FOREWORD
FROM CTI CORE STATES

As the risks and realities of torture and ill-treatment persist in all corners of the globe, the mission of the Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI) remains pressing and purposeful. The 35th anniversary of the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT) in December 2019 reminded the world of the serious situations underlying the rationale for the Convention, and the challenges all States face in keeping our citizens safe from harm. This milestone also deepened our joint aspiration to see this key international treaty universally ratified and implemented.

Throughout 2019 we successfully harnessed international cooperation, peer-to-peer-dialogues and shared State experiences with the aim of reducing and preventing risks and strengthening institutions, policies and good practices. With the assistance and support of our funders, partners and friends, we rolled out another positive annual programme of action, documented in this year’s Annual Report, which focused on knowledge exchange, technical advice and capacity building. Stakeholders who participated in CTI’s global and regional activities and technical seminars have shared evidence backed recommendations and best practices, across and within ministries and with other national stakeholders, and advised each other on new policies, innovations and use of technologies. CTI released new accessible and practical tools that add clarity to Convention commitments and our efforts to strengthen expertise and cooperation within and among countries.

We began 2019 with the positive news of the addition of Fiji as a CTI Core State, adding their leadership and commitment to the CTI, including through sharing experiences and expertise in the Pacific and beyond. We capped 2019 with four new States parties to UNCAT and we heartily congratulate Angola, Grenada, Kiribati and Samoa for ratifying/acceding to UNCAT, bringing the total to 169. Also in 2019, the Maldives accepted the individual communications procedure; while Iceland and South Africa ratified UNCAT’s Optional Protocol. They, too, are to be congratulated on taking these additional actions.

A lot has been achieved this year. We invite you to read our 2019 Annual Report that summarises the wide ranging activities undertaken in 2019 and to be in touch to become more involved in CTI’s work.

H.E. Ambassador
Frank Tressler,
Permanent Representative
of Chile to the UN in Geneva

H.E. Ambassador
Nazhat Shameem Khan,
Permanent Representative
of Fiji to the UN in Geneva

H.E. Ambassador
Hasan Kleib,
Permanent Representative of
Indonesia to the UN in Geneva

H.E. Ambassador
Morten Jespersen,
Permanent Representative
of Denmark to the UN in Geneva

H.E. Ambassador
Ramses Joseph Cleland,
Permanent Representative
of Ghana to the UN in Geneva

H.E. Ambassador
Omar Zniber,
Permanent Representative of
Morocco to the UN in Geneva
Message from the Head of the CTI Secretariat

2019 marked 35 years since the adoption of the UN Convention against Torture. UNCAT is a landmark treaty that has, since its adoption, advised its parties on basic legislative, institutional and practical elements necessary for fair, intimidation-free and transparent systems of governance and justice.

Five years into the State-led and State–inspired Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI), and with five years remaining until the 40th anniversary of UNCAT and CTI’s 2024 deadline, the aspirations of the CTI Core States and Friends remain well-constructed: namely that through ratification and implementation of UNCAT, the risks of torture and ill-treatment will be reduced as authorities become better equipped at handling threats and challenges, at preventing incidents and their escalation, and in responding appropriately should they arise.

There is much work to do. Old habits and mindsets can be hard to change; historic patterns left unresolved or remedied may re-emerge at key moments, while new manifestations and pressures can result in undesirable yet preventable outcomes. That’s why in 2019 a key focus of our programme of activities prioritised police and other law enforcement practices. The other thematic focus continued our work to strengthen legislation and institutions.

Innovating and professionalizing police practices: Champions of change

This year we brought together police actors from 23 countries, many at the rank of national police commissioner and directors of national police academy in a global event, held in Copenhagen, Denmark. As frontline responders, police and law enforcement are primary actors in preventing incidents of ill-treatment. They are also often the most criticized, for deploying heavy-handed techniques, at worst for breaching citizen trust through abusive practices. We wanted to change this conversation and image, and to hear from police on how they are and can become champions of change.

The Copenhagen event additionally explored how innovation and technology could help officers put into practice actionable policies and understand the reasoning and benefits of utilising science and evidence-based methods. The event also focused on cooperation and participants shared inter alia how they are working to integrate comprehensive, people centric Policing Plans that consolidate the prevention of torture and ill-treatment as core goals. This includes police training and education for both officers and the public, and promoting transparency, regulation and accountability.

Similar topics were on the agenda at CTI’s Regional Seminar for States from the Asia-Pacific, held in Bali, Indonesia, which convened 18 States and over 70 participants. At the Bali Seminar, experiential sessions on memory recall and the psychology of the brain gave participants a fresh outlook on why and how coercive practices should and can be abandoned, and how investigative interviewing techniques lead to better criminal justice outcomes.
Institutional and legislative infrastructures

CTI continued to assist and support States to construct rules and procedures in compliance with international protocols and best State practice. The issue of legislative review brought together 11 Pacific States in Natadola, Fiji, where the groundwork was laid for national anti-torture architecture that both regulates and inspires good conduct. This event was also an opportunity to showcase the benefits of ratifying UNCAT and how it can result in positive reform processes.

Technical assistance

Several new CTI tools which clarify the UNCAT’s provisions were issued this year with the aim to simplify the Convention into language useful and accessible for practitioners, and these tools have formed the basis for a number of technical seminars and briefings held throughout the year. CTI’s e-library of documents in multiple languages has continued to grow; meanwhile over 4800 unique users sought information and advice through CTI’s website.

Momentum building

As we look to 2024, it is clear that a growing chorus of States are promoting UNCAT ratification and implementation. Momentum is on our side, yet time is passing. At the date of writing, 169 States are party to the Convention, including four new States parties that signed up in 2019 (Angola, Grenada, Kiribati and Samoa), many more have made public commitments to ratify UNCAT in the near future, while nearly 70 States participated in CTI global and regional seminars and workshops in 2019, some for the first time. Hundreds of public officials and other stakeholders have been exposed to the laudable purpose behind the Convention, and have seen how it is relevant and useful to their daily work. This is all positive work, and shows what can be achieved by a group of dedicated governments and supporters, rallying around a global issue, and sharing their experiences.

Alice Edwards
Head of CTI Secretariat
January 2020

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

4 NEW STATES PARTIES to UNCAT after engaging with CTI
NEARLY 70 STATES from all regions participated in CTI regional and Geneva events
4 NEW IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS launched, compiling 62 good State practices
MAJOR EVENTS AND VISITS IN 2019

1. 4-5 February
   High level diplomatic visit to Tonga

2. 6-8 February
   Regional seminar for Pacific States on UNCAT ratification and implementation, Fiji, news release [here](#)

3. 25 February
   Side-event during Human Rights Council’s 40th session on the benefits of UNCAT ratification, Geneva, news release [here](#)

4. 8 March
   CTI Item 3 Statement to HRC40, Geneva, news release [here](#)

5. 29 March
   CTI Ambassadors’ meeting with High Commissioner Bachelet, Geneva, news release [here](#)

6. 4 April
   Closed discussion with Small States on Treaty Body reporting, Geneva, news release [here](#)

7. 8-9 April
   High-level diplomatic visit and technical seminar in Dominica

8. 27 April
   CTI plenary discussion during the African Commission’s 64th ordinary session, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, news release [here](#)

9. 25 June
   Gathering of Geneva-based Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives to mark the International Day of Victims of Torture, Geneva, news release [here](#)

10. 28 June
    Launch of CTI video “What is UNCAT all about?” Geneva, news release [here](#)

11. 2 July
    CTI lunch with delegates of the UN Trust Fund for SIDS and LDCs, Geneva, news release [here](#)

12. 8-12 July
    CTI participates in Malaysia’s National Human Rights Commission’s seminar on UNCAT accession, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2 July
Launch of CTI’s Implementation Tool on Cooperation on Extradition, news release here

27-28 August
Technical seminar for Angola on UNCAT, Luanda, Angola, news release here

23 September
CTI lunch with delegates of UN Trust Fund for SIDS and LDCs, Geneva, news release here

1-2 October
Global Seminar on Cooperation and Innovation in policing and law enforcement, Copenhagen, Denmark, news release here

14 October
UNGA74 side-event on professionalising police and preventing torture, New York, news release here

15 October
Briefing and discussion with States members of the CTI Group of Friends, New York

16 October
Briefing and discussion with Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) Ambassadors, New York

20 October
CTI briefing for SIDS and LDC Fellows, Geneva, news release here

4 November
Launch of UNCAT Explainer and Article-by-Article tools, Geneva, news release here

26-28 November
CTI regional seminar for South East Asia and Pacific countries, Bali, Indonesia, news release here

5 December
CTI Statement to commemorate UNCAT’s 35th anniversary, Geneva, news release here
RATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF UNCAT IN THE PACIFIC
6-8 February 2019, Natadola, Fiji

Working in collaboration with the Universal Rights Group (URG) and the Pacific Community’s Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT), the CTI spearheaded a high-level seminar, "Ratification and implementation of the UN Convention against Torture in the Pacific: Supporting Pacific States with processes of legislative review and drafting anti-torture laws or amendments." The seminar brought together Ministers of Justice, Attorneys General and senior level civil servants from 11 Pacific Island States, representatives of the diplomatic community as well as regional and international anti-torture experts to discuss opportunities for ratification and implementation of UNCAT in the Pacific region. Encouraged by the Pacific region’s long-standing tradition of collaboration and mutual support, participants explored good domestic processes, approaches, lessons learned, and challenges encountered while developing anti-torture legal frameworks and implementing safeguards to prevent torture and ill-treatment.

Read the Fiji seminar report here.

MEETING WITH SMALL STATES ON WAYS OF ALLEVIATING THE TREATY BODY REPORTING BURDEN
2 April 2019, Geneva, Switzerland

In partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat and Universal Rights Group (URG), a closed discussion was organized on “Exploring ways of easing the treaty body reporting burden on Small States” at the Commonwealth Small States Office in Geneva. Co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Costa Rica and Switzerland, as two of the countries leading the 2020 Treaty Body reform process, it was attended by representatives of 12 Small States’ Permanent Missions in Geneva. The discussions explored common domestic good practices and challenges related to reporting to UN human rights treaty bodies and among the many recommendations that emerged, participants agreed on improving the coherence and simplification of the reporting process and the need for better predictability in the schedule of reviews, recommendations which are captured in a non-paper that CTI shared and discussed with the UN Committee against Torture during its annual briefing in May 2019.

Read the press release here.
Hosted by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in partnership with the Danish Institute against Torture (DIGNITY), CTI convened its inaugural global seminar, “Cooperation and Innovation in Policing and Law Enforcement: Sharing Experiences and Building Capacity on Criminal Investigation and Law Enforcement Practices” exclusively aimed at high ranking police and other law enforcement officers. The seminar was attended by senior police officials with the rank of commissioner and directors of national police academies from 23 countries who discussed their countries’ experiences, best practices, challenges as well as importance of creating and sustaining secure rule of law architectures that help improve professionalism in policing and other law enforcement agencies. Other salient discussions included the necessity of positioning police and other law enforcement agencies as primary actors and allies in the fight against torture and ill-treatment, how UNCAT’s helpful framework can be used to inform human rights-compliant police work, standardising human rights principles in daily police activities, as well as in establishing sound recruitment, retention and promotion practices and procedures.

Read the global seminar report here.

From left to right: Mr. Anthony Ferguson, Commissioner of Police of the Royal Bahamas Police Force; Mr. Yaagy Akuribah, Director General of the National Patrol Department of the Ghana Police Force; Dr. Alice Edwards, Head of the CTI Secretariat; Ms. Amina Bouayach, President of the National Human Rights Council of Morocco; Dr. Jens Modvig, Chairperson of the UN Committee against Torture.

“Global Seminar participation will enable us to promote changes in our police educational curricula.”

Participant at CTI’s Global Seminar in Copenhagen
Hosted by the Government of Indonesia – a CTI Core State – and in cooperation with the Swiss and Danish governments and the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), participants from throughout Asia-Pacific region joined CTI’s regional seminar “Sharing Experiences and Building State Capacity in South East Asia and the Wider Asia-Pacific Region: Strengthening Institutional and Legislative Frameworks for Effective Law enforcement.” Over 70 participants from 18 Asian and Pacific countries shared their domestic pathways and developments toward ratification of UNCAT and positive ways in which the Convention has been implemented. The seminar supported the significant efforts undertaken by many countries to realise and meet international human rights standards, with a strong focus on developing and strengthening institutional and legislative prevention frameworks to enable more effective law enforcement.

Read the Bali seminar report here.

“\[\text{We plan on knowledge-sharing with the relevant agencies in order to achieve effective law enforcement and strengthen national policing.}\]\n
Participant at CTI’s regional seminar in Bali
CTI carried out three high-level diplomatic and/or technical visits in 2019 to States preparing to ratify the UN Convention against Torture, to the Kingdom of Tonga in February, the Commonwealth of Dominica in April and the Republic of Angola in August. Designed to support and expand the capacity and expertise of State authorities in their preparations to ratify the UN Convention against Torture, these visits allow space for stakeholder consultation and dialogue and assist in identifying priority areas for the first phases of implementation. Following these activities, Angola ratified UNCAT in October 2019, while Dominica accepted recommendations to ratify during its UPR session held in May 2019 and the Kingdom of Tonga has set up a committee to study and prepare for ratification.

In addition, CTI participated in Malaysia’s National Human Rights Commission’s (SUHAKAM) seminar on UNCAT accession, in Kuala Lumpur, and held a series of positive meetings with various government departments.
Participants of CTI’s diplomatic and technical visit to Dominica, including (left to right): H.E. Peter Lehmman Nielsen, Deputy Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations in New York; Ms. Joanne Comodore, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice, National Security and Immigration; H.E. Ramses Joseph Cleland, Ambassador of Ghana to the United Nations in Geneva; Ms. Sylvanie Burton, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Dr. Alice Edwards, Head of CTI Secretariat; and Mr. Jean-Baptiste Niyizurugero, former Africa Programme Director of the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT).

Media interest was high at the CTI-Government of Angola Seminar, held in Luanda in October. The Secretary of State for Interior of Angola, H.E. José Bamoquina Zau, responds to questions.

“The ratification of UNCAT is only the first step. The implementation work will now begin, in order to improve the work of the State in fighting torture and ill-treatment, and to develop the citizens’ trust in the system.”

H.E. Ana Celeste Cardoso Januário, Secretary of State for Human Rights and Citizenship
CTI’s tools and resources document a wide range of operational practice, policy and laws drawn from all regions. They share how States have implemented the Convention and the benefits that it has brought to systems of justice, fairness and efficiency.

See more tools here.

**ANIMATED VIDEO EXPLAINS UNCAT: “WHAT IS UNCAT ALL ABOUT?”**
June 2019

On 26 June, marking the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, CTI released an animated video on the benefits of ratifying and realizing the UN Convention against Torture and Other.

Watch here the video with [English](English) and [French](French) subtitles.

**CTI UNCAT IMPLEMENTATION 6/2019 TOOL ON COOPERATION ON EXTRADITION**
July 2019

The CTI UNCAT Implementation tool comprises 25 examples of country practices; for example, where UNCAT has been used as the basis to extradite suspects, where torture has been included in national laws as an extraditable offence, and other practices concerning custody arrangements, safeguards against refoulement, and extradition reviews.

**CTI UNCAT IMPLEMENTATION 7/2019 TOOL ON PROCEDURES AND MECHANISMS TO HANDLE COMPLAINTS OF AND INVESTIGATIONS INTO TORTURE OR OTHER ILL-TREATMENT**
September 2019

CTI’s Tool on Complaints and Investigations provides 36 country practices related to the establishment of complaint procedures, investigations into allegations of torture and ill-treatment and the adoption of witness protection measures.

**CTI UNCAT EXPLAINER**
November 2019

The UNCAT Explainer groups all the provisions contained in UNCAT under 8 practical areas of implementation: prohibition; prevention; training; review of procedures; investigation, prosecution and punishment; cooperation on extradition; redress; and reporting, with the view to guide and assist States in preparing Cabinet submissions ahead of UNCAT ratification, as well as in supporting operational plans for implementing the Convention.

**CTI UNCAT ARTICLE-BY-ARTICLE**
November 2019

This tool provides an easy-to-read summary of UNCAT’s provisions, drafted in bullet point-style.
AWARENESS
RAISING

"The effective implementation of the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment promotes, inter alia, peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, contributes to access to justice for all, builds effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels and contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals."

General Assembly Resolution on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, A/RES/74/154, adopted on 18 December 2019

OVER THE COURSE OF 2019, CTI HOSTED OR PARTICIPATED IN A NUMBER OF AWARENESS-RAISING EVENTS, INCLUDING:

- **CTI’S HIGH LEVEL SIDE EVENT** focused on the benefits of ratifying UNCAT during the Human Rights Council’s 40th session, and CTI also delivered an Item 3 Statement (March).

- **MEETING WITH HIGH COMMISSIONER BACHELET AND THE CTI AMBASSADORS**, discussing closer collaboration and regional and universal challenges (March).

- **ANNUAL BRIEFINGS TO UN TORTURE-RELATED BODIES**: the UN Committee against Torture (CAT), the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) and the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT), to keep them updated on relevant CTI activities held and explore ways to strengthen mutual collaboration (May, June and October).

- **WORKING LUNCHES WITH DELEGATES FROM THE UN TRUST FUND FOR SIDS AND LDCs** during the 41st and 42nd sessions of the Council, introduced delegates to the global campaign to ratify and implement UNCAT and discussed opportunities and challenges (July and September).

- **A HALF-DAY BRIEFING FOR THE FELLOWS OF THE UN TRUST FUND FOR SIDS AND LDCs** on UNCAT’s main substantive and procedural provisions and the key steps regarding the ratification process (October).

- **A SIDE-EVENT AT UN HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK** with the four UN anti-torture mechanisms (CAT, SPT, the Special Rapporteur on Torture, and UNVFVT) and other experts looked at how UNCAT helps set standards for building professional policing practices and preventing torture” (October).

- **A BREAKFAST BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION WITH LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES**, was hosted by the Chilean Permanent Mission in New York (October).

All such CTI events were aimed to bring to light important issues in the global fight against torture, showcase good practices and develop and hear new thinking and innovation.
“STATES PARTIES IN FOCUS” SERIES

As part of inspiring other States, CTI published two new contributions to the “States Parties in Focus” series.

CHILE IN FOCUS
February 2019

Describes Chile’s pathway to ratifying UNCAT by embracing a culture of respect for human rights and building a strong anti-torture legal framework.

THE BAHAMAS IN FOCUS
May 2019

Highlights The Bahamas’ efforts in strengthening the fair administration of justice and consolidating a national legal framework, serving to inspire other Caribbean countries to join UNCAT.

Find more entries at: https://cti2024.org/en/cti-blog/

GROUP OF FRIENDS

The CTI Group of Friends continues to be a valuable source of expertise, experience and solidarity in the efforts towards universal ratification and implementation of UNCAT. The Group of Friends saw 1 new State join in 2019 (The Bahamas), alongside torture prevention expert Jean-Baptiste Niyizurugero.
PARTNERSHIPS

CTI was proud to continue to be able to count on the partnership with a range of States and organisations in CTI’s events and activities during 2019.

FUNDERS

CTI wishes to thank the direct financial support received in 2019 from the Governments of Denmark, the Kingdom of Morocco, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.
### 2019 RESULTS FRAMEWORK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### RESULT 1: INCREASED UNCAT RATIFICATIONS/ACCESSIONS

**Output indicator**

Through technical support, dialogue and cooperation, the number of States ratifying/acceding to the Convention against Torture increases

**Outputs**

- Through technical support, dialogue and cooperation, the number of States ratifying/acceding to the Convention against Torture increases
- 4 in 2018

---

#### RESULT 2: INCREASED AWARENESS OF BENEFITS OF UNCAT

**Output indicator**

Active bilateral engagement with States on UNCAT ratification/accession and implementation through study visits, in-country delegation visits and technical assistance

**Outputs**

- Bilateral meetings are organized by CTI core States in Geneva and New York with permanent missions and visiting delegations (with up to 10 States)
- 15
- An annual schedule of in-country visits and study visits are carried out that raise awareness, knowledge and capacity of non-States-parties (3 per year)
- 3
- CTI’s “Why ratify UNCAT” is reviewed, updated and shared
- ✔
- Technical advice on the UN Convention against Torture provided
- ✔

---

#### RESULT 3: STRENGTHENED INSTITUTIONAL ENGAGEMENT ON UNCAT OF MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE AND OTHER RELEVANT AGENCIES

**Output indicator**

30 governments represented at senior level participate actively in CTI events

**Outputs**

- 30 governments represented at senior level participate actively in CTI events
- 66
- A series of regional dialogues, designed in collaboration with States and reflecting their needs and interests, and bringing together experts and sharing experiences (2 per year)
- 3
- A number of side-events and other seminars at regional and international levels, including an annual thematic side-event during the UN Human Rights Council high-level segment in Geneva, and during the Third Committee or General Assembly and other opportunities in New York (2 per year)
- 3
- Space for discussion on reporting at relevant events secured (2-3 opportunities per year)
- 3
- Technical support on reporting through experts for newly ratified States and SIDS on initial reports, offered (2 per year)
- ✔
### RESULT 4: INCREASED AWARENESS OF GOOD STATES’ PRACTICES IN RATIFYING AND IMPLEMENTING UNCAT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output indicator</th>
<th>CTI tools sharing technical advice and good State practices developed, translated and disseminated to relevant stakeholders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outputs</td>
<td>CTI's <a href="#">UNCAT Ratification Tool</a> is kept updated and shared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New CTI’s <a href="#">UNCAT Implementation Tools</a> on UNCAT developed, translated and disseminated (up to 3 per year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The CTI website is kept updated, and is a &quot;go-to&quot; repository for tools and good practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A “library” of other language documents created and kept updated on website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seasonal electronic newsletters distributed (3 per year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>An annual report published annually</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>