



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN THE USA

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council
Vienna, 19 March 2015

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

This statement is also delivered on behalf of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Mongolia and Switzerland.

We condemn the execution of Cecil Clayton in Missouri on 17 March 2015.

Mr. Chairman,

Death penalty undermines human dignity. We strongly urge all OSCE participating States to jointly close the chapter on the death penalty in our region.

In the international community, there is increasing support for the view that the death penalty constitutes a violation of the prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment.

We are especially concerned about the execution of Cecil Clayton because there is strong evidence that this man was suffering from mental or intellectual disabilities. We believe that such executions violate international human rights standards, which are widely accepted and reiterated in numerous international instruments, including the resolution of the UN General Assembly calling for the introduction of a moratorium on the application of the death penalty, adopted in December 2014 and supported by a record number of 117 UN member states.

We would like to see a universal abolition, seeking a global moratorium on the death penalty as a first step.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.