



Ratification Kit

Central African Republic

Why is it important for the Central African Republic to accede to the United Nations Protocol to abolish the death penalty?

The Central African Republic's National Assembly abolished the death penalty in June 2022. Before that, the Central African Republic was an abolitionist country in practice and the last execution took place in 1981.

Ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights is extremely important, both nationally and locally, because it is the only text with worldwide reach aiming to abolish the death penalty.

Acceding to the Protocol is a very symbolic act, reflecting the universal trend towards abolition of capital punishment, considered to be cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

It is essential that the world's abolitionist countries, in law or in practice, ratify this Protocol.

What are the international commitments already taken by the Central African Republic to accede to the Protocol?

The Central African Republic also demonstrated its commitment as regards abolition of the death penalty by voting in favour of **six United Nations General Assembly Resolutions** for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty in **2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020 and 2022**. The Central African Republic also **co-sponsored the resolution** in 2018.

The Central African Republic participated to the third cycle of the **Universal Periodic Review** of the **Human Rights Council** in **2018**. The Central African Republic accepted the 14 recommendations aiming at the ratification of the Protocol.

Central African Republic had already accepted such recommendations during the second cycle of the UPR.

The **Human Rights Council** would inevitably commend the Central African Republic if it ratified the Protocol before its next review in 2024.

In its **Concluding Observations** in 2020, the **Human Rights Committee** recommended that the State ratify the Protocol.

What are the steps to be taken as regards internal law?

According to Article 7.3 of the Protocol, it “shall be open to accession by any State that has ratified the Covenant or acceded to it.”

The Central African Republic ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 2000 and it is therefore competent to accede to this Protocol.

Article 33 of the Constitution of the Central African Republic empowers the President to negotiate, sign, ratify and denounce the international treaties and agreements.

Among the obligations incumbent upon Central African Republic following accession to the Protocol are the **prohibition of executions** and **withdrawal of the death penalty from internal criminal law**. These two obligations **have already been fulfilled**

by Fiji following the abolition of the death penalty. It may therefore **unreservedly** ratify the Protocol.

What are the legal obstacles to accession?

There is **no legal obstacle** as the Central African Republic is an abolitionist country and as the last execution took place in 1981.

We therefore encourage the Central African Republic to accede to the Protocol as soon as possible.

How can accession to the Protocol be applied?

The Protocol shall come into force three months after the instruments of accession have been deposited with the UN Secretary General (Article 8.2 of the Protocol).

According to Article 3 of the Protocol, the Central African Republic must submit reports to the Human Rights Committee covering the measures it has adopted to give effect to the Protocol.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty also encourages the Central African Republic to support the adoption of an **African Protocol** on the abolition of the death penalty.

For more information, contact the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and visit its website: <https://worldcoalition.org/campagne/just-one-more-step-ratifying-international-and-regional-protocols/>