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New York, SEP 17 2014

Excellency, Mr. Secretary General,

As you may know, on 25 September, during the Opening Week of the 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly, our Premiers will be speaking at the high-level event on "Moving away from Death Penalty: National Leadership" organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights with the support of our four Countries.

This event is a milestone in the precious work the Secretariat has carried out with our support in the past two years.

In consideration of your strong personal commitment to the campaign, our leaders would be most appreciative if you could honor us with your presence at the very beginning of the event for some short welcoming remarks. A few short minutes of your precious time would send a crucial message to the membership as a whole.

The latest version of the concept note is herewith attached for your convenience. In thanking you for your attention, we remain at your full disposal for any further information you may require.

*Sebastiano Cardi*

Ambassador  
Sebastiano Cardi  
Permanent Representative  
of Italy to the U. N.

*Mohamed Khaled Khiari*

Ambassador  
Mohamed Khaled Khiari  
Permanent Representative  
of Tunisia to the U.N.

*Od Och*

Ambassador  
Od Och  
Permanent Representative  
of Mongolia to the U. N.

*Jean-Francis Régis Zinsou*

Ambassador  
Jean-Francis Régis Zinsou  
Permanent Representative  
of Benin to the U. N.

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General of the  
United Nations  
New York

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UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



## INVITATION

### Moving Away from the Death Penalty: National Leadership

Side event at the 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly  
Thursday, 25 September 2014, 1:15-2:45pm, ECOSOC Chamber (CB),  
United Nations Headquarters, New York

#### PROGRAMME

##### Welcoming remarks

- ◆ H.E. Mr. **Ban Ki-moon**, United Nations Secretary-General

##### *Moving away from the death penalty: Arguments, Trends and Perspectives - Introductory remarks and launch of the publication*

- ◆ H.E. Mr. **Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein**, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- ◆ H.E. Mr. **Matteo Renzi**, Prime Minister of Italy and President of the Council of the European Union

##### Panel of Heads of State

- ◆ H.E. Mr. **Thomas Boni Yayi**, President of the Republic of Benin
- ◆ H.E. Mr. **Tsakhagiin Elbegdorj**, President of Mongolia
- ◆ H.E. Mr. **Mohamed Moncef Marzouki**, President of the Republic of Tunisia
- ◆ Moderator: Mr. **Ivan Šimonović**, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights

##### Discussion

- ◆ Speakers from the floor

##### Concluding remarks

**Background:** Member States representing a variety of legal systems, traditions, cultures and religious backgrounds have taken a position in favour of abolition of the death penalty. Some States that opposed the abolition of the death penalty in the recent past have moved to abolish it; others have imposed a moratorium on its use. Currently, more than 160 Member States of the United Nations have either abolished the death penalty or do not practice it. The High-level event is intended to inform discussion among Member States, with a particular focus on political leadership required to move away from the death penalty. The event will also see the launch of an OHCHR publication on the death penalty, *Moving Away from the Death Penalty: Arguments, Trends and Perspectives*.

*Interest in participating in the discussion is high and delegations wishing to take the floor are requested to contact OHCHR, specifying the level of speaker (see contact below). Please note that there will be interpretation into French, and from French and Spanish into English.*

**For further information please contact:**

Nenad Vasić, OHCHR New York Office, 212 963 5998, or [vasic@un.org](mailto:vasic@un.org).

New York, September 17, 2014

*Dear Susana,*

I have the honor to forward a letter addressed to the Secretary General H.E. Ban Ki-moon and cosigned by the Ambassador of the Republic of Benin, H.E. Mr. Jean-Francis Régis Zinsou, by the Ambassador of the Tunisian Republic, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Khaled Khiari and by the Ambassador of the Mongolian People's Republic, H.E. Mr. Od Och, concerning the invitation to open the event on "Moving away from Death Penalty: National Leadership", organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, with the support of Italy, Benin, Tunisia and Mongolia, on 25 September in the Ecosoc Chamber at 1:15 pm.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of my highest consideration.

Warm regards,

*Sebastiano Cardi*

Sebastiano Cardi  
Ambassador

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H.E. Ms. Susana Malcorra  
Under-Secretary-General  
Chef de Cabinet  
The United Nations  
New York