



UPDATE N°20 - 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 is published twice a year to give information about the campaign development (status of ratifications, actions taken by the World Coalition and its members) and suggest taking action in target countries.

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

As of 26 October 2016, 83 States are parties to the Protocol, and 3 other States have signed the Protocol but have not ratified it yet.

Latest Ratifications

- **Dominican Republic:** ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR on 21 September 2016. The Dominican Republic had ratified the Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty on 27 January 2012
- **Togo:** ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR on 14 September 2016. On 21 January 2015, the Togolese Council of Ministers adopted a draft law authorizing accession to the Second Optional Protocol. This law was then adopted unanimously by the Togolese National Assembly on 9 July 2015.
- **Cote d'Ivoire** and **Suriname** are considering legislation to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

Actions taken in 2016

- March 2016: meeting with the Friends of the Protocol during the Human Rights Council
- March 2016: Reports sent for the UPR of **Togo** and **Haiti**
- April 2016: **Training session** for African members of the World Coalition on advocacy, including on the OP2-ICCPR, in Tanzania
- 2-13 May: during the 25th session of the **UPR**, **Suriname** accepted the recommendations to ratify the OP2-ICCPR and **Samoa** noted the recommendations
- **Missions on the ground** organized by FIACAT in **Cote d'Ivoire** (July 2016) and **Togo** (May 2016)
- 22 June 2016: **Expert Seminar** on 'The Abolition of the Death Penalty: 'Toward a Universal Ratification of the Optional Protocol' Palais des Nations, Geneva
- 23 June 2016: side event during the World Congress Against the Death Penalty "Diplomacy and universal abolition: meet with the" **Friends of the Protocol**"
- July 2016: **mission on the ground** organized by the International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICPD) in **Suriname**. The authorities indicated that they are considering becoming a State Party to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.
- September 2016: Reports sent for the **UPR** of **Morocco**
- Reports sent to the **Human Rights Committee** for **Morocco** and **Madagascar**. In its list of issues, the Human Rights Committee asked **Morocco** to indicate whether it intended to ratify the second Optional Protocol to the Covenant and to set a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing it.



Take Action Now!

For November and December 2016, we encourage you to send official letters to the following countries:

→ Cote d'Ivoire

S.E. M. Abdallah Albert Toikeusse MABRI

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**S.E. Mme PAULETTE BADJO
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**Ministre des Droits de l'Homme et
des Libertés Publiques**

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Côte d'Ivoire

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→ Suriname

Her Excellency Niermala S. Badrising

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**His Excellency Desiré Delano
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**President of the Republic of
Suriname**

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 For more information on these countries, please read the **ratification kits**:

<http://www.worldcoalition.org/protocol>

You will find advice and model letters in the **Lobbying Kit** that you may download online:

www.worldcoalition.org/media/resourcecenter/KitLobbyingMembresWCADP-EN.pdf

Agenda for November-December 2016:

- 31 October-11 November: 26th session of the **UPR** (reports of **Togo** and **Haiti**)
- 7 November – 7 December: 59th session of the **Committee Against Torture**: **Armenia** will be reviewed and the list of issues for **Morocco** will be adopted
- mid December – vote on the **UNGA moratorium resolution** calling for the ratification of the OP2-ICCPR