



Madrid, 7 March 2025

ICDP 02/2025

**International Commission
against the Death Penalty**

President

Navanethem (Navi) Pillay

Vice Presidents

Ruth Dreifuss

Ibrahim Najjar

Members

Michelle Bachelet

Marc Bossuyt

Helen Clark

Marzuki Darusman

Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis

Tsakhia Elbegdorj

Hanne Sophie Greve

Sylvie Kayitesi

Enda Kenny

Ioanna Kuçuradi

Barbara Lochbihler

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Dannel Malloy

Marta Santos Pais

Ivan Simonovic

Horacio Verbitsky

Honorary Members

Giuliano Amato

Louise Arbour

Mohammed Bedjaoui

Martin Joseph O'Malley

José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

Marta Vilardell

Founding Members

Rodolfo Mattarollo

(1939-2014)

Asma Jilani Jahangir

(1952-2018)

Bill Richardson

(1947-2023)

Robert Badinter

(1928-2024)

Federico Mayor Zaragoza

(1934-2024)

Secretariat

Pl. Marqués de Salamanca 8

28006 Madrid, Spain

+00 34 91 3799458

info@icomdp.org



North-South Prize
of the Council of Europe

SARIA PREMIO

René Cassin

Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: ICDP participates in the UN Human Rights Council's biennial high-level panel on the death penalty

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP or Commission), represented by ICDP Commissioner Dannel Malloy, former Governor of Connecticut, participated in the biennial high-level panel discussion on the question of the death penalty, held at the 58th session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) on 25 February 2025 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Commissioner Malloy joined the panel alongside other distinguished speakers, including Mr. Ramkarpal Singh, Member of Parliament and former Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department of Malaysia, Ms. Virginia Mabiza, Attorney-General of Zimbabwe, and Mr. Hicham El Mellati, Director of Criminal Affairs, Pardons and Crime Detection at the Ministry of Justice of Morocco. The high-level panel, titled "*Contribution of the Judiciary to the Advancement of Human Rights and the Question of the Death Penalty*," was presided by the President of the HRC Ambassador Jürg Lauber and featured an important introduction speech by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mr. Volker Türk. During his intervention, Commissioner Malloy shared his personal experience as a former prosecutor and as Governor of Connecticut, when he played a pivotal role in abolishing the death penalty in his state and highlighted the role of the Supreme Court of Connecticut, which ruled to commute all people facing the death penalty following the abolition of death penalty. His reflections underlined the importance of judicial and political leadership in advancing abolitionist efforts.

The ICDP Secretariat, who accompanied Commissioner Malloy, held key meetings with diplomats based at the Permanent Missions of Member States in Geneva, the OHCHR, and other important stakeholders. These discussions reinforced the Commission's commitment to working collaboratively with governments, civil society, and international organizations to promote abolitionist efforts worldwide.

ICDP expresses its appreciation to the United Nations Human Rights Council for organizing this important panel and reaffirms its unwavering commitment to advocating for a world free of the death penalty.

Background

The International Commission against the Death Penalty is currently composed of 25 Commissioners of high international standing following highly respected careers in public service and representing all regions of the world. The Commission acts with total independence under the leadership of President Judge Navi Pillay. The Commission promotes the abolition of capital punishment in law in States that observe a *de facto* moratorium on the use of the death penalty and promotes moratoriums on executions in States that retain capital punishment.

ICDP works with the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, governments and nongovernmental organizations to advocate for worldwide abolition of the death penalty. The work of ICDP is supported by a geographically diverse Support Group of 24 Member States who are committed to the abolition of the death penalty. Its Secretariat is based in Madrid and is responsible for the day-to-day work of the Commission.