



International Commission  
against the Death Penalty

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Federico Mayor

**Members**  
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**Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty:  
Increased vote at the UN General Assembly death penalty moratorium  
resolution- An important milestone in the path to global abolition of  
capital punishment**

(Geneva) The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) warmly welcomes the record number of countries – 117 – supporting the fifth UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution (A/RES/69/186) calling for a global moratorium on the use of the death penalty (resolution).

According to the UN, of its 193 member States, 117 States voted in favour of the resolution at the UNGA plenary session in New York on 18 December, while 37 countries voted against and 34 abstained. Equatorial Guinea, Suriname, Niger, Fiji, Eritrea, Kiribati and Sao Tome-Principe joined the 111 states who had voted in favour of the last resolution in December 2012. Earlier on 21 November, 114 States voted in favour as the UN General Assembly's Third Committee adopted the resolution.

"I am very happy to note that the vote on 18 December for the UNGA resolution reveals increased support of the UN member States from around the world against the use of capital punishment. This vote represents an important step towards global abolition of the death penalty and highlights increased concern, and a stronger voice, from the international community for an end to this cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment," said Mr Federico Mayor, President of the ICDP.

ICDP also notes that the vote is an indication of the increase in the number of countries that are against the death penalty. In 1945, when the UN was founded, only eight states had abolished the death penalty for all crimes. Today, according to the UN, about 160 countries from all regions and cultures have abolished the death penalty or do not execute.

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President of the International Commission  
against the Death Penalty



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## Background

The International Commission against the Death Penalty was founded in Madrid in October 2010. ICDP is currently composed of 14 persons of high international standing from all regions of the world who act with total independence and neutrality and work under its President Mr Federico Mayor.

ICDP opposes the death penalty under any circumstances believing that it violates the right to life enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. ICDP promotes the abolition of capital punishment in law in those states that observe a de facto moratorium on the use of the death penalty and promotes moratoriums on executions in states that rarely use the death penalty. In states that continue to carry out executions ICDP urges strict adherence to international standards.

ICDP works with the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, governments and nongovernmental organizations to further the abolition of capital punishment worldwide.

The work of the ICDP is supported by a diverse group of 18 states from all regions of the world that are committed to abolition of the death penalty. Its secretariat, which is currently based in Geneva, will move to Madrid in January 2015.