

ANGOLA

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In view of the 20th Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations Human Rights Council, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP), would like to communicate several points concerning the situation of the death penalty in Angola.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP) gathers 152 members: human rights organizations, professional associations and local authorities on the five continents who have united to campaign for the universal abolition of the death penalty. It was founded in 2002 in Rome. Its actions include the World Day Against the Death Penalty, a ratification campaign of the United Nations Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and a campaign for the implementation of the UNGA moratorium resolution.

Death penalty

1. Angola abolished the death penalty in 1992. In January 2010, the Angolan Parliament approved a new Constitution that explicitly prohibits the death penalty in article 59. Angola also demonstrated its commitment as regards abolition of the death penalty by voting in favour and co-sponsoring the four UNGA Resolutions of 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012 for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.
2. Angola participated to the first cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council in February 2010 and accepted the recommendations made by Brazil, Belgium, Portugal, Philippines and Spain to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.
3. Angola signed the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR on 24 September 2013. However, as of 13 March 2014, it has not ratified it. According to Article 7.2 of the Protocol, "The present Protocol is subject to ratification by any State that has ratified the Covenant or acceded to it." Angola acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1992 and signed its Second Optional Protocol in 2013. It is therefore competent to ratify to this Protocol. Among the obligations incumbent upon Angola following ratification of the Protocol are the prohibition of executions and withdrawal of the death penalty from internal criminal law. These two obligations have already been fulfilled by the country. It may therefore now unreservedly ratify the Protocol.

4. The WCADP thus urges Angola to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.