



Abolishing the Death Penalty through the UPR

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a mechanism of the Human Rights Council that reviews the human rights situation in all UN Member States. States provide recommendations for improving their practices in this area.

Although it is a state-led process, the UPR offers significant opportunities for civil society actors to engage and advocate for enhanced human rights in their countries.

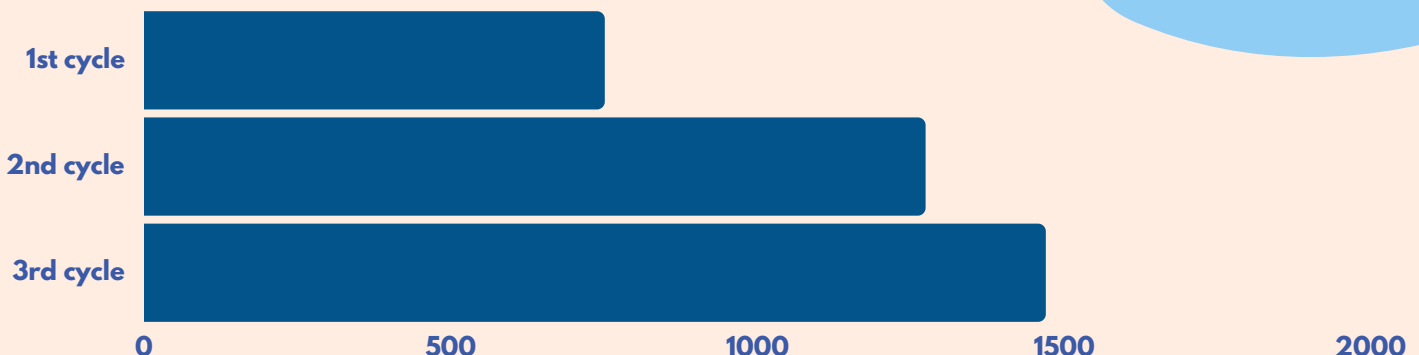
Since its establishment, 4234 recommendations addressing the death penalty were made in the UPR.

Overall recommendations supported

977

3099 noted

Number of recommendations addressing death penalty abolition per UPR cycle



So far, in the 4th UPR cycle (2022-2027) there have been 594 recommendations on the topic, out of which 103 were supported and 473 noted.

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The abolition of the death penalty enhances justice and human rights, supporting sustainable development by promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions (SDG 16). This change fosters more humane, fair, and transparent legal systems.

States can either support or note UPR recommendations. By supporting them, States commit to implementing those measures. UPR recommendations can be utilised by civil society actors in their advocacy at the national level to bolster their efforts to abolish capital punishment.

Examples of UPR recommendations addressing death penalty abolition

Ghana

Togo



Comores



49.72 Commute the death penalty to life imprisonment.

140.9 Ratify the Second Optional protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.



Paraguay

Côte d'Ivoire

The UPR can be used to support the ratification of the UN Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

To find out how you can engage in the UPR to support your human rights cause, visit our website at upr-info.org or contact us at info@upr-info.org.