



UPDATE N°19 - CAMPAIGN FOR THE RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL PROTOCOLS AIMED AT ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

This document presents the recent evolution of the campaign. This update will be published every other month to give information about the campaign development (status of ratifications, actions taken by the World Coalition and its members) and suggest taking action in the target countries.

For more details please refer to our website: www.worldcoalition.org/protocol

As of 1st January 2016, 81 States are parties to the Protocol, and 3 other States have signed the Protocol but have not ratified it yet.

Latest News

- **Mongolia:** Mongolia abolished the death penalty for all crimes in law on 3 December 2015 by adopting a new Criminal Code without any reference to capital punishment. Mongolia had already taken a strong commitment in 2012 by ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, and it was one of the World Coalition's target countries for the follow-up of the ratification campaign.
- **Dominican Republic:** in 2015, the Constitutional Tribunal and the Senate of the Republic approved the accession to the Second Optional Protocol. It is now pending the approval of the House of Representatives. Once approved by the House it will pass to the President for his signature.
- **Togo:** in July 2015, the Parliament passed a law for the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR. The President should now sign it and deposit the instruments of accession to the UN Secretary General.
- **New list of target countries for 2016:** Angola, Cote d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Sierra Leone, Togo, Armenia, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Morocco, Cambodia and Samoa
- **New project in Africa:** The African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights has adopted a regional protocol for the abolition of the death penalty in May 2015. It has now to be adopted by the African Union and the World Coalition, together with its members and partners, are launching a new project to help with its adoption.

Actions taken in May-December 2015

- During its 115th session, the **Human Rights Committee** recommended that **Benin** abolish the death penalty in its penal code and that **Suriname accede to the Second Optional Protocol** based on the information submitted by the World Coalition
- **Lobbying missions on the ground:** Four missions were organised between May and July 2015: PRI organised a mission in **Armenia**, the Moroccan Coalition Against the Death Penalty and ECPM organised a mission in **Morocco**, Anne Souleliac from the Paris Bar Association went to **Cambodia** and Kevin Rivera Median from the Puerto Rico Bar Association went to the **Dominican Republic**.
- Contribution to the **General Discussion on the preparation for a General Comment on Article 6** (Right to Life) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to the discussion of the Working group on the abolition of the death penalty of the ACHPR in preparation for a **General Comment on Article 4 (Right to life) of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights**.
- During the 30th session of the **Human Rights Council**, the Moroccan Coalition together with ECPM and the World Coalition organised a side event to follow-up on the mission in **Morocco**



Take Action Now!

For January and February 2016, we encourage you to send official letters to the following countries:


→ **Togo**
S.E.M. Robert DUSSEY
Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération
Avenue Georges Pompidou, Place des Monuments aux Morts
BP : 900 Lomé
Togo
<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.tg/contactez-le-ministere>

→ **République dominicaine**
S.E. Sr. Andrés Navarro García
Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores
Av. Independencia no.752,
Estancia San Geronimo
Santo Domingo
República Dominicana
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Diputado Víctor Valdemar Suarez Díaz
Presidente de la Comisión Relaciones Exteriores y Cooperación Internacional
Cámara de Diputados, Congreso Nacional de la República,
Ave. Jiménez Moya esq. Paul Harris,
Centro de los Héroes
SANTO DOMINGO
República Dominicana
relacionesexteriores@camaradediputados.gov.do

You will find advice and model letters in the **Lobbying Kit** that you may download online:
www.worldcoalition.org/media/resourcecenter/KitLobbyingMembresWCADP-EN.pdf

 Read the Ratification Kit for Parliamentarians and other tools online:
www.worldcoalition.org/protocol

Agenda for February and March 2016:

- 18 -29 January: 24th session of the **Universal Periodic Review: Sierra Leone** will be reviewed
- 29 February – 24 March: 31st session of the **Human Rights Council** (Reports of the Independent Experts on **Haiti** and **Cote d'Ivoire**)
- 07-31 March: 116th session of the **Human Rights Committee** (adoption of the list of issues for **Morocco**)