



Asamblea General

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Consejo de Derechos Humanos

22º 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 12 de marzo de 2013 dirigida a la secretaría del Consejo de Derechos Humanos por la Misión Permanente de Singapur ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas 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 remitirle la declaración conjunta anexa, que fue formulada durante el debate general sobre el tema 3 de la agenda celebrado el 8 de marzo de 2013, durante el 22º período de sesiones del Consejo de Derechos Humanos, en relación con el proyecto de resolución en que se instaba a la convocatoria de una "Mesa redonda sobre los derechos humanos de los hijos de personas condenadas a muerte o ejecutadas".

En nombre de las misiones permanentes de la Arabia Saudita, Bahrein, Barbados, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, China, Egipto, los Emiratos Árabes Unidos, la India, Indonesia, el Irán (República Islámica del), el Iraq, las Islas Salomón, Jamaica, Kuwait, Libia, Malasia, Myanmar, Omán, Qatar, la República Democrática Popular Lao, la República Popular Democrática de Corea, Singapur, Swazilandia, Uganda, Viet Nam, el Yemen y Zimbabwe, la Misión tiene asimismo el honor de solicitar que la declaración conjunta* se distribuya como documento del 22º período de sesiones, en relación con el tema 3 de la agenda.

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

Anexo

[Inglés únicamente]

Statement delivered on 8 March 2013 on the proposed draft resolution on a panel on the human rights of children of parents sentenced to the death penalty or executed, during the general debate on item 3, ‘Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development’, at the twenty-second session of the Human Rights Council

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of a group of countries (as indicated at the end of the statement), with regard to the draft resolution calling for the formation of a “Panel on the human rights of children of parents sentenced to the death penalty or executed”.

The draft resolution is clearly not about the rights of the child and disingenuously misconstrues the object and purpose of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It seeks to advance a narrow agenda to abolish the death penalty by drawing a fallacious link between the rights of the child and the application of the death penalty.

Article 9 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child addresses the protection and well-being of children who are separated from their parent or parents against their will, irrespective of the causes of the separation. Article 9 seeks to protect the best interests of the child in all instances of separation set out in it. While the Convention recognises the need for States Parties to ensure the non-separation of the child from its parents in Article 9(1), the Convention also accepts that action initiated by States Parties such as detention, imprisonment, exile, deportation or death as set out in Article 9(4) can result in separation. It is important to note that the Convention does not prohibit such action, but only obliges States to provide essential information concerning the whereabouts of the absent family member.

Mr President

The draft dangerously fudges the line between universally accepted human rights, i.e., the protection of the rights of the child, and concepts fraught with controversy, i.e. application of the death penalty. Establishing a panel with the mandate proposed in the draft resolution sets a bad precedent for thematic discussions in the Council and will further burden the Council’s overstretched resources.

In the spirit of constructive international dialogue, we believe that if a panel is formed it should respect the letter and spirit of the Convention of the Rights of the Child. The thematic discussion should follow the framework of Article 9 of the Convention and focus on protecting the human rights and best interests of children who are separated from their parents against their will, irrespective of the causes of the separation.

We request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the 22nd session of the Human Rights Council.

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