



**PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**77th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
THIRD COMMITTEE**

STATEMENT BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY BRIAN WALLACE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

ON

**AMENDMENT A/C.3/77/L.54 TO DRAFT RESOLUTION
A/C.3/77/L.44 ON MORATORIUM ON THE USE OF THE DEATH
PENALTY**

CONFERENCE ROOM 1

FRIDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER 2022

Mr. Chair,

I take this opportunity to deliver a statement in my capacity as co-sponsor of the amendment proposed by Singapore.

Jamaica remains fully committed to the international rule of law. In this regard, it will be recalled that there is no international law prohibiting the use of the death penalty. Rather, its application is a criminal justice matter for states to determine.

Indeed, it is the sovereign right of each State to decide its own judicial and political systems, taking into account its unique history, legal traditions and national circumstances. For this reason, my Delegation is of the firm belief that the recognition of state sovereignty is paramount in this resolution.

We note and duly respect that some Member States have implemented a moratorium on or abolished the use of the death penalty. Jamaica, on the other hand, is grappling with an epidemic of crime and violence that threatens the safety and security of those who are most vulnerable, as well as national efforts towards the achievement of sustainable development.

Therefore, as a deterrent to violent crimes and as part of our efforts to maintain socio-economic stability, Jamaica continues to exercise its sovereign right to retain capital punishment as the ultimate penalty for the most egregious crimes, as provided for in our statutes and as determined through our judicial processes.

Mr. Chair,

In 2020, Jamaica co-sponsored this amendment tabled by Singapore. It is profoundly regrettable that we find ourselves, yet again, having to defend this fundamental principle of sovereignty – the bedrock upon which the United Nations was built.

Each time this amendment has been tabled, there has been broad support, including from Member States that have abolished the death penalty. Each time, the proponents of the resolution have continued to offer their full support and co-sponsorship of the text as a whole.

Despite the willingness of Member States to remain constructive in negotiating the formulation of OP1 on this occasion, with the sole objective of including a singular reference to state sovereignty in the resolution, the Co-Facilitators resolved to disregard all proposals.

This persistent attempt to ignore and thereby undermine the key principle of sovereignty is deeply concerning.

It is in this vein that Jamaica has co-sponsored the amendment and will continue to offer support, as necessary, to bolster respect for state sovereignty. We call on all Member States to join our efforts to reinstate OP1, to protect state sovereignty, and to preserve multilateralism.

I thank you.