MOVING AWAY from the DEATH PENALTY: NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

MEDIA ADVISORY

WHAT?
Moving Away from the Death Penalty: National Leadership
High-level event of the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

WHO?
♦ Mr. Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General
♦ Mr. Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Keynote Speakers
♦ H.E. Mr. Thomas Boni Yayi, President of the Republic of Benin
♦ H.E. Mr. Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, President of Mongolia
♦ H.E. Mr. Mohamed Moncef Marzouki, President of the Republic of Tunisia
♦ H.E. Mr. Matteo Renzi, Prime Minister of Italy and President of the Council of the European Union
♦ Moderator: Mr. Ivan Šimonović, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights

WHEN?
Thursday, 25 September 2014, 1:15-2:45pm

WHERE?
ECOSOC Chamber (CB),
United Nations Headquarters, New York

Background
The High-level event is intended to inform discussion among Member States, with a particular focus on political leadership required to move away from the death penalty. The event will also see the launch of an OHCHR publication on the death penalty, Moving Away from the Death Penalty, Arguments, Trends and Perspectives.

Member States representing a variety of legal systems, traditions, cultures and religious backgrounds have taken a position in favour of abolition of the death penalty. Some States that opposed the abolition of the death penalty in the recent past have moved to abolish it; others have imposed a moratorium on its use. Currently, more than 160 Members States of the United Nations have either abolished the death penalty or do not practice it.

Media contact: André-Michel Essoungou – essoungou@un.org  Tel: 917 367 9995