Why is it important for Côte d’Ivoire to ratify the United Nations Protocol to abolish the death penalty?

Côte d’Ivoire abolished the death penalty for all crimes in 2000. The country adopted a new Constitution in 2016 whose Article 3 provides that “the death penalty is abolished”. No executions have been carried out since the independence was enacted in 1960.

As the Constitution is the legislative reflection of a country’s supreme values, those which abolish the death penalty in their Constitution demonstrate the importance they attach to this issue.

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

Ratifying 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 become party to this Protocol.

What are the international commitments already taken by Côte d’Ivoire to ratify the Protocol?

Côte d’Ivoire demonstrated its commitment as regards abolition of the death penalty by co-sponsoring and voting in favor of seven UN General Assembly resolutions for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty in 2007, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2018. In 2010, Côte d’Ivoire cosponsored the resolution, yet it was absent at the vote in plenary session.

Côte d’Ivoire participated in the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights
The President of the Republic is entitled to sign and ratify international treaties (Article 119 of the Constitution).

The instrument of ratification must then be deposited with the UN Secretary-General (Article 7.2 of the Protocol).

**What are the legal obstacles to ratification?**

There is no legal obstacle as the death penalty was abolished in law.

We therefore encourage Côte d’Ivoire to ratify this Protocol as soon as possible.

**How can ratification of the Protocol be implemented?**

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

According to Article 3 of the Protocol, Côte d’Ivoire 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 Côte d’Ivoire 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: [http://www.worldcoalition.org/protocol](http://www.worldcoalition.org/protocol)