



Ratification Kit

Côte d'Ivoire

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, 2018 and 2020.** 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**

Council in **2019** and accepted the recommendation to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant to Civil and Political, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. The Human Rights Council, **of which Côte d'Ivoire is currently a member**, would inevitably commend Côte d'Ivoire if it ratified the Protocol.

In its Concluding Observations in **2015**, the **Human Rights Committee** encouraged Côte d'Ivoire to consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

In **2018**, the **African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights** recommended that Côte d'Ivoire ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

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

According to Article 7.2 of the Protocol, it “is subject to ratification by any State that has ratified the Covenant or acceded to it.” **Côte d'Ivoire acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1992** and is therefore competent to ratify this Protocol.

Among the obligations incumbent upon Côte d'Ivoire following ratification of 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 Côte d'Ivoire. It may consequently **unreservedly** ratify the Protocol.

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>