



**PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT ON THE DEATH PENALTY IN KAZAKHSTAN

As delivered by Counsellor Hilde Austad  
to the Permanent Council  
Vienna, 10 November 2016

Thank you, Mr Chair,

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

Mr Chair,

We are concerned by reports that Mr Ruslan Kulekbayev was sentenced to death in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Our countries oppose the death penalty in all cases and without exceptions, including for the most serious crimes and even if the most stringent fair trial standards are respected. Death penalty violates the right to life and undermines human dignity. Capital punishment is not a deterrent against crime and makes miscarriage of justice irreversible.

Mr Chair,

Later in November the UN General Assembly will again vote on a resolution calling for a worldwide moratorium on the use of the death penalty. As Kazakhstan has consistently voted in favour of the resolution in recent years, we hope that Kazakhstan will reaffirm its support to the resolution and maintain the moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

We would also strongly encourage all OSCE participating states to support the resolution and contribute to mobilizing broad support for a global moratorium.

Our overall goal is clear: universal abolition of the death penalty.

Thank you, Mr Chair