



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN THE USA

As delivered by Counsellor Hilde Austad
to the Permanent Council
Vienna, 10 December 2015

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

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

We strongly condemn the execution of Mr. Brian Keith Terrell in Georgia, United States, on 8 December.

This brings the number of executions in the United States this year to 28.

Mr. Chairman,

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 abolishing of the death penalty.

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

Last December a record number of 117 UN member states supported the fifth UN General Assembly resolution calling for a global moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

We would like to see a universal abolition, seeking a global moratorium on the death penalty as a first step.

Mr. Chairman,

While I have the floor, let me use this opportunity to commend Mongolia for the 3rd December vote by the Parliament of Mongolia in favour of a new Criminal Code that abolishes the death penalty for all crimes. Mongolia is thereby on its way to be the 102nd country globally to have abolished the death penalty.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.