



**International Commission
Against the Death Penalty**

Madrid, 2 July 2021

ICDP 06/2021

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Navanethem (Navi) Pillay

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Rodolfo Mattarollo,
(1939-2014)

Asma Jilani Jahangir
(1952-2018)

Secretariat

Serrano Galvache,26,
Torre Sur, 10 planta,
Despacho 10-78, 28071
Madrid, Spain

Tel: +00 34 91 3799458

asunta.vivo@icomdp.org

info@icomdp.org

www.icomdp.org

Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: 16th Meeting of Commissioners

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP or Commission) held the 16th Meeting of its Commissioners on 1 July 2021. The Meeting was held online due to restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the leadership of President Judge Navi Pillay, the Commissioners, from all over the world, deliberated on the activities and achievements made by the Commission since its last meeting in October 2020. They identified challenges and opportunities within the current context of the situation of the death penalty and made recommendations for the drafting of an action plan for the period ahead until the next Meeting in 2022. They considered ICDP's financial situation, approved the budget, the audit report, reviewed and identified fundraising activities in the Commission's goal to achieve greater financial stability and sustainability.

HE Cristina Gallach, Spain's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and for Ibero-America and the Caribbean joined President Pillay and ICDP Founding President Federico Mayor in the opening session of the Meeting.

During the Meeting, the Commissioners welcomed and heard valuable inputs from ICDP's new Commissioners: former Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children Marta Santos Pais and former Governor of the US state of Maryland Martin O'Malley.

The Commissioners celebrated ICDP's being a co-recipient of the prestigious North-South Prize of the Council of Europe.

After the Meeting of Commissioners, the Commission held an online General Assembly, which is an interactive meeting between ICDP Commissioners and Member-States of ICDP's Support Group. The General Assembly welcomed Canada as the 23rd Member-State of the Commission. President Pillay stated during her report-back that "despite the widespread impact of the health pandemic, there are increasing human rights violations worldwide and a knock-on effect on the situation of the death penalty. ICDP has challenges as it works towards reducing the scope of the death penalty and increasing the possibilities for a world free of the death penalty and in this effort, this fight, the Commission looks forward to continuing its work in working along with the Support Group."

Several Support Group Member-States made interventions informing the Commissioners of past activities, future initiatives related to moving away from the death penalty, thereby emphasizing their commitment to the abolitionist movement. The General Assembly concluded with the hope of closer cooperation and with the hope of more progress in the shared goal of a world free of the death penalty.