

Death Penalty

Submitted by: The Advocates for Human Rights, Capital Justice Project, and the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

MECHANISM

Universal Periodic Review

SESSION

53rd Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

DATE OF REVIEW

3 November 2026

Summary: Samoa abolished the Death Penalty in 2004 but has not taken steps towards the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In its third-cycle Universal Periodic Review in 2021, Samoa supported six recommendations to ratify or accede to OP2, but Samoa has not followed through on these commitments.

Samoa is not fulfilling its third-cycle UPR commitments to ratify OP2.

- During its third-cycle Universal Periodic Review in 2021, Samoa committed to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. Samoa supported six recommendations to ratify or accede to OP2. Since that time, however, it has taken no steps toward ratification.
- On 17 December 2024, Samoa again voted in favor of the UN General Assembly resolution calling for a global moratorium on the death penalty. Samoa has supported the resolution in every vote since 2007.

Recommendations

- Take all necessary steps to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, without reservations.
- Request technical assistance from the Friends of the Second Optional Protocol to facilitate the process of finalizing ratification.