**SINGAPORE’S RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST FOR INPUT FOR REPORTING BY THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL ON “MORATORIUM ON THE USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY” PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 75/183 OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

1. Singapore requests that the Secretary-General in his report reaffirm the sovereign right of all countries to develop their own legal systems, including determining appropriate legal penalties, in accordance with their international law obligations, as stipulated in OP1 of A/RES/75/183.
2. We request that the Secretary-General in his report reflect the points made in A/75/1015, which was endorsed by a group of 27 Member States of the United Nations, summarised as follows:
3. There is no international consensus against the death penalty.
4. Capital punishment is first and foremost a criminal justice issue and an important deterrent element vis-à-vis the most serious crimes. It must therefore be viewed from a much broader perspective and weighed against the rights of the victims and the right of the community to live in peace and security.
5. Every State has an inalienable right to choose its political, economic, social, cultural, legal and criminal justice systems, without interference in any form by another State. Accordingly, the question of whether to retain or abolish the death penalty, and the types of crimes for which the death penalty is applied, should be determined by each State, taking fully into account the sentiments of its own people, the state of crime and criminal policy. On this question, it is improper to attempt to create a universal decision or to prescribe Member States’ actions that fall within their domestic jurisdiction, or attempt to change, by way of a General Assembly resolution, the stipulations under international law that were reached through a comprehensive negotiation process.
6. Some Member States have voluntarily decided to abolish the death penalty, whereas others have chosen to apply a moratorium on executions. Meanwhile, many Member States also retain the death penalty in their respective legislations. All these Member States are acting in accordance with their rights and international obligations. Each Member State can decide freely, in accordance with its own sovereign right established by the Charter of the United Nations, to determine the path that corresponds to its own social, cultural and legal needs in order to maintain security, order and peace.

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