



General Assembly

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Human Rights Council

Thirtieth session

Agenda items 2 and 3

Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

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

Note verbale dated 1 October 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva addressed to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Singapore to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council and has the honour to refer to the attached joint statement,* which was delivered on 17 September 2015 at the general debate of the Council at its thirtieth session, on agenda items 2 and 3 (see annex).

The Mission has the further honour to request on behalf of the Permanent Missions of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Barbados, Brunei Darussalam, the People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, India, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the State of Kuwait, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Sultanate of Oman, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the State of Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Singapore, the Republic of the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Republic of Yemen that the joint statement be circulated as a document of the Council at its thirtieth session, under agenda items 2 and 3.

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



Annex to the note verbale dated 1 October 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva addressed to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council

[English only]

Joint statement for the general debate on items 2 and 3 at the 30th session of the Human Rights Council

Mr. President

I have the honour to deliver this statement on the report of the Secretary-General on the question of the death penalty (A/HRC/30/18). The statement is delivered on behalf of a group of 26 countries.

The death penalty remains an important component of the criminal justice system for many countries. It is an important deterrent against what they rightly regard as the most serious crimes for their respective societies.

Some arguments against the death penalty tend to one-sidedly focus on the rights of the offender. But 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 innocent citizens while ensuring that justice is rendered to 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. The divergence of views has been repeatedly 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 prohibit the use of the death penalty. The death penalty remains lawful in 97 countries and territories.

The UN Charter clearly stipulates that nothing in its Charter shall authorize 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 on such matters in other States.

Every State has the 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 people they protect, taking into account their unique circumstances and threats to their societies.

Thank you Mr President.
