



Statement on behalf of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

Review Conference 2010, Warsaw, 30 September - 08 October 2010

In Support of Working Session 5, Rule of law II:

“Exchange of views on abolition of capital punishment”

OSCE – 5 October 2010 in Warsaw, Poland

On behalf of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty we commend the OSCE’s Report entitled “The Death Penalty in the OSCE Area: Background Paper 2010”. The Report demonstrates that the worldwide trend towards the full abolition of the death penalty continued during the reporting period 2009 and 2010.

We view this report as an essential tool to increase transparency on the death penalty in the area and to promote reasoned and factually correct dialogues both among participating states and with non-governmental organizations.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty also commends the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s 2009 Resolution on a Moratorium on the Death Penalty and towards its Abolition.

Of particular importance are the references to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1989, and to the Additional Protocol No. 6 to the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms aiming at the universal abolition of the death penalty. Protocol 13 of the European Convention should also be considered.

We also note the reference to the European Day against the Death Penalty. In 2010, the World Day against the Death Penalty is dedicated to the abolition of the death penalty in the United States of America.

The World Coalition also recalls the commitments undertaken in the 1990 Copenhagen Document to exchange information on the abolition of the death penalty and to make available to the public information regarding the use of the death penalty.

The WCADP calls on participating states which are not party to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and to the Protocols 6 and 13 of the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms to ratify those treaties and to provide information about the ratification process.

We also join the call of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s Resolution regarding Belarus and the USA, “to establish a moratorium on all death sentences and executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty”, regarding Kazakhstan, “with a view to the complete abolition of the death penalty, to amend its Criminal Code in accordance with its constitutional amendment of 21 May 2007” and regarding Latvia, “to amend its Criminal Code in order to abolish the death penalty for murder with aggravating circumstances if committed during wartime”.

The WCADP finally calls on the two countries where a moratorium is in place, namely Russia and Tajikistan, to become full abolitionists in law.

Thank you.