



Ref. No. 413/ 362

Geneva, 26 November 2021

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and would like to refer to the letter received on 1 November 2021 ref: YH/In regarding the request of submitting information concerning the (i) feasibility of common international standards, (ii) scope of goods to be included, and (iii) draft parameters for range of options to establish common international standards on the matter pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 73/304 entitled “ Towards torture-free trade: examining the feasibility, scope and parameters for possible common international standards”.

In that regard, the Permanente Mission has the honor to reiterate its position expressed during the discussions of said GA resolution 73/304 in New York, as follows:

- the United Nations General Assembly is not the appropriate body to be mandated to legislate and regulate international trade issues, moreover;
- creating new international trade conditions that could be used to rationalize protectionism, hinder international commerce, and undermine the rules-based multilateral trading system by giving cover for deliberate and/or disguised restrictions on free and open trade between countries; and
- establishing a GGE to draft parameters for a range of options to establish common international standards for the import, export and transfer of goods used for capital punishment and torture based on the false assumptions that there is "growing support across all regions for concluding an international instrument" to establish such common international standards.

The Permanent Mission would appreciate having its views on the aforementioned matter, be reflected accordingly in the final report.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurance of its highest consideration.

