

**NOTES ON THE SIDE EVENT:  
“FROM DEATH PENALTY TO AN OFFICIAL MORATORIUM”  
Tuesday 23 October 2018**

*The side event was:*

- *Hosted by the Permanent Representations of Belgium, Benin, Ivory Coast and France, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and ECPM*
- *Moderated by Andrew Gilmour, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights*

**GENERAL COMMENTS/QUESTIONS, CLOSING REMARKS**

**BURKINA FASO, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DELEGATION**

- Described the experience of Burkina Faso and the country’s journey towards the abolition of the death penalty
- Emphasized that the country considers the right to life to be sacred and that for this reason it has adopted an instrument to protect human, civil and political rights
- Underscored that a human person is invaluable as a person is entitled to life and this represents an intangible and core basis of human rights
- For this reason, the capital punishment has not been imposed for a very long time
- Stressed that the country has always supported all resolutions of the General Assembly
- In October 2014, the Cabinet adopted a bill provided for abolition of death penalty and stressed that this represented the beginning of a process for enacting this law
- During the transition, the intention to become fully abolitionist becomes a public issue which has to win public support in order for political parties to fully support this cause
- Views the abolition of the death penalty as a way to protect the international law and human rights
- The country aims at representing a good example for other countries
- The abolition of death penalty is also aimed at making an impact to ensure that human life is sacred, and countries have to do everything they can in order to protect it

**MOROCCO, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DELEGATION**

- Reaffirms that Morocco is a de-facto abolitionist country and that it is committed regionally and nationally to have a more profound discussion about the moratorium and what it entails

## **BRAZIL, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DELEGATION**

- Emphasized that the countries is the only facilitator in this year's resolution on death penalty in the third committee, on behalf of inter-regional group which comprises of 43 countries
- Stressed that the Brazilian Constitution prohibits the death penalty and the country has ratified human right treaties
- Underscored that the death penalty has disproportionate impact over the poor, ethnic and religious minorities and LGBTI persons who often are deprived of adequate means to defend themselves
- Called for countries to join Brazil in its efforts to have this resolution approved

## **MALAYSIA, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DELEGATION**

- Emphasized that Malaysia should represent a positive example for its neighboring countries in the South-East Asia region such as Singapore, and expressed his hope that neighboring countries will follow Malaysian's example, especially in the context of drug trafficking

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

### **ANDREW GILMOUR, ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

- Emphasized that there is a lot of backlash on death penalty at the moment
- Underscored that progress is being made on this matter, for example like in the Burkina Faso case
- "We should build on this momentum and try to get the abolition of death penalty on an even wider scale that it is currently"
- Pointed that more work still needs to be done on the use of death penalty