Annex 9: About the CTI

The Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI)

In March 2014, the Governments of Chile, Denmark, Ghana, Indonesia and Morocco marked the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention against Torture (UNCAT) by launching a ten-year global initiative for the universal ratification and implementation of the Convention.

Vision

By 2024, universal ratification of UNCAT will be a reality. The risk of torture will be reduced as all States parties will be working actively to implement the Convention.

Objectives

The immediate objectives of the CTI are:

- To identify challenges and barriers to ratification and implementation of the UNCAT
- To address these obstacles through inter-State cooperation, assistance and dialogue.
- To become a hub for sharing knowledge and good practices between governments.
- To build a global platform of States, the UN, national and international NGOs and experts to work jointly to achieve the CTI vision.

Operating principles

The work of the CTI is guided by three fundamental principles:

Constructive. The CTI takes a constructive approach to the push for ratification and implementation of UNCAT. It is not the role of CTI to “name and shame” but rather to support Governments in their efforts to pursue ratification of and to implement the Convention.

Twinning. CTI is an initiative by and for Governments, based on mutual respect and equality, seeking to enhance the exchange of experiences and knowledge in order to learn from others with similar challenges – typically in regional settings.

Inspirational. CTI will inspire, not prescribe. CTI will inspire, facilitate and motivate. It will inspire countries by exposing them to the experience of other countries; facilitate by creating a platform for informal meetings with experts and through the development of useful tools; and motivate by highlighting – in the UN and to the public – States’ efforts to ratify and implement the Convention.

Organisation

The Initiative is spearheaded by the Governments of Chile, Denmark, Ghana, Indonesia and Morocco and supported by a full-time Secretariat, based in Geneva.

The Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) is designated to support the development of the CTI.

All UN Member States and relevant NGOs, experts and academia are invited to join the CTI’s Group of Friends. The Group of Friends will serve as a network for the exchange of knowledge, experience and ideas on how to overcome obstacles to ratification and implementation of the UNCAT and will be engaged in the CTI through participation in annual meetings and events in Geneva and New York.

The CTI Forum is the main annual event of the CTI and will provide a unique multi-stakeholder platform for sustained and informal exploration of the challenges related to UNCAT ratification and implementation. The CTI has the capacity to organise technical or capacity building support missions or visits to countries, as well as Geneva-based study visits.

The CTI’s website, www.cti2024.org, provides an important repository of tools and information on CTI activities.