

**UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**27th Session – Item 3 General Debate**

**Joint Statement by Chile, Denmark, Ghana, Indonesia and Morocco**

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. President,

I have the pleasure of speaking on behalf of the Core group behind the Convention against Torture Initiative: Chile, Denmark, Indonesia, Ghana and Morocco.

“All Member States of the United Nations have pledged to achieve the promise of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Torture is never, under any circumstances justified”.

These were the introductory words, when Chile, Denmark, Ghana, Indonesia and Morocco earlier this year launched the Convention against Torture Initiative – *the CTI*.

Allow me to give the Council and update on our progress with the initiative since March.

CTI is a global initiative which focuses on long term support, regional and inter-state cooperation as the way ahead for achieving universal ratification and implementation of the Convention against Torture within the next 10 years.

CTI is driven by Governments and will work for Governments. Our idea is to support each other finding solutions to challenges we share when it comes to ratification and implementation.

Since its launch in March 2014, the CTI has been working to engage a broader group of UN member states as well as other essential stakeholders. A CTI Forum was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2014 bringing together representatives from 18 States from all regions of the world as well as leading UN experts – including the Special Rapporteur on Torture, the Chair of the Committee against Torture and the Chair of the Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture.

The Forum pointed to CTI’s potential added value as: 1) a vehicle to publicly highlight the good work and progress being achieved by individual governments on torture prevention; 2) as a knowledge hub, collecting and developing best practices, guidelines etc. to facilitate government efforts to ratify and implement UNCAT; and 3) as a facilitator of technical assistance and peer-to-peer advice to governments in relation to ratification and implementation of UNCAT.

Furthermore, a side event launching a CTI Group of Friends was held on the second day of this Council session gathering representatives from 30 states, UN experts, academia and civil society. We are very pleased to warmly welcome already Tunisia, Norway, and Togo in the Group of Friends, and hereby reiterate our invitation to all UN member states to support the initiative by joining the Government Group of Friends.

Finally, we will be inviting all member states for a CTI high level side event during the UN General Assembly in New York on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September.

In the coming months, we will develop strategies and further activities for the CTI. And we will develop our thinking on how to measure progress in the area of ratification and implementation of the Convention. We invite this Council and all UN member states to engage with us to find effective strategies for progress.

Mr. President

No State stands alone in the fight against torture. None of us pretend that we have no homework to do when it comes to implementing the Convention against Torture. With this Initiative, we take a constructive approach and ask: what can we do to help each other?

I thank you, Mr. President