



International Commission
against the Death Penalty

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Navanethem (Navi) Pillay

Vice Presidents

Ruth Dreifuss
Ibrahim Najjar

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Marc Bossuyt
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José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero
Marta Vilardell

Founding Members

Rodolfo Mattarollo
(1939-2014)
Asma Jilani Jahangir
(1952-2018)

Secretariat

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North-South Prize
of the Council of Europe

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ICDP 02/2023

Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: Third meeting in Geneva of ICDP Commissioners and representatives of countries of Central Asian region and Mongolia on moving towards becoming a death-penalty free zone

On 28 February 2023, the International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP or Commission) co-hosted a hybrid meeting of countries of the Central Asian region and Mongolia (extended Central Asian region) to discuss the best ways for the extended Central Asia region to move towards becoming the first region officially free of the death penalty. The meeting, which was held in the side-lines of the 52nd UN Human Rights Council, was co-hosted by all countries of the region.

The participants of the meeting, which was held in-person in Geneva with online participation, included ICDP, which was represented by its President Navi Pillay, Vice-President Ruth Dreifuss and Commissioner Tsakhia Elbegdorj, Minister for Human Rights Professor Akmal Saidov represented the Republic of Uzbekistan, Director of the Department of Multilateral Cooperation Didar Temenov represented the Republic of Kazakhstan, Acting Head of Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Hotam Qurbonov represented the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr Rovshen Annaberdiyev, Head of International Organizations, Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs represented Turkmenistan, Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva Ambassador Omar Sultanov represented the Kyrgyz Republic, and Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva Ambassador Gerelmaa Davaasuren representing Mongolia.

The participants discussed measures taken to abolish capital punishment and shared the way forward towards achieving a death penalty free zone. They agreed that the Ministries would shortly be considering the finalizing of the draft of the document, which would be a joint declaration of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, proclaiming the extended Central Asia region as officially the world's first death penalty-free zone. It was agreed that the venue for the announcement of the joint declaration would be decided after the draft of the joint declaration would be finalized.

ICDP is very grateful to the Permanent Missions of all the countries in the extended Central Asia region who all co-hosted this meeting.

Background

Composed of 24 Commissioners, who are persons of high international standing and who represent all regions of the world, ICDP acts with total independence and neutrality and works under its President Judge Navi Pillay. The Commission 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. ICDP works with the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, governments, and nongovernmental organizations to further the abolition of capital punishments



worldwide. The work of ICDP is supported by a diverse group of 23 Member-States from all parts of the world who are committed to the abolition of the death penalty. Its Secretariat is based in Madrid.

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