



STATEMENT OF TOGETHER AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY  
39<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – GENERAL DEBATE ON ITEM 3-14  
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Together against the death penalty would like to congratulate the Secretary-General for submitting its report on the death penalty.

ECPM is radically against the capital punishment for all crimes and in all circumstances and strives with its partners to achieve a universal abolition. The death penalty violates the most fundamental human rights: the right to live and the right to not be subject to torture and cruel, degrading or inhuman treatment or punishment.

ECPM is pleased to notice that 143 countries are currently abolitionists on a legal or factual basis. ECPM especially congratulates Burkina Faso, last country to have removed the death penalty from its criminal code for all crimes of common law in May 2018. At the present time, only 12 African nations still apply the capital punishment and more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the countries of this continent are abolitionists on a legal or factual basis. The grand success of the African congress against the death penalty which took place in Abidjan in April 2018 solidifies our hope to have Africa become the next abolitionist continent.

ECPM regrets that other regions still commonly apply the death penalty and fears a step back from certain countries, just like the Philippines, Turkey and Sri Lanka.

All over the world, ECPM conducts a remarkable inclusive and federative action which aims all of the actors of the abolition, especially through international congresses which unite participants from diverse fields to establish common strategies.

In this context, we are proud to announce that the 7<sup>th</sup> World Congress Against the Death Penalty, which we are conducting, will be taking place in Brussels from February 27<sup>th</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2019.

We invite all the members of the Human Rights Council to participate.

Thank you.