



DEMOCRACY  
COALITION  
PROJECT

## **Support Expands for Human Rights Principles at Sixty-Fifth United Nations General Assembly**

### ***Increased Cross-Regional Support from Democratic States and Emerging Powers***

As part of its annual series of reports on the work of the United Nations (UN), the Democracy Coalition Project (DCP) once again undertook an independent analysis of positions taken by governments on key human rights resolutions voted on during the 65<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly (GA).

This session was characterized by increased support for international human rights principles. The recurring country resolutions on the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) were adopted with greater cross-regional approval from UN Member States, while a ground-breaking resolution on March 1, 2011 suspended Libya’s membership on the UN Human Rights Council (HRC)<sup>1</sup> in response to the massive human rights violations carried out by the Qaddafi government.

At the same time, progress on contentious debates on sexual orientation and ‘defamation of religions’ showed that more countries were prepared to defend universal human rights standards for all. The resolution on “combating defamation of religions” passed at the GA with its smallest margin of adoption, reflecting increased concern over the text’s threat to freedom of expression and religion. In addition, leadership from the United States and the LGBTI community<sup>2</sup> brought a dramatic reversal to the resolution on “extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions” which previously implied that the GA overlooks killings that target people based on their sexual orientation.

The primary findings from this analysis include:

- Increased cross-regional support for human rights resolutions including, States that are members of both the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Community of Democracies (CD);
- Slight improvements on country resolutions from some emerging democratic powers in the global South;
- Decreased support of the “combating defamation of religions” resolution;
- Continued polarization on issues surrounding sexual orientation;
- Decreased support for Iran’s “no-action” motion, affirming the GA’s commitment to address grave human rights situations;
- China, DPRK, Egypt, Iran, Libya, Malaysia, Sudan, Syria, and Zimbabwe held the worst voting records across all DCP assessed resolutions.

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution A/RES/65/265 was adopted by consensus and recalled that the GA may suspend the rights of membership in the HRC for a member that commits gross and systematic violations of human rights.

<sup>2</sup> LGBTI stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex.

- The US remained the only Western democracy to vote against the death penalty resolution and one of the few countries to abstain on the resolution on “extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions.”<sup>3</sup>

## METHODOLOGY

As in past years, DCP selected a number of thematic and country-specific resolutions identified by DCP as key indicators of a government’s commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. DCP did not track the positions of governments on all decisions considered by the GA, since the majority of resolutions were adopted by consensus and/or because DCP did not take a position.

To establish the positions of governments on these issues, DCP consulted the public record, as well as the 65<sup>th</sup> Session report by the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR).<sup>4</sup> Based on these sources, each country was evaluated against a “preferred” position, which was considered the best option for the protection and promotion of human rights. The positions taken by governments were then contrasted with positions taken at the 64<sup>th</sup> session held in 2009 or, for biennial resolutions, the 63<sup>rd</sup> session held in 2008, and marked with ↑ or ↓ if the governments’ position changed in 2010. An upward arrow indicates States whose positions at the 65<sup>th</sup> session moved toward a preferred position as compared to 2009 or 2008. Similarly, a downward arrow indicates countries whose positions during the 65<sup>th</sup> session moved away from the preferred position.

## COUNTRY RESOLUTIONS

### **Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran**

A recurring resolution on the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran was adopted for the eighth year in a row.<sup>5</sup> Introduced by Canada and co-sponsored by Micronesia, Palau, as well as the Western European and Others Group (WEOG) and some Eastern European States,<sup>6</sup> the resolution expressed serious concern over continuing human rights violations in Iran, including torture, frequent use of the death penalty, violence against women, and persecution against ethnic and religious minorities, particularly members of the Bahá’i faith. The text also called attention to the failure of the Government to conduct any investigations or to provide accountability for human rights violations that occurred following Iran’s disputed June 2009 Presidential elections, including the arbitrary arrest, detention, and violent repression of Iranian citizens peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association. After noting the Government’s failure to respond to requests from special procedures to visit the country,<sup>7</sup> the resolution placed greater emphasis on encouraging thematic special procedure mandate holders to investigate and report on the human rights situation in Iran.<sup>8</sup> While the resolution failed to heed the call by human rights organizations to

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<sup>3</sup> Turkey and Israel also abstained on the final vote on the executions resolution.

<sup>4</sup> International Service for Human Rights. “[Human Rights Monitor Quarterly](#).” January 2011.

<sup>5</sup> A/RES/65/226.

<sup>6</sup> Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

<sup>7</sup> Despite having officially issued a standing invitation to all special procedures, Iran has ignored requests for visits for the past five years and has left the vast majority of communications from these mechanisms unanswered.

<sup>8</sup> Mandate holders specifically invited to report included the Special Rapporteurs on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the right to freedom of

create a new reporting mechanism, the text included new language that requests the UN Secretary-General to submit a report to the UN HRC on Iran’s progress in implementing the resolution and its recommendations. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 78 in favor, 45 against and 59 abstentions, reflecting the highest margin of adoption in the last eight years.<sup>9</sup>

Iran							
Regional Groups	Members	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent	#↑	#↓
Africa	53	7	11	30	5	10	1
Asia	54	14	25	13	2	3	5
Eastern Europe	23	17	4	0	2	0	0
Latin America and Caribbean	33	12	5	16	0	1	0
Western Europe and Others	29	28	0	0	1	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>

Cross-Regional Groups	Members	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent	#↑	#↓
Organization of the Islamic Conference	56	4	29	17	6	7	3
Non-Aligned Movement	117	19	38	52	8	13	5
European Union	27	27	0	0	0	0	0
Community of Democracies	124	72	7	40	5	8	1

The ↑ or ↓ represents the number of governments whose position on the Iran resolution was either more or less favorable in 2010 as compared to their previous position taken at the 64<sup>th</sup> session held in 2009.

The Government of Iran attempted to block consideration of its human rights record in the Third Committee with a procedural motion to adjourn the debate. The maneuver – known as a “no-action motion” – was easily rejected by a large margin with 51 votes in favor, 91 against and 32 abstentions, resulting in Iran’s worst no-action defeat in recent memory.<sup>10</sup> Notably, after opposing Iran’s motion, Ecuador voted against the resolution on Iran. Although several African and Asian States, as well as Suriname, supported Iran’s no-action motion, 12 of these States still chose to abstain on the resolution.<sup>11</sup>

This session, opposition to the resolution in the NAM Group decreased, with 13 States improving their vote from 2009. Cape Verde, the Gambia, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone voted in favor of the text after abstaining in 2009, while Sao Tome and Principe voted in favor after being absent in 2009. After voting against the resolution the previous session, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal chose to abstain in 2010. The Asian Group continued to be divided, with Fiji and Saudi Arabia abstaining after having supported the text in 2009 and Bahrain and Cambodia moving to oppose the resolution after being absent or abstaining from the vote the previous year. On the other hand, India abstained

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peaceful assembly and of association; the situation of human rights defenders; freedom of religion or belief; the independence of judges and lawyers; violence against women; the Independent Expert on minority issues; and the Working Groups on Arbitrary Detention; Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; and Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice.

<sup>9</sup> In 2009, the resolution on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran was adopted by a vote of 74 in favor, 49 against and 59 abstentions.

<sup>10</sup> Iran’s no-action motion in 2008 was defeated by ten votes (70-81-28) and in 2007; its no-action motion was defeated by one vote (78-79-24). It did not attempt a no-action motion in 2009.

<sup>11</sup> Angola, Central African Republic, Mali, Namibia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, and Uganda.

on the resolution this year after voting against it the previous session. The majority of the Latin American and Caribbean Group voted in favor of the resolution and saw one vote of improvement, with the Bahamas lending its support this year after having abstained in 2009.<sup>12</sup> Members of the Eastern European Group and WEOG primarily voted in favor of the resolution, with only Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Russia voting against the text, while Georgia, Serbia and Turkey were absent from the vote. Once again, the majority of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) voted against the resolution, with Albania, the Gambia, Maldives, and Sierra Leone giving their support this year. Conversely, the majority of the CD continued to favor the resolution, with only seven states opposing the text.<sup>13</sup>

### **Situation of human rights in Myanmar**

For the twentieth consecutive year, the GA adopted a resolution addressing the situation of human rights in Myanmar (also known as Burma).<sup>14</sup> The 2010 resolution, introduced by Belgium (on behalf of 46 WEOG and Eastern European States, along with the Republic of Korea), strongly called upon the Government of Myanmar to put an end to the targeting of particular ethnic groups, forced displacement and disappearances, recruitment of child soldiers, and the practice of rape and torture in the country.<sup>15</sup> Following the November 13, 2010, release of Burmese pro-democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, amendments to the resolution were adopted that welcomed her release, but strongly urged that all other prisoners of conscience be freed.<sup>16</sup> The resolution also noted that the Government did not take the necessary steps to ensure a free and fair electoral process for its November 7, 2010, elections, but instead imposed restrictions on free reporting, assembly, access to media, and registration of voters and candidates (including Suu Kyi), as well as detained political activists.

Although several States publicly expressed support for the establishment of a commission of inquiry, as called for by the UN Special Rapporteur on Myanmar to investigate possible war crimes and crimes against humanity, the resolution failed to include such a mechanism.<sup>17</sup> Russia, China and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) opposed the accountability measure claiming that international intervention could set back the democratic process in Myanmar.<sup>18</sup> Egypt (on behalf of NAM) said it did not see a need for the GA to address human rights situations with resolutions that targeted developing countries.<sup>19</sup> The text, however, did call on the Government to undertake an independent investigation into human rights violations ‘without further delay’ and to initiate ‘an inclusive post-election phase,’ thus paving the way for an international inquiry if these

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<sup>12</sup> The five Latin American and Caribbean States that voted no on the resolution were Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

<sup>13</sup> Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Ecuador, Indonesia, Lebanon and Malaysia.

<sup>14</sup> A/RES/65/241.

<sup>15</sup> San Marino from WEOG did not co-sponsor the resolution. Bulgaria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Serbia and Ukraine from the Eastern European Group also did not co-sponsor the resolution.

<sup>16</sup> In total, Aung San Suu Kyi had spent 15 of the past 21 years under house arrest because of her outspoken opposition to the military junta, which also prevented her from participating in the country’s first election in twenty years on November 7, 2010.

<sup>17</sup> States before and after the 65<sup>th</sup> Session who publicly supported an international commission of inquiry include: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, the Netherlands New Zealand, Slovakia, the UK and the US.

<sup>18</sup> Members of ASEAN that opposed the measure include Vietnam, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and the Lao People’s Democratic Republic.

<sup>19</sup> Cuba and Venezuela associated with NAM’s statement.

benchmarks are not met. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 85 in favor, 26 against and 46 abstentions.<sup>20</sup>

Myanmar							
Regional Groups	Members	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent	#↑	#↓
Africa	53	9	5	20	19	0	3
Asia	54	17	15	16	6	2	4
Eastern Europe	23	19	3	0	1	0	0
Latin America and Caribbean	33	12	3	10	8	2	2
Western Europe and Others	29	28	0	0	1	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>

Cross-Regional Groups	Members	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent	#↑	#↓
Organization of the Islamic Conference	56	10	12	19	15	0	3
Non-Aligned Movement	117	22	23	45	27	2	9
European Union	27	27	0	0	0	0	0
Community of Democracies	124	77	4	24	19	5	6

The ↑ or ↓ represents the number of governments whose position on the Myanmar resolution was either more or less favorable in 2010 as compared to their previous position taken at the 64<sup>th</sup> session held in 2009.

The Asian Group continued to be divided on the resolution, with Cambodia, Indonesia and Iran moving to oppose the text after abstaining or being absent in 2009. While the majority of the African Group either abstained or were absent, Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Sudan and Zimbabwe opposed the resolution. Eastern European States were largely supportive, with only Azerbaijan, Belarus and Russia maintaining their opposition to the text. The votes remained mixed in the Latin American and Caribbean Group; Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela voted no this session, while Belize and Honduras voted in favor after being absent from the vote the previous year. A large portion of OIC and NAM States continued to be absent or abstain on the resolution, with nine States taking a less favorable position than at the 64<sup>th</sup> Session.<sup>21</sup>

Despite the resolution's reference to the more than 2,100 prisoners of conscience still imprisoned in Myanmar after Aung San Suu Kyi's release, 13 African, Asian and Latin American and Caribbean States<sup>22</sup> chose to abstain or be absent from the vote in the plenary after voting in favor of the text in the Third Committee.<sup>23</sup> Indonesia switched from abstaining in the Third Committee to opposing the resolution in the plenary.

<sup>20</sup> The resolution on the situation in Myanmar was first considered in 1991 and was adopted without a vote until 2006. In 2006, the GA adopted it by a vote of 82 in favor, 25 against, and 47 abstentions. In 2007, the vote was 83 in favor, 22 against, and 47 abstentions. In 2008, the vote was 80 in favor, 25 against, and 45 abstentions, and in 2009, 86 in favor, 23 against, and 39 abstentions.

<sup>21</sup> Antigua and Barbuda, Cambodia, Ghana, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran, Namibia, Timor-Leste and Togo.

<sup>22</sup> Bahamas, El Salvador, Ghana, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Togo, and Vanuatu.

<sup>23</sup> On November 4, 2010, the resolution on the human rights situation in Myanmar was adopted by a vote of 96 in favor, 28 against and 60 abstentions in the Third Committee, and included a call for Aung San Suu Kyi's release.

## Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

For the sixth year in a row, the GA adopted a resolution concerning the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.<sup>24</sup> The resolution, introduced by Belgium (on behalf of the EU) and Japan and co-sponsored by members of WEOG, the Eastern European Group, Micronesia, Palau, the Republic of Korea, Samoa and Tuvalu, cited a wide range of grave and systematic violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights in the DPRK.<sup>25</sup> The DPRK's continued refusal to cooperate with the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation was also highlighted,<sup>26</sup> as well as the country's failure to take action to implement the recommendations contained in its Universal Periodic Review.<sup>27</sup> Although the resolution commended the recent reunion of separated families across the DPRK border, it strongly called on the Government to resolve cases of international abductions in the form of enforced disappearances.<sup>28</sup> The resolution was adopted by a vote of 106 in favor, 20 against and 57 abstentions.

Prior to the vote, Egypt made a statement on behalf of NAM affirming that country-specific resolutions were contrary to international good governance and that Member States of NAM would vote against the resolution. However, 37 members of NAM, as well as a large cross-regional group of States, gave their support to the text, enabling it to be adopted by a larger margin of victory than in 2009.<sup>29</sup>

Democratic People's Republic of Korea							
Regional Groups	Members	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent	#↑	#↓
Africa	53	18	7	23	5	8	2
Asia	54	25	9	18	2	2	3
Eastern Europe	23	18	2	1	2	0	0
Latin America and Caribbean	33	16	2	15	0	3	0
Western Europe and Others	29	29	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>

Cross-Regional Groups	Members	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent	#↑	#↓
Organization of the Islamic Conference	56	18	10	24	4	5	5
Non-Aligned Movement	117	37	18	55	7	11	5
European Union	27	27	0	0	0	0	0
Community of Democracies	124	89	1	30	4	8	1

The ↑ or ↓ represents the number of governments whose position on the DPRK resolution was either more or less favorable in 2009 as compared to their previous position taken at the 64<sup>th</sup> session held in 2009.

<sup>24</sup> A/RES/65/225.

<sup>25</sup> Albania, Andorra, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Israel, Liechtenstein, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and the US.

<sup>26</sup> The Government of the DPRK refused to cooperate with the former Special Rapporteur on the DPRK, Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn, throughout his six-year term and has yet to permit his replacement, Mr. Marzuki Darusman, access to the country.

<sup>27</sup> The Government of the DPRK refused to accept any of the 161 recommendations of its UPR.

<sup>28</sup> From the early 1980s to the mid-to-late 1990s, the DPRK abducted a number of Japanese citizens allegedly to teach Japanese language and culture at DPRK spy schools. The DPRK has also perpetrated abductions in the Republic of Korea, which has the highest number of citizens abducted by the DPRK.

<sup>29</sup> In 2009, the resolution was adopted by a vote of 99 in favor, 20 against, and 63 abstentions.

Once again, the largest ratio of favorable votes came from members of WEOG and the Eastern Europe Group. Nine more states within NAM, including Benin, Brazil, Bahamas, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Gabon, Guatemala and Sao Tome and Principe chose to vote in favor of the 2010 resolution. Notably, Benin cited the move as a show of solidarity with Japan, marking the first time the State has supported a country resolution. Brazil also voted in favor after abstaining the previous year and noted the DPRK's record of abductions. Within the Asian Group, Indonesia abstained on the resolution after opposing it in 2009, while Kyrgyzstan voted in favor after abstaining the previous year. On the other hand, Somalia voted against the resolution after opposing it in 2009. Although Guinea abstained the previous session, it also voted against the resolution. Meanwhile, Malaysia was the sole member of the CD to vote against the resolution.

## THEMATIC RESOLUTIONS

### **Combating defamation of religions**

The divisive resolution on “combating defamation of religions” passed with less support this session than in 2009, indicating mounting recognition that the resolution endangers human rights standards.<sup>30</sup> As such, the main sponsors of the text, Morocco (on behalf of the OIC), Belarus and Venezuela, replaced most of the references to ‘defamation of religions’ with ‘vilification of religions’ in an attempt to regain support for the text.<sup>31</sup> The final resolution deplored the desecration of holy books, holy sites, places of worship and religious symbols, as well as the use of the media to incite acts of violence or discrimination against any religion. It also welcomed steps by States to enact legislation to prevent ‘vilification of religions’ and added a new reference to religions other than Islam.<sup>32</sup> In an attempt to link ‘defamation of religions’ with racism, the text requests the UN Secretary-General to report on the correlation between ‘defamation of religions’ and the intersection of religion and race at the 2011 GA Session. The resolution was adopted by a margin of only twelve votes with 79 States voting in favor, 67 voting against and 40 abstentions; in comparison to the 64<sup>th</sup> Session of the GA when 80 States voted in favor of the resolution, 61 voted against and 42 abstained.

During interactive dialogues with the special procedures<sup>33</sup> on racism and on freedom of religion and belief, many States expressed concern over how the concept of ‘defamation of religions’ and similar terminology undermine international human rights guarantees on freedom of expression, freedom of religion and non-discrimination. Opponents of the resolution noted that attempting to link ‘vilification of religions’ to incitement of religious hatred, which is banned under international human rights law, may result in the misinterpretation that international human rights law endorses laws that ban blasphemy.

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<sup>30</sup> A/RES/65/224.

<sup>31</sup> During negotiations, ‘vilification’ was dropped from the title, but it was used to replace all but three references to ‘defamation.’

<sup>32</sup> The resolution noted with deep concern instances of discrimination and acts of violence based on religion or belief, including cases motivated by “Islamophobia”, “Judeophobia” and “Christianophobia”.

<sup>33</sup> The term ‘special procedures’ refers to the body of UN experts appointed to study and report on thematic and country-specific human rights issues around the world.

Combating defamation of religions							
Regional Groups	Members	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent	#↑	#↓
Africa	53	30	1	17	5	6	5
Asia	54	34	13	6	1	3	0
Eastern Europe	23	3	17	3	0	0	0
Latin America and Caribbean	33	11	8	14	0	4	2
Western Europe and Others	29	1	28	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>

Cross-Regional Groups	Members	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent	#↑	#↓
Organization of the Islamic Conference	56	50	0	4	2	3	3
Non-Aligned Movement	117	71	9	33	5	10	7
European Union	27	0	27	0	0	0	0
Community of Democracies	124	26	64	32	2	6	2

The ↑ or ↓ represents the number of governments whose position on the defamation of religions resolution was either more or less favorable in 2010 as compared to their previous position taken at the 64<sup>th</sup> session held in 2009.

Despite changes to the terminology, opposition to the resolution continued to grow, with one fewer State voting in favor of the text and six more States voting against it than in 2009. As in previous years, opposition to the resolution came largely from members of WEOG and the Eastern European Group, with only Azerbaijan, Belarus, Turkey and Russia voting in favor. Support for the text came primarily from members of the African Group, the OIC and NAM. Seven more members of NAM, including Belize, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, the Gambia, Haiti, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe, chose to support the text this session after abstaining or being absent from the vote at the 64<sup>th</sup> Session. However, several NAM members from the Latin American, African and Asian regions withdrew their previous support of the resolution and were absent or abstained this session.<sup>34</sup> More than half of the CD voted against the resolution with three CD members – Zambia, Argentina and the Bahamas – opposing it after abstaining the previous year. Barbados voted no after supporting the text in 2009.

### **Extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions**

The GA once again adopted a biennial resolution on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions at the 65<sup>th</sup> Session.<sup>35</sup> The resolution, sponsored by Finland on behalf of the European Union and other States,<sup>36</sup> strongly condemned all extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and demanded that all States ensure the practice is brought to an end. It also reiterated the obligation of States to

<sup>34</sup> Bhutan, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica and Togo.

<sup>35</sup> A/RES/65/208.

<sup>36</sup> Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Uruguay. Meanwhile, Armenia, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Timor-Leste, Ukraine and Venezuela later joined as co-sponsors.

conduct impartial investigations into all suspected cases of such executions, to bring to justice those responsible, to compensate victims or their families, and to adopt legal and judicial measures to end impunity. The resolution called on States to investigate and prosecute all killings committed for any discriminatory reason, including on the basis of sexual orientation. The reference marks the only UN text to formally acknowledge the responsibility of States to prevent discrimination because of sexual orientation.

The final resolution was only adopted after heated debate over the paragraph that urged States to protect against killings committed on the basis of sexual orientation.<sup>37</sup> In the Third Committee, Benin (on behalf of the African Group) and Morocco (on behalf of the Arab Group and the OIC) won an amendment that replaced the words ‘any discriminatory reason, including sexual orientation’ with the words ‘discriminatory reasons on any basis’ by a margin of nine votes with 79 in favor, 70 against and 17 abstentions.<sup>38</sup> Supporters of the amendment argued that the inclusion of the reference was selective or lacked legal justification,<sup>39</sup> while those opposed to the amendment noted that the Special Rapporteur had made references to sexual orientation since 1999.<sup>40</sup> Opponents argued that an omission of the reference would be tantamount to the UN ignoring a particularly vulnerable group under threat of extrajudicial execution.

On International Human Rights Day, United States Ambassador Susan Rice spoke of being ‘incensed’ by the vote and promised to fight to restore the reference to sexual orientation. With the support of the LGBTI civil society community, the US successfully lobbied Member States to reinstate the reference in the plenary by a vote of 93 in favor, 55 against and 27 abstentions.

<b>Sexual Orientation Amendment (GA)</b>							
<b>Regional Groups</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstained</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>#↑</b>	<b>#↓</b>
Africa	53	5	29	10	9	15	2
Asia	54	15	23	10	6	11	2
Eastern Europe	23	20	2	1	0	1	0
Latin America and Caribbean	33	25	1	6	1	17	0
Western Europe and Others	29	28	0	0	1	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>4</b>

<b>Cross-Regional Groups</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstained</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>#↑</b>	<b>#↓</b>
Organization of the Islamic Conference	56	1	39	8	8	9	2
Non-Aligned Movement	117	28	49	27	13	38	3
European Union	27	27	0	0	0	0	0
Community of Democracies	124	86	18	16	4	30	1

<sup>37</sup> The language had been a feature of the resolution since 2001, when it was incorporated at the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Ms. Asma Jahangir.

<sup>38</sup> Although the amendment was introduced on behalf of the African, Arab and OIC Groups, several members of each group abstained or were absent from the vote including Albania, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, the Gambia, Togo, Turkey and Turkmenistan.

<sup>39</sup> Benin (on behalf of the African Group), Iran, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Morocco (on behalf of the OIC), South Africa and Sudan.

<sup>40</sup> France, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and the US.

The ↑ or ↓ represents an improvement or a deterioration of a government's vote on the amendment which removes the sexual orientation reference as compared to the amendment which reinstates the sexual orientation reference.

Thirty-eight members of NAM and nine members of the OIC improved their positions on the reference to sexual orientation in the plenary; however, the majority of the OIC remained opposed to the reference while NAM was divided. Angola, Cape Verde, Mauritius, Rwanda, and South Africa broke ranks with the African Group to vote in favor of the US amendment that reinserted the language. The Bahamas, Belize, Grenada and Saint Kitts and Nevis also reversed their position and voted to include the reference at the plenary. On the other hand, the Gambia and Mauritania voted against the inclusion of the reference after being absent from the vote in the Third Committee. The majority of the favorable votes came from the Eastern Europe, Latin American and Caribbean and Western European and Others Groups; with only Saint Lucia, Azerbaijan and Russia voting against the amendment. The CD also saw a significant increase of members supporting the reference, but with 18 members maintaining their opposition.<sup>41</sup> The resolution as a whole was then adopted by a vote of 121 in favor, one against and 62 abstentions. With the reference reinserted, support for the biennial resolution fell by six States in 2010 from 2008.<sup>42</sup> Notably, the United States chose to abstain on the text as a whole, despite having lobbied for the reinsertion of the sexual orientation reference.<sup>43</sup>

### **Moratorium on the use of the death penalty**

A resolution calling for a moratorium on the death penalty was once again adopted by the GA despite attempts by certain States to weaken the text.<sup>44</sup> The biennial resolution calls on States to respect international standards that give rights to those facing the death penalty, to make available information on their use of the death penalty and to establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 109 in favor, 41 against and 35 abstentions.

This year's resolution was adopted by a slightly larger margin than in 2008, indicating increased support for a moratorium on the death penalty.<sup>45</sup> States that tried to defeat the resolution in 2007 appeared resigned to accept that the issue has become part of the General Assembly's work.<sup>46</sup> However, alternative strategies against the resolution in the form of hostile amendments to the text were introduced during the Third Committee. Egypt and Singapore sought references to the sovereignty of States to develop their own legal systems, while Botswana's amendment would recognize that many States retain the death penalty for the most serious crimes. The Bahamas attempted to weaken the language of the text by asking States only to "consider" establishing a

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<sup>41</sup> Benin, Botswana, Ghana, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia and Saint Lucia.

<sup>42</sup> In 2008, the resolution passed by a vote of 127 in favor, zero against and 58 abstentions.

<sup>43</sup> The US did not provide an explanation to their vote this session; however, in 2006 and 2008 the US explained its abstention, stating that the text failed to distinguish between international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and that references to the International Criminal Court were "inaccurate."

<sup>44</sup> A/RES/65/206.

<sup>45</sup> At the 63<sup>rd</sup> Session in 2008, the resolution was adopted by a vote of 106 votes in favor, 46 against, and 34 abstentions.

<sup>46</sup> The 2008 death penalty resolution simply reaffirmed the 2007 resolution on the issue, made the resolution biennial, welcomed the Secretary-General's report on the subject and requested that he submit a progress report on the implementation of the resolution.

moratorium. All of these amendments were defeated by comfortable margins.<sup>47</sup> However, Russia leveraged its co-sponsorship to weaken the text during negotiations and, as a result, the final resolution omits a provision that requests States to provide specific information on their use of the death penalty, thereby limiting mechanisms of follow-up and accountability.<sup>48</sup> The resolution also no longer expresses the GA’s ‘deep concern’ about the continued application of the death penalty as it did in 2007.

Moratorium on the death penalty							
Regional Groups	Members	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent	#↑	#↓
Africa	53	18	8	20	7	4	4
Asia	54	22	21	11	0	6	1
Eastern Europe	23	22	0	1	0	0	0
Latin America and Caribbean	33	19	11	3	0	2	0
Western Europe and Others	29	28	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>
Cross-Regional Groups	Members	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent	#↑	#↓
Organization of the Islamic Conference	56	18	18	16	4	5	2
Non-Aligned Movement	117	40	38	32	7	10	5
European Union	27	27	0	0	0	0	0
Community of Democracies	124	83	21	17	3	6	3

The ↑ or ↓ represents the number of governments whose position on the moratorium on the death penalty resolution was either more or less favorable in 2010 as compared to their previous position taken at the 63<sup>rd</sup> session held in 2008.

The resolution gained three favorable votes and received five fewer opposition votes than in 2008. The EU continued its support of the resolution, reflecting the group’s strong policy against the death penalty. The OIC and NAM remained divided on the issue, but several joint Member States improved their position; the Gambia, Maldives and Togo voted in favor this session and Comoros and Nigeria moved to abstentions. The Asian and Latin American and Caribbean Groups also found greater support with Bhutan, Guatemala and Kiribati switching to favorable votes and Dominica, Solomon Islands and Thailand abstaining this session after opposing the resolution in 2008. Although the majority of the CD continued to support the resolution, Papua New Guinea moved to oppose the resolution after abstaining the previous year, while Benin and Mauritius were both absent from the vote after supporting the text in 2008. The US remained the only member of WEOG to vote against the resolution.

## CONCLUSION

The 65<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly Session concluded with primarily positive results. The session saw increased support from Member States for more robust country-resolutions. Recurring resolutions on

<sup>47</sup> Egypt’s amendment (A/C.3/65/L.61) was rejected by a vote of 62-79-31; Singapore’s amendment (A/C.3/65/L.62) by 51-81-33; Botswana’s amendment (A/C.3/65/L.63) by 58-79-30; and the Bahamas’ amendment (L.23/Rev.1 OP 3 (d)) by 54-82-29.

<sup>48</sup> International Service for Human Rights. “GA restores sexual orientation into EJE’s resolution, adopts key texts on death penalty, Iran, DPRK,” December 2010.

Iran and the DPRK were both adopted with greater cross-regional approval from UN Member States; however, the annual resolution on Myanmar lost support from a number of Asian and African Member States. The resolution failed to establish a commission of inquiry into possible international crimes committed in Myanmar because of opposition from Russia, China, and some ASEAN members. Despite the exclusion of this important mechanism, benchmarks were established in the resolution that, if not met, provide justification for a commission of inquiry to be established in 2011.

The overwhelming rejection of the Government of Iran's procedural motion to adjourn the debate on its human rights record signaled the GA's commitment to address critical human rights questions. On the other hand, the GA has not adopted a new country-specific resolution since 2009 in spite of the numerous human rights crises that have arisen or continued since then without UN scrutiny.<sup>49</sup> As with Myanmar, a special procedure mechanism on Iran was not included in the GA resolution on the country. Nonetheless, on March 24, 2011, the HRC passed a historic resolution establishing a special rapporteur on Iran; the first new country mandate to be established since the body's inception in 2006.<sup>50</sup>

Among the cross-regional groups, the EU, followed by the CD, continued to extend the most support for country and thematic resolutions that upheld human rights principles.<sup>51</sup> NAM, followed by the OIC, sustained less support;<sup>52</sup> however, both groups provided more support for the resolutions on Iran, DPRK and the moratorium on the death penalty this year.<sup>53</sup> NAM, along with the CD, also withdrew support this session on the "combating defamation of religions" resolution. OIC members and Egypt – purportedly speaking on behalf of NAM – maintained that country resolutions are selective, are contrary to international good governance and should only be adopted with the cooperation of the State concerned. Nonetheless, many NAM members voted in support of, or abstained on one or more country-specific resolutions.<sup>54</sup> Chile, Belize, Botswana, Honduras, Liberia, Panama, Peru and the Maldives voted in favor of all three resolutions, whereas 23 NAM members consistently abstained.<sup>55</sup>

GA country resolutions have traditionally received fluctuating support from emerging democratic powers in the global South; however, in the past two years several of these States have shown slight

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<sup>49</sup> The last new country resolution was adopted in July 2009 on the situation in Honduras. The resolution condemned the coup d'état that took place in the country on June 28, 2009.

<sup>50</sup> Resolution A/HRC/16/L.25/Rev.1, entitled, "Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran" was adopted by a vote of 22 in favor, 7 against, and 14 abstentions.

<sup>51</sup> On average, 100% of EU Member States voted in favor of the country resolutions and in favor of the preferred position on thematic resolutions. On average, 64% of CD members voted in favor of the country resolutions and 65% on average voted in favor of the preferred position on thematic resolutions.

<sup>52</sup> On average, 22% of NAM members voted in favor of the country resolutions and 27% on average in favor of the preferred position on thematic resolutions. On average, 19% of OIC members voted in favor of the country resolutions and 20% on average in favor of the preferred position on thematic resolutions.

<sup>53</sup> NAM increased its support for the Iran resolution by 4%, while the OIC increased it by 3%. Support for the DPRK text increased by 5% in NAM and 3% in the OIC. NAM increased support for the moratorium on the death penalty by 1% and the OIC increased it by 2%.

<sup>54</sup> Benin, Burundi, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Eritrea, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Bahrain, Bhutan, Iraq, Lebanon, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, United Arab Emirates, Vanuatu, Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Jamaica and Saint Lucia.

<sup>55</sup> Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, Nepal, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Colombia, Grenada, Haiti, and Trinidad and Tobago.

net improvements in their voting positions. After traditionally abstaining on the resolution on Myanmar, South Africa has voted in favor of the text since 2009, while also abstaining on the resolution on Iran after several years of opposition. Although Nigeria has been inconsistent in previous years on the Myanmar resolution, it voted in favor of it in 2009 and 2010. Nigeria also moved to abstain on the Iran resolution this session after voting against it in 2009. Brazil moved to support the DPRK resolution in 2010 after abstaining the previous two years.

Other important southern democracies, such as Indonesia and India, have shown minimal or even a complete lack of leadership on pressing human rights situations in their region. Indonesia departed from its tradition of opposing the DPRK resolution to abstain on the text this session, but continued to oppose the Iran and Myanmar resolutions. Although India broke with its tradition of voting against the Iran resolution to abstain in 2010, it has consistently voted against the Myanmar resolution and abstained on the DPRK text.

Just as country resolutions garnered broader support across regional groupings, recurring thematic issues on sexual orientation, freedom of expression, and the death penalty showed progress at the GA. The dramatic reinsertion of the reference to sexual orientation in the “extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions” resolution was a critical victory for the LGBTI community and laid the groundwork for the first joint governmental statement on the issue at the HRC at its March 2011 Session.<sup>56</sup> Similarly, dwindling support for the GA resolution on “combating defamation of religions” reflected increasing concern by the international community of the threat to explicitly guaranteed rights on freedom of expression, freedom of religion and non-discrimination. At the March 2011 HRC Session, the annual resolution on “defamation of religions” was replaced by a resolution that focused on combating intolerance and incitement to violence against persons based on religion or belief.<sup>57</sup> The resolution, adopted by consensus, signified the international community’s collective departure from the previously controversial concept.

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<sup>56</sup> On March 22, 2011, Colombia presented a statement on behalf of 85 countries calling on States to end violence, criminal sanctions and related human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

<sup>57</sup> Resolution A/HRC/16/L.38, entitled, “Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence, and violence against persons based on religion or belief” was tabled by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC.

Scorecard: How U.N. Member States Voted On Select Human Rights Resolutions  
In The 65<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, 2010<sup>1</sup>

	CD**	Iran (GA)	Myanmar (GA)	Democratic People's Republic of Korea (GA)	Amendment to Extrajudicial Executions - removing sexual orientation reference (3rd Committee)	Amendment to Extrajudicial Executions - reinstating sexual orientation reference (GA)	Combating Defamation of Religions (GA)	Moratorium on the use of the Death Penalty (GA)
<i>Vote Count</i>		Yes: 78 No: 45 Abstain: 59 Absent: 10	Yes: 85 No: 26 Abstain: 46 Absent: 35	Yes: 106 No: 20 Abstain: 57 Absent: 9	Yes: 79 No: 70 Abstain: 17 Absent: 26	Yes: 93 No: 55 Abstain: 27 Absent: 17	Yes: 79 No: 67 Abstain: 40 Absent: 6	Yes: 109 No: 41 Abstain: 35 Absent: 7
<i>Preferred Vote</i>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Africa</b>								<i>As compared to 2008</i>
<b>Algeria</b>	O	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Angola</b>	P	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Yes ↑	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Benin</b>	P	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	No	No	Abstain	Abstain ↓
<b>Botswana</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Abstain	No
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	O	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Yes	No	Yes ↓	Yes
<b>Burundi</b>	O	Abstain	Yes	Yes	No	No	Abstain	Yes
<b>Cameroon</b>		Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Abstain ↑	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain
<b>Cape Verde</b>	P	Yes ↑	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Yes ↑	Abstain	Yes
<b>Central African Republic</b>		Abstain	Abstain	Yes ↑	Abstain	Abstain	Yes ↓	Abstain

<sup>1</sup> Movement from a preferred position of “no” to “absent”, “absent”, or “yes”, or movement from a preferred position of “yes” to “absent”, “absent”, or “no” is marked with a downward arrow. Movement from a position of “absent” or “absent” toward a preferred position of “yes” or “no” was marked with an upward arrow. Movement from a position of “absent” or “absent” away from a preferred position of “yes” or “no” was marked with a downward arrow. Movement generally represents a change in a position in 2010 from a position in 2009, except in the resolution on the Moratorium of the Death Penalty, which was compared to the 2008 resolution. In addition, the amendment to remove the sexual orientation reference in the Extrajudicial Executions resolution (in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee) was compared to the amendment which reinserted the sexual orientation reference in the Extrajudicial Executions resolution (in the GA).

*Sixty-Fifth United Nations General Assembly Scorecard*

	CD**	Iran (GA)	Myanmar (GA)	Democratic People's Republic of Korea (GA)	Amendment to Extrajudicial Executions - removing sexual orientation reference (3rd Committee)	Amendment to Extrajudicial Executions - reinstating sexual orientation reference (GA)	Combating Defamation of Religions (GA)	Moratorium on the use of the Death Penalty (GA)
<i>Vote Count</i>		Yes: 78 No: 45 Abstain: 59 Absent: 10	Yes: 85 No: 26 Abstain: 46 Absent: 35	Yes: 106 No: 20 Abstain: 57 Absent: 9	Yes: 79 No: 70 Abstain: 17 Absent: 26	Yes: 93 No: 55 Abstain: 27 Absent: 17	Yes: 79 No: 67 Abstain: 40 Absent: 6	Yes: 109 No: 41 Abstain: 35 Absent: 7
<i>Preferred Vote</i>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Chad</b>		Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent ↑	Absent
<b>Comoros</b>		No	Absent	Absent	Yes	No	Yes	Abstain ↑
<b>Congo</b>		Absent	Absent	Absent	Yes	No	Abstain ↑	Yes
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>		Absent	Absent	Absent	Yes	Absent ↑	Absent ↑	Absent ↓
<b>Democratic Republic of the Congo</b>	O	Absent	Absent	Absent	Yes	No	Absent ↑	Absent
<b>Djibouti</b>	O	Absent	Absent	Yes ↑	Yes	No	Yes	Absent
<b>Egypt</b>	O	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Equatorial Guinea</b>		Absent ↑	Absent	Absent ↑	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
<b>Eritrea</b>		No	Absent	Yes	Yes	Abstain ↑	Yes	Absent
<b>Ethiopia</b>		Absent	Absent	Absent	Yes	Absent ↑	Yes	No ↓
<b>Gabon</b>		Absent	Absent	Yes ↑	Absent	Absent	Yes	Yes
<b>The Gambia</b>		Yes ↑	Absent	Absent	Absent	No ↓	Yes ↓	Yes ↑
<b>Ghana</b>	P	Absent	Absent ↓	Yes	Yes	No	Absent	Absent
<b>Guinea</b>		No	Absent	No ↓	Absent	Absent	Yes	Absent
<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	O	Absent	Absent	Yes	Absent	Absent	Yes	Yes
<b>Kenya</b>	P	Absent	Absent	Absent	Yes	Absent ↑	Absent	Absent
<b>Lesotho</b>	P	Absent	Absent	Absent	Yes	Absent ↑	Absent	Absent
<b>Liberia</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent ↑	Absent	Absent

*Sixty-Fifth United Nations General Assembly Scorecard*

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<i>Preferred Vote</i>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Libya</b>		No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
<b>Madagascar</b>		Absent ↓	Abstain	Yes	Absent ↑	Absent ↑	Absent	Yes
<b>Malawi</b>	P	Abstain	Yes	Yes	No	No	Abstain	Abstain
<b>Mali</b>	P	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Abstain ↑	Yes	Yes
<b>Mauritania</b>		No	Abstain	Abstain	No ↓	No ↓	Yes	Abstain
<b>Mauritius</b>	P	Abstain	Yes	Abstain	Yes ↑	Yes ↑	Abstain	Absent ↓
<b>Morocco</b>	P	Abstain	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Abstain
<b>Mozambique</b>	P	Abstain	Absent	Abstain	Yes	Abstain ↑	Yes	Yes
<b>Namibia</b>	P	Abstain ↑	Abstain ↓	Abstain ↑	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Niger</b>	P	Abstain ↑	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	No	Yes	Abstain
<b>Nigeria</b>	O	Abstain ↑	Yes	Abstain	Yes	No	Yes	Abstain ↑
<b>Rwanda</b>	O	Yes ↑	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Yes ↑	Abstain	Yes
<b>Sao Tome and Principe</b>	P	Yes ↑	Absent	Yes ↑	Absent	Abstain	Abstain	Yes
<b>Senegal</b>	P	Abstain ↑	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	No	Yes	Abstain
<b>Seychelles</b>	P	Absent	Abstain	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	O	Yes ↑	Abstain	Yes	Yes	No	Yes ↓	Abstain
<b>Somalia</b>		No	Abstain	No ↓	No	No	Yes	Yes
<b>South Africa</b>	P	Abstain	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes ↑	Yes	Yes
<b>Sudan</b>		No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
<b>Swaziland</b>		Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	No	Yes	No

*Sixty-Fifth United Nations General Assembly Scorecard*

	CD**	Iran (GA)	Myanmar (GA)	Democratic People's Republic of Korea (GA)	Amendment to Extrajudicial Executions - removing sexual orientation reference (3rd Committee)	Amendment to Extrajudicial Executions - reinstating sexual orientation reference (GA)	Combating Defamation of Religions (GA)	Moratorium on the use of the Death Penalty (GA)
<i>Vote Count</i>		Yes: 78 No: 45 Abstain: 59 Absent: 10	Yes: 85 No: 26 Abstain: 46 Absent: 35	Yes: 106 No: 20 Abstain: 57 Absent: 9	Yes: 79 No: 70 Abstain: 17 Absent: 26	Yes: 93 No: 55 Abstain: 27 Absent: 17	Yes: 79 No: 67 Abstain: 40 Absent: 6	Yes: 109 No: 41 Abstain: 35 Absent: 7
<i>Preferred Vote</i>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Tanzania</b>	P	Abstain	Yes	Yes	No	No	Abstain	Abstain
<b>Togo</b>		Abstain	Abstain ↓	Yes	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain ↑	Yes ↑
<b>Tunisia</b>		No	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	No	Yes	Absent
<b>Uganda</b>	O	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Zambia</b>	P	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	No	No ↑	Abstain
<b>Zimbabwe</b>		No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes ↓	No
<b>Asia</b>								
<b>Afghanistan</b>	O	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Bahrain</b>	P	No ↓	Abstain	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Abstain
<b>Bangladesh</b>	P	No	No	Abstain	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Bhutan</b>	P	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	No	Abstain ↓	Abstain ↑	Yes ↑
<b>Brunei Dar-Salam</b>		No	No	Abstain	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Cambodia</b>	O	No ↓	No ↓	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Yes
<b>China</b>		No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Cyprus</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Democratic People's Republic of Korea</b>		No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Fiji</b>		Abstain ↓	Abstain	Yes	Abstain	Yes ↑	No ↑	Abstain
<b>India</b>	P	Abstain ↑	No	Abstain	No	Yes	Abstain	No

*Sixty-Fifth United Nations General Assembly Scorecard*

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<i>Preferred Vote</i>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Indonesia</b>	P	No	No ↓	Abstain ↑	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Iran</b>		No	No ↓	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Iraq</b>	P	Abstain ↑	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Japan</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Abstain	No
<b>Jordan</b>	P	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Abstain
<b>Kazakhstan</b>		No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Kiribati *</b>	P	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Yes ↑
<b>Kuwait</b>	O	No	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>		No	Abstain	Yes ↑	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Yes
<b>Lao People's Democratic Republic</b>								
<b>Lebanon</b>	P	Abstain	No	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Abstain
<b>Malaysia</b>	P	No	Yes	Abstain ↓	Yes	No	Yes	Abstain
<b>Maldives</b>	O	Yes ↑	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Marshall Islands</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain ↑	Yes	Yes ↑
<b>Micronesia</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes ↑	No	Yes
<b>Mongolia</b>	P	Abstain	Yes	Abstain	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Myanmar</b>		No	No	No	Yes	Abstain	Abstain	Yes ↑
<b>Nauru</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain ↑	Yes ↑	Yes	No
<b>Nepal</b>	O	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	No	Yes	Abstain	Yes

*Sixty-Fifth United Nations General Assembly Scorecard*

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<i>Preferred Vote</i>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Oman</b>	O	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Abstain
<b>Pakistan</b>	O	No	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Palau</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes ↑	No	Yes
<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	P	Yes	Absent	Yes	Abstain	Yes ↑	No	No ↓
<b>Philippines</b>	P	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Yes
<b>Qatar</b>	O	No	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Republic of Korea</b>	P	Abstain	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Abstain
<b>Samoa</b>	P	Yes	Yes ↑	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>		Abstain ↓	Abstain	Abstain ↓	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Singapore</b>		Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	No
<b>Solomon Islands</b>		Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	No ↓	No ↑	Abstain ↑
<b>Sri Lanka</b>		No	No	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Yes
<b>Syria</b>		No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Tajikistan</b>		No	Absent	Abstain	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Thailand</b>	P	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Abstain ↑
<b>Timor-Leste</b>	P	Yes	Abstain ↓	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Tonga</b>	O	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes ↑	No	No
<b>Turkmenistan</b>		No	Abstain	Abstain	Absent	Absent	Yes	Yes
<b>Tuvalu</b>	P	Abstain	Yes ↑	Yes	Abstain	Absent	Abstain	Yes

*Sixty-Fifth United Nations General Assembly Scorecard*

	CD**	Iran (GA)	Myanmar (GA)	Democratic People's Republic of Korea (GA)	Amendment to Extrajudicial Executions - removing sexual orientation reference (3rd Committee)	Amendment to Extrajudicial Executions - reinstating sexual orientation reference (GA)	Combating Defamation of Religions (GA)	Moratorium on the use of the Death Penalty (GA)
<i>Vote Count</i>		Yes: 78 No: 45 Abstain: 59 Absent: 10	Yes: 85 No: 26 Abstain: 46 Absent: 35	Yes: 106 No: 20 Abstain: 57 Absent: 9	Yes: 79 No: 70 Abstain: 17 Absent: 26	Yes: 93 No: 55 Abstain: 27 Absent: 17	Yes: 79 No: 67 Abstain: 40 Absent: 6	Yes: 109 No: 41 Abstain: 35 Absent: 7
<i>Preferred Vote</i>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>United Arab Emirates</b>		No	Abstain	Yes	No	No	Yes	Abstain
<b>Uzbekistan</b>		No ↓	Abstain	No ↓	Yes	Abstain ↑	Yes	Yes
<b>Vanuatu</b>	P	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Abstain	Yes ↑	No	Yes
<b>Viet Nam</b>		No	No	No	Yes	Abstain ↑	Yes	Abstain
<b>Yemen</b>	O	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Eastern Europe</b>								
<b>Albania</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes ↑	Abstain	Yes
<b>Armenia</b>	O	No	Yes	Abstain	No	Yes	Abstain	Yes
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	O	No	No	Abstain	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Belarus</b>		No	No	No	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Abstain
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Abstain	Yes
<b>Bulgaria</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Croatia</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Czech Republic</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Estonia</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Georgia</b>	P	Abstain	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Hungary</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes

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	CD**	Iran (GA)	Myanmar (GA)	Democratic People's Republic of Korea (GA)	Amendment to Extrajudicial Executions - removing sexual orientation reference (3rd Committee)	Amendment to Extrajudicial Executions - reinstating sexual orientation reference (GA)	Combating Defamation of Religions (GA)	Moratorium on the use of the Death Penalty (GA)
<i>Vote Count</i>		Yes: 78 No: 45 Abstain: 59 Absent: 10	Yes: 85 No: 26 Abstain: 46 Absent: 35	Yes: 106 No: 20 Abstain: 57 Absent: 9	Yes: 79 No: 70 Abstain: 17 Absent: 26	Yes: 93 No: 55 Abstain: 27 Absent: 17	Yes: 79 No: 67 Abstain: 40 Absent: 6	Yes: 109 No: 41 Abstain: 35 Absent: 7
<i>Preferred Vote</i>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
Latvia	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Lithuania	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Moldova	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Montenegro	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Poland	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Romania	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Russian Federation	O	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Serbia	P	Absent	Absent	Absent	No	Yes	No	Yes
Slovakia	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Slovenia	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Ukraine	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Latin America and Caribbean</b>								
Antigua and Barbuda	P	Abstain	Abstain ↓	Abstain	Abstain	Yes ↑	Abstain	No
Argentina	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No ↑	Yes

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<i>Vote Count</i>		Yes: 78 No: 45 Abstain: 59 Absent: 10	Yes: 85 No: 26 Abstain: 46 Absent: 35	Yes: 106 No: 20 Abstain: 57 Absent: 9	Yes: 79 No: 70 Abstain: 17 Absent: 26	Yes: 93 No: 55 Abstain: 27 Absent: 17	Yes: 79 No: 67 Abstain: 40 Absent: 6	Yes: 109 No: 41 Abstain: 35 Absent: 7
<i>Preferred Vote</i>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Bahamas</b>	P	Yes ↑	Absent	Yes ↑	Yes	Yes ↑	No ↑	No
<b>Barbados</b>	P	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Yes ↑	No ↑	No
<b>Belize</b>	P	Yes	Yes ↑	Yes	Yes	Yes ↑	Yes ↓	No
<b>Bolivia</b>	P	No	Abstain	Abstain	Absent	Yes ↑	Yes	Yes
<b>Brazil</b>	P	Abstain	Abstain	Yes ↑	No	Yes	Abstain	Yes
<b>Chile</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Colombia</b>	P	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Yes ↑	Abstain	Yes
<b>Costa Rica</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Abstain	Yes
<b>Cuba</b>		No	No	No	Yes	Absent ↑	Yes	Abstain
<b>Dominica</b>	P	Abstain	Absent	Abstain	Absent	Yes ↑	Abstain ↑	Abstain ↑
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	P	Yes	Abstain	Abstain	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Ecuador</b>	P	No	Abstain	Abstain	No	Yes	Abstain	Yes
<b>El Salvador</b>	P	Yes	Absent	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Grenada</b>	P	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Yes ↑	Abstain	No
<b>Guatemala</b>	P	Abstain	Yes	Yes ↑	No	Yes	Abstain	Yes ↑
<b>Guyana</b>	P	Abstain	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Abstain ↑	Yes	No
<b>Haiti</b>	P	Abstain	Abstain ↓	Abstain	Yes	Abstain ↑	Yes ↓	Yes
<b>Honduras</b>	P	Yes	Yes ↑	Yes	Absent	Yes ↑	Abstain	Yes
<b>Jamaica</b>	P	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain ↑	Abstain	No
<b>Mexico</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes

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<i>Preferred Vote</i>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
Nicaragua	O	No	No	Abstain	Abstain	Yes ↑	Yes	Yes
Panama	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Paraguay	P	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	No	Yes	Abstain	Yes
Peru	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Abstain	Yes
Saint Kitts and Nevis	P	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Yes ↑	Abstain	No
Saint Lucia	P	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	P	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Abstain ↑	Yes	No
Suriname	P	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Abstain ↑	Yes	Abstain
Trinidad and Tobago	P	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	No
Uruguay	P	Abstain	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Venezuela		No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Western Europe and Others<sup>o</sup></b>								
Andorra	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Australia	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Austria	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Belgium	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes

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<i>Preferred Vote</i>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Canada</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Denmark</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Finland</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>France</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Germany</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Greece</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Iceland</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Ireland</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Israel</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Italy</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Luxembourg</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Malta</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Monaco</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Netherlands</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>New Zealand</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Norway</b>	P	Yes	Yes ↑	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Portugal</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>San Marino</b>	P	Yes	Absent	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Spain</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes

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<i>Preferred Vote</i>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Switzerland</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Turkey</b>	P	Absent	Yes	Yes	Absent	Absent	Yes	Yes
<b>United Kingdom</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>United States of America</b>	P	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No

\* Kiribati is not a member of any regional group.

\*\* Community of Democracies (CD) participants are marked with a "P", observers are marked with an "O". Only participants are considered members of the CD for the purpose of this study. Participant status is derived from participation at the Lisbon Ministerial in 2009.

° Israel is a temporary member of WEOG and Turkey participates in both WEOG and the Asian Group, but for electoral purposes is considered a member of WEOG only.