



CELEBRATING WORLD DAY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY, 10 OCTOBER 2013

Panel discussion: Parliamentarians, a critical force in promoting the abolition of the death penalty

Geneva International Conference Center (CICG), Annex CCV
Geneva, 10 October 2013

Geneva, 13 September 2013

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

The start of the panel discussion entitled *Parliamentarians, a critical force in promoting the abolition of the death penalty* organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP), which will be held at the Geneva International Conference Center, is fast approaching.

Further to our invitation of 7 August 2013, I am pleased to enclose the provisional agenda and the documents related to the panel discussion. Kindly note that all documents can be downloaded from the IPU website (<http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/129/ICDP.pdf>).

I would like to inform you that interpretation will be available in English, French and Spanish.

Looking forward to seeing a delegation from your Parliament participate in this panel discussion, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General



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PROVISIONAL AGENDA

MORNING SESSION		CHAIR
9 a.m.	Registration of participants and distribution of documents	
9:30 a.m.	INAUGURAL SESSION <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Welcome address by Mr. Federico Mayor, President of the International Commission against the Death Penalty, ICDP- Welcome address by Mr. Anders B. Johnsson, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, IPU- Introduction of participants	IPU
10 a.m.	Coffee break	
10:15 a.m.	SESSION I: OVERVIEW OF THE DEATH PENALTY WORLDWIDE; WHY ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY <u>Presenter:</u> Mr Federico Mayor STEPS AND TOOLS TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY (Case studies from ICDP report “How States abolish the death penalty”, April 2013) <u>Presenter:</u> Ms. Ruth Dreifuss, Member of ICDP, Former President of the Swiss Confederation Discussion	IPU
noon	SESSION II: THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS IN ACHIEVING ABOLITION <u>Presenter:</u> Baroness Vivien Stern, Member of Parliament, Chair of the All-Party Group on the abolition of the Death Penalty (United Kingdom) Discussion	IPU
1 p.m.	Lunch	



	AFTERNOON SESSION	CHAIR
2:30 p.m.	SESSION III: PARLIAMENTARY INITIATIVES TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY: THE CASES OF MOROCCO AND KAZAKHSTAN <u>Presenters:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms. Nouzha Skalli, Member of Parliament, Deputy Coordinator of the parliamentary network against the death penalty, former Minister of Family (Morocco)- Ms. Aigul Solovyeva or Ms. Svetlana F. Bychkova, MP (Kazakhstan) Discussion	ICDP
4 p.m.	SESSION IV: ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY - LESSONS TO BE LEARNT FROM THE FRENCH EXPERIENCE <u>Presenter:</u> Mr. Robert Badinter, Member of ICDP, Former Minister of Justice (France) Discussion	ICDP
5 p.m.	SESSION V: GAUGING PEOPLE’S VIEWS ABOUT THE DEATH PENALTY: RESULTS OF A PRI OPINION POLL IN BELARUS <u>Presenter:</u> Ms. Vika Sergeyeva, Regional Director of Penal Reform International for Russia, Ukraine and Belarus Discussion	ICDP
5:45 p.m.	SUMMING UP AND CONCLUSIONS	
6 p.m.	CLOSING SESSION	



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REGISTRATION FORM

[one registration form for each participant]

COUNTRY _____

Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/>			
First name			
Family name			
Parliament / Chamber			
Function	Member of Parliament <input type="checkbox"/>	Senator <input type="checkbox"/>	Parliamentary assistant <input type="checkbox"/>
Full title	_____ _____ _____		
Personal E-mail			
Office E-mail			

[For parliamentarians only]

Please list up to three parliamentary committees to which you belong	
1	
2	
3	

Please complete and return this form by Friday, 4 October 2013 to:
IPU Geneva, Fax +41 22 919 41 60, E-mail postbox@mail.ipu.org

DATE

SIGNATURE



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Objectives

- 1 Promote better understanding of global and regional trends towards the abolition of the death penalty
- 2 Share lessons, through the presentation of national case studies and discussion, on successful national initiatives to repeal the death penalty and the role played therein by parliaments and their members
- 3 Identify legal and political opportunities, in particular for parliamentary involvement, and challenges in countries moving towards abolition

Context

According to the United Nations, some 150 countries have eliminated the death penalty or do not carry out executions. Abolition of the death penalty is supported by States from all regions in the world regardless of political system, religion, culture or tradition.

Parliamentarians have a key role to play in support of abolition of the death penalty. Their leadership is needed to address public concerns about the repeal of capital punishment and to promote national legislation to abolish capital punishment and the ratification of human rights treaties that restrict its use or abolish it in law.

Practical details

The panel discussion will take place at the International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG), the venue for the 129th IPU Assembly. It will be held from 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. on Thursday, 10 October 2013, to coincide with the World Day against the Death Penalty. A lunch break is scheduled from 1 to 2.30 p.m.

The panel discussion targets members of IPU delegations to the 129th IPU Assembly who are especially interested in the topic and able to stay on in Geneva for a day after the Assembly. The organizers are making a special appeal to members of parliament from countries that still have the death penalty but may be moving towards its abolition to participate in the event. The meeting will also be open to invited representatives and experts from civil society.

Parliamentarians and resource persons working directly on promoting the abolition of the death penalty will make presentations in line with the panel's three objectives, to be followed by debate. The full programme of the panel discussion will be posted on the IPU website at the beginning of September.

Interpretation will be provided into English and French.