Abolition of the death penalty is a firm and undeniable worldwide trend. To date, about 140 countries have either abolished the capital punishment or no longer execute. However, some notable setbacks took place last year with 22 countries having carried out executions, four of which did so after long years of effective moratorium.

Deterrence of crime, favourable public opinion, lack of alternatives – these are some of the reasons given by retentionist countries when defending the application of the death penalty in their judicial systems.

But can killing by the State still be justified in today's society?

**WELCOME**

Ambassador Maurizio Enrico Serra, Permanent Mission of Italy to the UN in Geneva

Mr. Dominic Porter, Chargé d'affaires a.i., Delegation of the European Union to the UN in Geneva

**KEYNOTE**

Mr. Ivan Simonovic, Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights, OHCHR

**PANELLISTS**

Sir Nigel Rodley, Chairperson, UN Human Rights Committee;

Mr. Gil Garcetti, former District Attorney of LA County

Dr. Mai Sato, Centre for Criminology, University of Oxford

Ms. Hanne Sophie Greve, Judge, International Commission against the Death Penalty

Moderated by Prof. Andrea Bianchi, Head, International Law Department, Graduate Institute Geneva

The debate will be followed by a cocktail

Venue: Maison de la Paix, Graduate Institute
Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2 – 1211 Geneva

Accompanied by the launch of OHCHR publication "Moving Away from the Death Penalty: Lessons from National Experiences"