



Madrid, 21 March 2019

ICDP 01/2019

International Commission  
against the Death Penalty

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(1939-2014)

Asma Jilani Jahangir  
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### Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: ICDP welcomes former Prime Minister of New Zealand Helen Clark as its new Commissioner

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP or Commission) warmly welcomes former Prime Minister of New Zealand and the former Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Rt. Hon. Helen Clark as its new Commissioner.

“It is my great pleasure to welcome Rt. Hon. Helen Clark as a Commissioner of the ICDP and join our struggle to achieve worldwide abolition of the death penalty.

“I am very happy to announce Rt. Hon. Helen Clark as a fellow Commissioner at ICDP noting her highly accomplished career as a former Prime Minister of New Zealand and as the first woman Administrator of the UNDP, which was characterised by her commitment to achieving sustainable development with a human centric approach, for greater respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights and as an inspirational support for women as leaders. Ms Clark’s passionate support for abolition of the death penalty was shown when during her term as Prime Minister, New Zealand played a key role in supporting the first UN General Assembly Resolution calling for a worldwide moratorium of the death penalty in 2007.

“I believe that Ms Clark’s vast and widely respected experience, expertise and global prestige will add to our Commission in our fight for a world free of capital punishment. I join my fellow Commissioners in welcoming Ms Helen Clark. We look forward to work with her,” said ICDP President Judge Navi Pillay.

#### Background

ICDP Commissioners are persons of high international standing from all regions of the world who act with total independence and neutrality and work under its President Judge Navi Pillay.

ICDP opposes the death penalty under any circumstances believing that it violates the right to life enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Commission promotes the abolition of capital punishment in law in those states that observe a *de facto* moratorium on the use of the death penalty and promotes moratoriums on executions in states that rarely use the death penalty.

ICDP works with the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, governments and nongovernmental organizations to further the abolition of capital punishment worldwide.

The work of ICDP is supported by a diverse group of 20 States and 2 Observer States from all regions of the world that are committed to the abolition of the death penalty. Its secretariat is based in Madrid.