



Suriname
Joint Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review:
The Death Penalty

Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights
a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1996
Parliamentarians for Global Action
and
The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

for the 53rd Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
2 November 2026

Submitted 10 April 2026

The Advocates for Human Rights (The Advocates) is a volunteer-based nongovernmental 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.

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) is the largest non-governmental, cross-party, international network of individual legislators with 1,000 members in 148 parliaments worldwide. PGA mobilizes parliamentarians as champions committed to promoting the rule of law, democracy, human security, inclusion, and gender equality. By using a peer-to-peer methodology and country-specific strategies, PGA educates, sensitizes, and builds the technical capacity of parliamentarians to take concrete initiatives and legislative actions to achieve results on PGA's campaign objectives. PGA supports individual parliamentarians in their national contexts and parliaments and then leverages that capacity with international networking to support democracy, human rights, and peace. The organization's vision is to contribute to creating a rules-based international order for a more equitable, safe, and democratic world. PGA is in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and fosters cooperation with The Hague-based International Organizations, including the International Criminal Court. The Secretariat of PGA is based in New York and The Hague.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP), 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.

1. Suriname abolished the death penalty in its Penal Code in 2015 and in its Military Penal Code in August 2021.¹ Since its third-cycle UPR in November 2021, however, Suriname has not acceded to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, despite repeated commitments to do so.

Scope of international obligations; Acceptance of international norms; Death penalty

Status of Implementation: Accepted, Not implemented

2. In its third-cycle Universal Periodic Review in November 2021, Suriname supported ten recommendations to ratify or accede to OP2.² During the review, Suriname’s delegation stated that because lawmakers had abolished the death penalty entirely in August 2021, Suriname was able “to take further steps towards the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.”³ The delegation assured the Human Rights Council “that it would take further steps to ratify [OP2].”⁴
3. During a constructive dialogue with the Human Rights Committee in July 2024, a member of the government delegation assured Committee experts that “[t]he Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Police, and Defence would jointly advise the Council of Ministers to ratify the Second Optional Protocol[.]”⁵ Suriname has continued to vote in favor of the UN General Assembly resolution calling for a global moratorium on the use of the death penalty, including most recently in 2022 and 2024.⁶
4. Since 2021, however, Suriname has neither signed nor acceded to OP2. The coauthors have been unable to find any reporting suggesting that the relevant ministries had advised the Council of Ministers to proceed with accession. Furthermore, since 2021 the OP2 has not been submitted to the National Assembly of Suriname for consideration.
5. **Suggested recommendations:**
 - **Take all necessary steps to accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, without reservations.**
 - **Request technical assistance from the Friends of the Second Optional Protocol with the process of finalizing ratification.**

¹ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Suriname* (17 Dec. 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/6, ¶ 12.

² Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Suriname* (17 Dec. 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/6, ¶¶ 97.5 (Costa Rica, Armenia, Australia, Iceland, Mexico, Portugal, Finland, France), .6 (Argentina), .25 (Uruguay), 98.1 (Italy); Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Suriname - Addendum*, (22 Feb. 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/6/Add.1, at 2.

³ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Suriname* (17 Dec. 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/6, ¶ 12.

⁴ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Suriname* (17 Dec. 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/6, ¶ 45.

⁵ Human Rights Committee, *Summary record of the 4129th meeting, 11 July 2024* (29 July 2024), UN Doc. CCPR/C/SR.4129, ¶ 19.

⁶ International Commission Against the Death Penalty, *UNGA Moratorium Resolution Table*, <https://icomdp.org/map-unga/> (last visited 30 Mar. 2026).