



Rappresentanza Permanente d'Italia
OSCE

ITALY'S STATEMENT AT THE WARSAW HUMAN DIMENSION CONFERENCE

PLENARY SESSION VI: RULE OF LAW II Prevention and eradication of torture; Protection of Human rights and fighting terrorism; Abolition of capital punishment

Warsaw, 10 October 2023

Italy aligns with the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to add some remarks in a national capacity.

Italy firmly reaffirms that the death penalty is a cruel, inhuman, and degrading punishment. The Italian commitment against death penalty is closely linked to the awareness that it is first and foremost a question of human rights, of respect for human dignity.

Italy believes in the need to abolish the death penalty all over the globe. This commitment has marked our national history since 1786, when the Grand Duchy of Tuscany became the first State in the world to abolish this punishment once and for all.

Since then, much progress has been made. In 2007, we presented the first initiative for a moratorium on the death penalty to the General Assembly, and since then a UN biannual resolution on the abolishment of capital punishment has been adopted.

Our first and constant engagement, as Countries of the UN General Assembly united against capital punishment, is to keep fostering the widest possible support to the resolution on the moratorium of the death penalty. Over the years, the number of Countries that have supported this resolution has increased: we started with 104 co-sponsors back in 2007 and now we have 125, but most importantly the number of negative votes has decreased from an initial 54 to an encouraging 37.

This year as well, we are actively supporting the adoption of the 10th Resolution on the universal moratorium on the death penalty which will be presented in 2023.

We maintain a continuous interaction with retentionist countries, seeking to establish a constructive dialogue and to develop reflections that are a stimulus for possible future change.

To this end, Italy aligns with the statement delivered by the European Union and is committed to awareness-raising campaigns, in order to achieve the universal abolition of the death penalty at all times and in all circumstances.