



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia
at the
40th Session of the UN Human Rights Council

**Biennial high-level panel discussion on the question of the death penalty:
Human rights violations related to the use of the death penalty, in particular with
respect to the rights to non-discrimination and equality**

Geneva, 26 February 2019

Mr President,

Slovenia holds a strong position against the death penalty in all circumstances and for all cases. We welcome this timely discussion on human rights violations related to the use of the death penalty.

Article 26 of the ICCPR stipulates that all persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. We are therefore very concerned by the findings of the Secretary-General's report A/HRC/36/26 on the discriminatory use of the death penalty. The findings convince us further that the capital punishment must be abolished.

Where abolition is not immediately possible, Slovenia strongly supports establishing a moratorium on the capital punishment, with a view to abolishing it in the future. We urge all countries that have not yet ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR to do so.

I would also like to take this opportunity to echo the appeal of HRC Resolution 36/17 – which Slovenia was pleased to co-sponsor – on states that have not yet abolished the death penalty to ensure that it is not applied on the basis of discriminatory laws, or as a result of a discriminatory or arbitrary application of the law.

Finally, I turn to the panelists to help us identify methods for preventing racial and ethnic bias in the application of criminal law.

Thank you.