



American Model United Nations
Human Rights Council

HRC/I/2

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: The question of the death penalty

SUBMITTED TO: The Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purpose and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming Article III of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, which states that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of persons,

Further reaffirming the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and its Second Optional Protocol, which states that every human being has the inherent right to life, and that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of life,

Taking into account the Human Rights Council's resolution 62/149 of 18 December 2007 and the General Assembly's resolution 63/168 of 18 December 2008 on the question of a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, in which the General Assembly called upon states still maintain the death penalty to establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing it,

Desiring that Member States be more transparent in their practice of capital punishment,

Deeply disturbed by the recent and alarming spike in the number of people executed worldwide,

Having heard the reservations of those Member States that are concerned for their national sovereignty,

1. *Urges* those Member States that have not already done so to sign and ratify the ICCPR, the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

2. *Encourages* those Member States that have abolished the death penalty to share best practices with those Member States that are working to do so, focusing particularly on:

(a) Ways in which to house prisoners that are economically viable;

(b) Respecting the human rights of prisoners;

(c) Opening a dialogue with countries who have similar cultural norms and economic resources;

3. *Encourages* Member States to work towards abandonment of the death penalty except in extraordinary cases of egregious crimes at the discretion of their government on a case by case basis;

4. *Encourages* Member States to make efforts to refine legislation to outline alternatives to the death penalty to disincentivize non-violent crimes, which are outlined by the guide-lines of non-violent crimes including:

(a) Property crimes;

(b) inchoate crimes;

(c) statutory crimes;

(d) Non-violent personal crimes;

5. *Recommends* that those States who only practice the death penalty in extraordinary circumstances move towards the long-term abandonment of the practice of the death penalty;

6. *Further recommends* that those Member States that have abandoned the death penalty in practice, to abolish it from national law;

7. *Encourages* States not to extradite prisoners to other States that they believe will carry out the death penalty on those prisoners.

Passed, Yes: 18 / No: 17 / Abstain: 5