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In view of the 39th Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations Human Rights Council, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, would like to communicate several points concerning the situation of the death penalty in Haiti.

The World Coalition gathers 164 member organizations: 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. Haiti abolished the death penalty for all crimes in its Art 20 of the 1987 Constitution. The last known execution took place in 1972. Haiti also expressed its commitment as regards abolition of the death penalty by voting in favour of all eight UN General Assembly's Resolutions on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty in 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2020.
2. Haiti participated to the first cycle of the Universal Periodic Review in 2011 and to the second cycle in 2016. In both occasions, Haiti accepted the recommendation to accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.
3. In its initial report submitted to the Human Rights Committee in December 2012, Haiti stated: "with regard to the optional protocols [to the ICCPR], the Republic of Haiti plans to include them in the legislative agenda to be submitted to the next legislature." During its session in October 2014, the Human Rights Committee recommended that Haiti ratify the Protocol.

4. 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.” Haiti acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1991 and can therefore become party to the Protocol. Among the obligations incumbent upon Haiti 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 Haiti in practice. Haiti may therefore now unreservedly accede to the Protocol.

5. The World Coalition thus urges Haiti to accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.