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UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review 19th session May-June 2014

COTE D'IVOIRE

In view of the 19th Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations Human Rights Council, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP), would like to communicate several points concerning the situation of the death penalty in Cote d'Ivoire.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP) gathers 145 members: human rights organizations, professional associations and local authorities on the five continents who have united to campaign for the universal abolition of the death penalty. It was founded in 2002 in Rome. Its actions include the World Day Against the Death Penalty, a ratification campaign of the United Nations Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and a campaign for the implementation of the UNGA moratorium resolution.

Death penalty

- 1. The Côte d'Ivoire is an abolitionist country for all crimes. It has not carried out any executions since its independence in 1961. The Côte d'Ivoire demonstrated its commitment as regards abolition of the death penalty by voting in favour and co-sponsoring the four UNGA Resolutions of 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012 for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.
- 2. The Côte d'Ivoire participated to the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council in December 2009. In its National Report, the Cote d'Ivoire said that ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR was "expected in the near future".
- 3. However, as of 12 September 2013, the Côte d'Ivoire has not yet ratified or acceded to the Second Optional.

There are no obstacles to such ratification: 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 Côte d'Ivoire acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1992 and is therefore competent to accede to the Protocol. Among the obligations incumbent upon the Côte d'Ivoire 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 the Côte d'Ivoire in practice.

4. The WCADP thus urges the Cote d'Ivoire to accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.