, in line with the UN Charter, no State shall intervene in such matters of other States.

Every State thus has the inalienable sovereign right to choose its legal and criminal justice systems, without interference by other States. Accordingly, the question of whether to retain or abolish the death penalty and the types of crimes for which the death penalty is applied should be determined by each State and the public they protect, taking into account their unique circumstances and threats to their societies.

Thank you, Mr President.

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