



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT ON ABOLISHMENT OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN NEBRASKA AND
CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN TEXAS**

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council
Vienna, 4 June 2015

Mr. Chairman,

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

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome that the US State of Nebraska last week decided to abolish the death penalty.

We are happy to note that Nebraska joins the growing number of states in the United States that support the respect for the fundamental right to life and, thereby, human dignity. With Nebraska, 19 US States have abolished the death penalty.

At the same time, we condemn yesterday's execution of Mr. Lester Bower in Texas. This brings the number of executions in the United States this year to 15.

We strongly urge all OSCE participating States to jointly close the chapter on the death penalty in our region. Every step in the right direction is commendable.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairman