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TOGO

In view of the 26th 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 Togo.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP) gathers 138 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. Togo has abolished the death penalty for all crimes in its Penal Code in June 2009 and the last execution in the country took place in 1978. Togo demonstrated its commitment as regards abolition of the death penalty by voting in favour of the UN General Assembly resolutions for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty in 2010, 2012 and 2014.

2. Togo participated to the first cycle of the Universal Periodic Review in 2011. At this occasion Togo accepted the recommendation to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty made by Spain, Moldova, Uruguay and Argentina.

3. According to Article 7.3 of this Protocol, it “shall be open to accession by any State that has ratified the Covenant or acceded to it.” Togo acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1984 and it is therefore competent to accede to this Protocol. Among the obligations incumbent upon Togo 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 country. It may therefore now unreservedly accede to the Protocol.

4. In July 2015, the Parliament passed a law for the accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

5. The WCADP thus urges Togo to accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and deposit the instrument of accession with the UN Secretary General.