



**International Commission
against the Death Penalty**

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Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: XVIII Meeting of Commissioners of ICDP and the launch of the report, “Children, Youth and the Death Penalty”

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP or Commission) held its 18th Meeting of Commissioners from 4-5 June in Geneva.

During the Meeting of Commissioners (Meeting), which was held on 5 June morning at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN Organizations in Geneva, the Commissioners and the Secretariat reported back on the activities of the Commission since the last Meeting, which was held on 3-4 July 2022 in Madrid. The Commissioners discussed the challenges and opportunities, brainstormed ideas, and recommendations, which will shape the activities for the upcoming period until the next meeting. Additionally, the Commissioners reviewed ICDP’s financial situation, adopted its budget and audit report, and discussed strategies for fundraising initiatives to ensure the financial stability of the Commission.

On 5 June afternoon, ICDP’s Commissioners met with focal points of ICDP’s Support Group at the annual General Assembly at the Varembe Convention Centre. During this interactive meeting, held in hybrid format, ICDP Commissioners reported on the key decisions made during the Meeting, followed by interventions by focal points from the Support Group led by the President of the Support Group Spanish Ambassador Guillermo López Mac-Lellan.

On 6 June, ICDP launched its latest report titled, “Children, Youth, and the Death Penalty,” at a well-attended event, which featured a panel discussion, at the Palais des Nations. The panel was presided by ICDP Vice President Ruth Dreifuss, with opening remarks by President Judge Navi Pillay who participated online and interventions by the key contributors to the report including ICDP Commissioner Marta Santos Pais; a video presentation by Professor Ann Skelton, Chair, Committee on the Rights of the Child; Simon Walker, Chief, Rule of Law and Democracy Section, OHCHR; Grace Agcaoili, Justice for Children Global Lead, UNICEF (online); Laurel Townhead, Representative of the Quakers UN Office in Geneva. The report, which was a follow-up to the UN Human Rights Council side-event on Youth and Death Penalty on 29 June 2022, highlights the situation of the death penalty and children within the overall context of capital punishment; provides a spotlight on the international instruments relating to children and death penalty; investigates the persistent and important challenges posed by age-determination while highlighting the vulnerable situation of children of parents facing the death penalty. The report ends with recommendations.

Background

Composed of 24 Commissioners of high international standing from all parts of the world, ICDP works with total independence and neutrality under President Navanethem (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 advocates for a moratorium 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 punishment worldwide. The work of ICDP is supported by a group of Member States from all regions of the world that are committed to the abolition of the death penalty. Its Secretariat is based in Madrid, Spain, and is responsible for the day-to-day work of the Commission.