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Member Organisations:

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UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review

18th Session, January-February 2014

CAMBODIA

In view of the 18th session of the Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations Human Rights Council, the World Coalition against the Death Penalty (WCADP) would like to communicate several points concerning the situation of the death penalty in Cambodia.

The World Coalition against the Death Penalty gathers over 145 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 for 2013 include the World Day against the Death Penalty, a ratification campaign of the United Nations Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, a campaign for the implementation of the UN moratorium resolution, and the 5th World Congress against the Death Penalty.

Death penalty

- 1. Cambodia has not carried out any executions since 1988. It has been an abolitionist country for all crimes since 1989 and its Constitution explicitly forbids the death penalty in Article 32. Cambodia demonstrated its commitment as regards abolition of the death penalty by voting in favour the four UN General Assembly's Resolutions on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty in 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012.
- 2. Cambodia participated to the Universal Periodic Review in November 2009. During its UPR, Cambodia accepted Brazil's recommendation to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.
- 3. However, as of 20 June 2013, Cambodia has not yet ratified or acceded to the Second Optional Protocol (the instruments of ratification/accession have not yet been deposited with the UN Secretary General). 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." Cambodia ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1992 and is therefore competent to accede to the Protocol. Among the obligations incumbent upon Cambodia

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 Cambodia in practice. It may therefore now unreservedly accede to the Protocol.

4. The WCADP thus urges Cambodia to ratify/accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and to deposit the instrument of ratification/accession with the UN Secretary General as soon as possible.