

RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH PENALTY AND TERRORISM ACTION BY THE PARIS BAR

We, the Paris Bar, founding member of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, and the Norwegian Bar Association, on the occasion of the 6th World Congress Against the Death Penalty, held from 21 to 23 June in Oslo,

Noting that:

- A large number of death sentences have been handed down in connection with terrorist offences;
- The definition of acts of terrorism in the legislation of several States has been broadened, increasing the risk of the death penalty being applied in an arbitrary or discriminatory nature;

Recalling that:

- The role of the Bar is to protect the freedom to practise the legal profession and to help strengthen the rule of law;
- The Bar and professional organizations of lawyers have a major role to play to support the abolition of the death penalty and the imposition of a moratorium;
- The need for States to combat terrorism, while observing human rights, and;
- The death penalty does not have a deterrent effect against crimes related to terrorism;

We call on the Bar and professional organizations of lawyers from countries which have abolished or retentionist countries :

- To be very careful that the fight against terrorism does not end up undermining the rule of law;
- To ensure that under the legislative framework of retentionist countries, capital punishment remains strictly reserved to the most serious crimes (culpable homicide);
- To defend compliance with legal guarantees granted to people subject to the death penalty in terrorism-related trials.