

**Remarks delivered by Ms. Kasthuri Patto, MP (Malaysia)
On 23 June 2016 on behalf of Parliamentarians and PGA**

Honourable Colleagues,

I am delighted and honoured to address you on behalf of all parliamentarians dedicated to the abolition of the death penalty. My name is Kasthuri Patto and I am a member of parliament in Malaysia, where death penalty is still legal and carried out.

I also belong to Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), a network of more than 1,300 legislators from 143 elected parliaments around the globe. In our capacities, as democratically elected legislators, we promote human rights, the rule of law, gender equality, non-discrimination, and peace and security.

As Parliamentarians, we can play a strong role towards the abolition of the death penalty and PGA helps facilitate our efforts towards abolition. Through PGA, we support each other in raising awareness about the negative effects of the death penalty and persuading an often hostile public opinion towards abolition, using arguments that are tailored to each specific context.

Today, we take this opportunity to call upon our fellow Members of Parliament to work together to convince Governments of countries where the death penalty is still enshrined in law and enforced to restrict their use of the death penalty and eventually abolish it.

In specific, we are committed to using our position as representatives of our people to ask States:

- To establish moratorium on executions with a view to abolish the death penalty, including by supporting the moratorium resolution to be voted on in December at the United Nations General Assembly;
- To make available information with regard to the use of the death penalty and to disseminate this information, especially to MPs; and
- To respect international standards providing safeguards and guaranteeing the protection of the rights of those facing death penalty.

We need to promote a better understanding of global and regional trends on this issue in order to identify the legal and political opportunities for parliamentary involvement so that we as Parliamentarians can overcome the many challenges set against the universal abolition of the death penalty.

As elected officials with legislative power, we have a duty to protect the rule of law and human rights. Today, we pledge to continue to use our position to push for the abolition of the death penalty with our governments as well as regional and international organisations.

Thank you for your attention and I am wishing us all a fruitful outcome of this timely Congress.