



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

40th Session – Item 3 General Debate

Statement by H.E. Morten Jespersen, PR of Denmark on behalf of the Convention against Torture Initiative

Thank you, Mr. President,

I have the pleasure of speaking on behalf of the Governments of Chile, Fiji, Ghana, Morocco, Indonesia and my own Government, Denmark, as members of the core group behind the Convention against Torture Initiative, or CTI. The Republic of Fiji recently accepted our invitation to join the CTI as a Core State. As a leading Pacific Island nation, we look forward to working closely with Fiji to strengthen the reach of CTI in the Pacific.

As CTI enters its 5th year, with 11 new State parties since its launch in 2014, I am pleased to report good progress towards achieving our vision - a vision where every country in the world has raised their voice to condemn torture through ratification of the UN Convention against Torture, and are taking steps to actively implement it.

In June last year, CTI launched our new Strategy for the 2018-2020 period. We have committed to increasing awareness of the benefits of ratifying the Convention, of sharing good State practices on ratification and implementation, as well as strengthening our institutional engagement with government ministries.

I'm pleased to report that in 2018, we welcomed 3 new State parties to the Convention, and we would like to congratulate the Governments of the **Marshall Islands**, the **Commonwealth of the Bahamas** and **The Gambia**. We further commend the ongoing efforts being taken by many other governments towards ratifying the Convention. We commend the Government of **Tuvalu** for

accepting UPR recommendations to ratify and the Government of **Malaysia** for pledging to ratify the Convention during their last cycle of reviews, as well as the Governments of **Grenada, Tonga, Samoa** and **Kiribati** for expressing their full support towards ratification during CTI's high-level regional seminars.

Over the course of 2018, we continued to engage in constructive dialogue with States. CTI hosted representatives from more than **80 States in our events in 2018**. Since we last reported, we also conducted visits to **The Gambia, Sudan** and **Tonga**. Earlier this month, CTI hosted **11 Pacific Island States**, 8 being represented at ministerial level, showing the strong interest in this issue in that region.

In conclusion, let me

- thank the 41 UN Member States who are members of the CTI **Group of Friends**, alongside our partners from international and regional organisations NGOs and other experts;
- and remind the Council that the CTI stands ready to support any State who is considering ratification of the Convention and wishes to advance on this issue.

I thank you, Mr. President.