



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT BY NORWAY ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN THE USA

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council
Vienna, 5 February 2015

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Norway condemns the execution last week of Robert Charles Ladd in Texas and Warren Lee Hill was executed in Georgia. Both suffered from intellectual disabilities.

Mr. Chairman,

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

In the international community, there is 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.

Last December, a record number of countries – 117 – supported the fifth UN General Assembly resolution calling for a global moratorium on the use of the death penalty. The resolution called especially on all States not to impose capital punishment on persons with mental or intellectual disabilities.

Norway would like to see a universal abolition, and we seek a global moratorium as a first step.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.