**In relation to your NV dated 16 March 2020, and in order to provide information covering developments since 16 December 2020, on the question of the moratorium on the use of the death penalty and other issues as included in resolution 75/183 on "Moratorium on the use of the death penalty", adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 2020., the Croatian authorities wish to inform of the following:**

From the standpoint of the Republic of Croatia, the death penalty presents complete inhumanity and therefore, we strongly and unequivocally oppose to its application in any circumstances, anywhere in the world.

The Constitution of the Republic of Croatia clearly states that every human being has the right to life and that in the Republic of Croatia there shall be no death penalty. It also states that the right to life is not among the human rights that can be suspended by Parliament in wartime or in case of serious danger for the country.

The Republic of Croatia abolished the death penalty in 1990 and is the party to all human rights international and regional instruments in this area (Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; Protocol No. 6., and No. 13. to the European Convention on Human Rights).

In our view, the death penalty is not only a gross denial of human dignity, but its very application relates to a number of human rights violations of felons and their families. Furthermore, there is always the possibility of wrongful convictions with irreversible consequences and without having deterring effects on crimes in the end.

The key to reducing crimes, in our view, lies in striving towards a more efficient judiciary. We believe the focus should also be on changing the perception of the death penalty as a justified sentence through raising public awareness. At the same time, it is vital that States honour their commitments to the international and regional instruments and protocols, as their implementation is crucial for the limitation of the use of capital punishment. In this sense, Croatia is consistently advocating for a moratorium on the death penalty and ultimately its abolition worldwide. In particular, we are advocating for the universal ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Where the death penalty is retained, we call for its progressive restriction and we will continue to insist that international minimum standards are met when it is carried out.

Croatia was one of the ten countries in the core group that presented the first, historic resolution on the moratorium on the death penalty in 2007 in the UN General Assembly. Since then, through our work in the cross-regional group of UN Member States we take lead in running this Resolution and vote against amendments that weaken the text and purpose of the Resolution. In addition, we cosponsor the UN Human Rights Council Resolution on Capital Punishment.

In line with our extensive and longstanding involvement in the endeavour to abolish the death penalty around the world, in 2020 Croatia became a member to the Support Group of the ICDP in order to pursue deeper cooperation with like-minded members and observers to the Group, as well with the ICDP in their efforts. Croatia also provided financial support to the work to which the ICDP’s Support Group is committed, through contribution amounting 20.000,00 euros.

Convinced that the support for a moratorium will help persuade all states to move towards complete and final abolition of the death penalty, to this end, Croatia will continue to pursue this issue bilaterally, as well as at international forums. Our position is also in accordance with the [EU Strategy Framework](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/131181.pdf), the [Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/action-plan-on-human-rights-and-democracy-2015-2019_en.pdf) and the objectives of the EU Guidelines on Death Penalty, that are: 1) the full abolition, where possible, 2) a moratorium on executions as an intermediary step or at least 3) respect for international minimum standards by retentionist countries.