



**Angola's Compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
Suggested List of Issues Relating to the Death Penalty**

Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights

a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1996
and

The World Coalition against the Death Penalty

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The Advocates for Human Rights (The Advocates) is a volunteer-based non-governmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law. Established in 1983, The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publications. In 1991, The Advocates adopted a formal commitment to oppose the death penalty worldwide and organized a Death Penalty Project to provide pro bono assistance on post-conviction appeals, as well as education and advocacy to end capital punishment. The Advocates currently holds a seat on the Steering Committee of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, an alliance of more than 150 NGOs, bar associations, local authorities and unions, was created in Rome on 13 May 2002. The aim of the World Coalition is to strengthen the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. Its ultimate objective is to obtain the universal abolition of the death penalty. To achieve its goal, the World Coalition advocates for a definitive end to death sentences and executions in those countries where the death penalty is in force. In some countries, it is seeking to obtain a reduction in the use of capital punishment as a first step towards abolition.

Angola has demonstrated its commitment to making its abolition of the death penalty permanent, but it has not yet ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the Covenant.

1. Angola abolished the death penalty in 1992. The Angolan Parliament approved a new constitution in 2010, and article 59 of the constitution explicitly prohibits the death penalty.
2. In its April 2013 Concluding Observations, the Human Rights Committee welcomed Angola's adoption of the new Constitution abolishing the death penalty.¹
3. On 24 September 2013, Angola signed the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, but it has not yet ratified the Protocol.
4. Angola has demonstrated its commitment to abolition by voting in favor of and co-sponsoring the seven resolutions (2007, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018) of the United Nations General Assembly for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.
5. In response to the Committee's List of Issues (paragraph 20), the Angolan government stated that the Second Optional Protocol is "in the process of ratification in accordance with the Law on Treaties (Law No. 4/11), the process goes through public consultation, through the Executive and then through the National Assembly."
6. **Suggested questions** relating to the death penalty:
 - In what part of the ratification process, in accordance with the Law on Treaties (Law No. 4/11), is the Government of Angola in relation to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol?
 - Please describe the steps already taken in the ratification process and the State Party's plans and timeline to complete the process.
 - Will the Government of Angola give a conceivable date in time in which the Second Optional Protocol will be ratified?

¹ UN Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the initial report of Angola, adopted by the Committee at its 107th session (11-28 March 2013), 29 April 2013, U.N. Doc. CCPR/C/AGO/CO/1, ¶ 3.