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## PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

### STATEMENT ON THE WORLD CONGRESS AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

As delivered by Counsellor Hilde Austad  
to the Permanent Council  
Vienna, 23 June 2016

Thank you, Mr Chairman,

I am also speaking on behalf of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Mongolia, San Marino and Switzerland.

Mr Chairman,

The sixth World Congress Against the Death Penalty is taking place in Oslo this week. This is an important platform where both retentionist and abolitionist states can meet in an open dialogue, share experience and work together towards global abolition. The Congress is attended by 1300 participants from over 80 countries, including ministers, parliamentarians, academics, lawyers, and members of civil society. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights is among the participants. This year's Congress focuses on National institutions for human rights, and Progress and setbacks in Asia. Other important topics are death penalty and terrorism, minorities and mental health. The World Congress is organized by the French organization Ensemble contre la peine de mort in partnership with the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and takes place every three years.

Mr Chairman,

In this connection, we strongly condemn the executions of Mr. Kenneth Fults in the US state of Georgia on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April, Mr. Daniel Lucas also in Georgia on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April and Mr. Earl Forrest in Missouri on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May.

Death penalty undermines human dignity. Our countries oppose the death penalty in all cases and without exceptions, and we are constantly calling for its abolition. Capital punishment is not a deterrent against crime and makes miscarriage of justice irreversible.

Mr Chairman,

In the international community there is an increasing support for the view that the death penalty constitutes a violation of the prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment. There is a growing momentum towards the abolishment of the death penalty.

We strongly urge all OSCE participating States to jointly close the chapter on the death penalty in our region.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.