



American Model United Nations
Human Rights Council

HRC/I/6

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: The question of the death penalty

SUBMITTED TO: The Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council,

1 *Guided* by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

2 *Recognizing* Member States' sovereignty in determining whether to maintain the legality of capital punish-
3 ment,

4 *Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political
5 Rights (ICCPR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention against Torture and other Cruel,
6 Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,

7 *Acknowledging* that not all Member States are equally capable of fulfilling the goals of the Universal Decla-
8 ration of Human Rights and the ICCPR, particularly with regards to the Second Optional Protocol, aiming at the
9 abolition of the death penalty,

10 *Convinced* that, in order to act truly in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the
11 other documents listed above, the body must ensure that every possible action is taken to support Member States
12 in their endeavors to abolish the death penalty,

13 *Emphasizing* that the abolition of the death penalty in practice is of equal importance to abolition in legal
14 codes,

15 *Deeply conscious* of the fact that different local and cultural factors often play into the continued use and
16 support of the death penalty,

17 *Noting* the importance of education and other ground-level outreach in changing cultural attitudes and
18 norms,

19 1. *Emphasizes* the importance of conducting studies on alternative forms of punishment and publicizing
20 these results to offer alternatives to capital punishment should Member States wish to pursue them, including but
21 not limited to:

22 (a) Restorative justice;

23 (b) Prison sentences, by length and type of prison;

24 2. *Strongly encourages* relevant United Nations bodies, such as the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural and
25 the Administrative and Budgetary committees, to consider offering aid and resources to Member States who desire
26 it for their transition away from capital punishment;

27 3. *Proposes* the creation of an online platform where Member States can submit information for publication,
28 which may include statistics, surveys and reports to allow for collaboration in the transition towards alternatives to
29 capital punishment both in practice and legislation;

30 4. *Recommends* that Member States share information on the online platform about the implementation of
31 alternatives to capital punishment and transition away from the death penalty, including:

32 (a) Updates regarding the progress of States in working towards ending capital punishment;

33 (b) Statistical information about the prevalence of the death penalty in States;

34 (c) Examples and details of successful abolition;

35 (d) Details of the process for reaching successful abolition in practice and legislation of the death
36 penalty;

37 5. *Requests* that relevant United Nations bodies and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) assist in
38 making resources available to States wishing to conduct internal research regarding the impact and effectiveness of
39 capital punishment;

40 6. *Invites* States to allow NGOs to conduct studies of the death penalty in States which practice, States
41 which allow in special cases and States that do not practice to find divergence in crime rates and general citizen
42 behavior by:

- 43 (a) Evaluating the social effects and implications of the death penalty;
- 44 (b) Measuring its effectiveness in crime rates, public response, etc.;
- 45 (c) Publicizing these results with state permission;

46 7. *Calls* for cooperation among States under regional bodies, such as the African Union, to support dialogue
47 between Member States on this issue, with the goal of respecting regional political, cultural, and religious needs by:

- 48 (a) Working in conjunction with individual governments to design educational campaigns which
49 coincide with each States' culture and capacity;
- 50 (b) Involving citizens in the implementation of these educational campaigns when appropriate;
- 51 (c) Raising awareness of the rights possessed by criminals and inmates;
- 52 (d) Increasing transparency regarding the rights of the individual during pre-trial and judicial pro-
53 cesses as described in Article 14 of the ICCPR as well as any rights that may apply under specific national laws.

Passed, Yes: 20 / No: 17 / Abstain: 1