

Death Penalty

Submitted by: The Advocates for Human Rights and the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

MECHANISM

Universal Periodic Review

SESSION

52nd Session of the Working
Group on the Universal Periodic
Review

DATE OF REVIEW

7 May 2026

Summary: Palau abolished the death penalty upon gaining independence from the United States in 1994 and is abolitionist for all crimes. Palau has signed but not ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and has taken no steps toward ratifying the Second Optional Protocol. In its third-cycle Universal Periodic Review, Palau supported five recommendations to ratify or accede to the Second Optional Protocol, but it has taken no steps toward ratification.

Palau is abolitionist but has not yet ratified the Second Optional Protocol.

- Palau is abolitionist for all crimes, having abolished the death penalty at the time of independence in 1994.
- Despite acting swiftly after its 2021 Universal Periodic Review to support five recommendations to ratify or accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, since that time Palau has taken no steps toward ratification of the ICCPR or its Second Optional Protocol.
- Palau has voted in favor of every UN General Assembly resolution calling for a global moratorium on the death penalty since 2007.

Recommendations

- Take all necessary steps to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Second Optional Protocol without reservations.
- Request technical assistance with the ratification process from the Friends of the Second Optional Protocol.