



CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE INITIATIVE  
CTI2024.ORG

2018-2020

# STRATEGY

To support States to ratify and implement  
the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel,  
Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment



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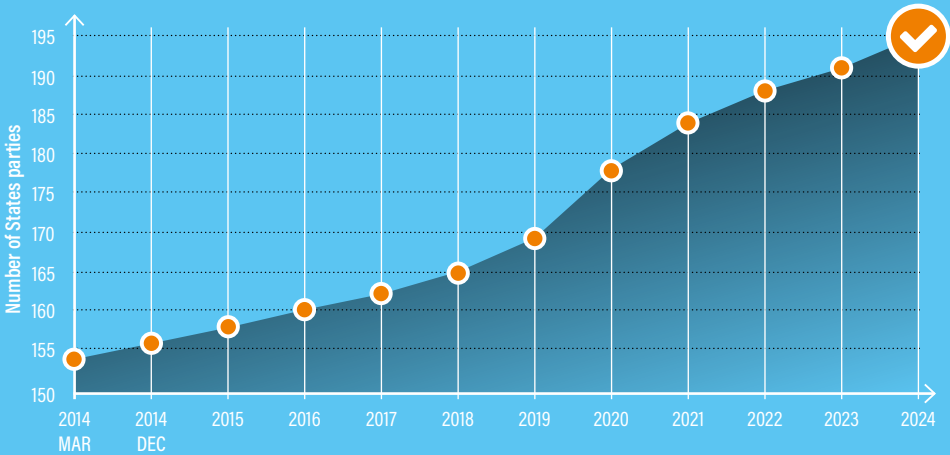


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# OUR VISION

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

## UNIVERSAL RATIFICATION



# OPERATING PRINCIPLES



## **C**onstructive

The CTI is an initiative by States for States, through which experiences and good practices can be shared in a constructive (“no name, no shame”) way. This collaborative approach allows States to discuss sensitive issues that they may not otherwise be prepared to discuss in other settings. It is clear that no State has a perfect record in this area, and acknowledging this has helped CTI support frank and positive discussions.

## **T**winning

CTI seeks to enhance the exchange of experiences and knowledge between States in order to learn from others with similar challenges, usually through regional or sub-regional settings, and based on equality between States and mutual respect.

## **I**nspirational

CTI aims to inspire, facilitate and motivate by exposing the positive experiences of other countries through peer-to-peer bilateral and multilateral engagement and the development of practical tools. CTI will also motivate by highlighting – in the UN and to the public – States’ efforts to ratify and implement the Convention.

# WHO WE ARE



The Initiative is comprised of the Governments of Chile, Denmark, Ghana, Indonesia and Morocco and supported by a full-time [Secretariat](#), based in Geneva.

The CTI's [Group of Friends](#) is a network based on cooperation, allowing for the exchange of knowledge, experience and ideas regarding how best to overcome obstacles to ratification and/or implementation of UNCAT. The Group of Friends is open to all UN Member States, with invited participation from international organisations, NGOs and independent experts.

The [Association for the Prevention of Torture](#) (APT) is a strategic partner of the CTI, collaborating and advising the CTI on its activities.





International  
cooperation

Regional  
seminars

Technical  
workshops

Country  
visits

## STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES



### Geneva

Geneva is the starting point for the work of the CTI as the human rights home of the United Nations, providing bilateral and multilateral opportunities for awareness-raising, information-sharing and promoting ratification<sup>1</sup> and implementation of UNCAT. Entry points include the [Universal Periodic Review \(UPR\)](#), the Human Rights Council, and the deliberations of the three torture mandate holders, the UN Committee against Torture (CAT), the Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Torture and the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture. CTI will also keep in touch with the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and relevant divisions of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), including the capacity-building initiative, to identify synergies and opportunities.



### New York

The United Nations in New York's Third Committee and agendas including security, counter-terrorism, policing and development mean that the CTI needs to know and be oriented to the important discussions taking place there. The priority given to the anti-torture agenda by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Mr. Andrew Gilmore, has brought a renewed focus to New York. The UN in New York is also a key location for bilateral discussions with UN Member States that do not have permanent missions in Geneva. At the first States' Group of Friends

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<sup>1</sup> This strategy uses the term 'ratification' throughout to refer both to ratification and accession. Both are allowed under the Convention.



meeting held in New York in June 2017, there were a number of recommendations from CTI's friends for increased action in New York and some are reflected in this strategy. Aligning approaches between Geneva and New York was considered to be a helpful role the CTI might play.

## Collaboration through friendship and partnership

Collaboration and partnerships are an integral part of the CTI's operating philosophy. CTI has been working closely with a wide group of States in all regions. A diverse number of NGOs and independent experts have also joined the [CTI's Friends](#), bringing their wealth of expertise and commitment to the issues at hand. CTI will continue to collaborate with its Friends, as together we show that achieving complete ratification and improved implementation of the Convention is a universal and worthwhile goal.



## Enhancing capital-level engagement

For many States, there is no substitute for direct discussions at national level, allowing for deeper understanding and identification of national opportunities for UNCAT ratification as well as ways to overcome any obstacles. Such engagement builds positive relations with relevant ministers, government departments and other interlocutors. For the period 2018-20, CTI will therefore annually plan an

enhanced programme of visits to non-States-parties guided by careful analysis and the needs and requests of governments. Such visits offer both diplomatic solidarity and technical expertise. CTI will also conduct annually a number of seminars to accompany such visits or as stand-alone events, at the request of governments. Such seminars are primarily for non-States-parties and newly ratifying States.

CTI will use its network of diplomatic presences as well as those of its Friends to discuss and encourage UNCAT ratification.

## Regional peer-to-peer exchanges

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As a cross-regional initiative, the CTI core States see the strategic advantages of regional and sub-regional exchanges between States that share legal traditions, practical similarities and friendship. This approach will continue in particular through bilateral diplomacy and the annual programme of seminars, while there will also be consideration given to enhancing dialogue between non-geographical groupings, such as fostering greater opportunities for South-South exchanges, within and amongst Commonwealth countries, and engaging with the important group of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) including cross-regionally when useful and relevant.

## Regional awareness-raising

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CTI has partnered with a number of regional organisations (ASEAN, ACHPR and the CPTA, the Council of Europe, the OSCE) in the design and delivery of CTI's programme of regional seminars, and will continue to do so during 2018-20. In addition, CTI will seek to raise greater awareness of the Convention at the sessions of regional organisations, where relevant.

## Global awareness-raising

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In addition to Geneva- and New York-based events (noted above), as a multi-stakeholder platform for information sharing and exploring challenges and good practices, the CTI core States will host an Annual Forum, to keep CTI's Friends and others informed of progress and achievements and to highlight and to canvass key global issues and developments.

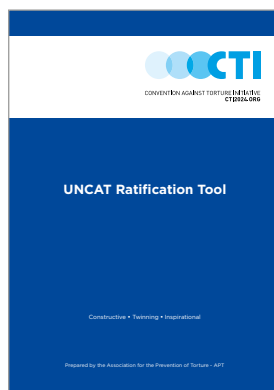


In 2019, at the fifth anniversary of the CTI and the 35th anniversary of UNCAT, a special global event will be held in Copenhagen to profile the work of States in ratifying and implementing the Convention, and to keep the CTI's vision high on international agendas and in the public view.

## Offering technical advice

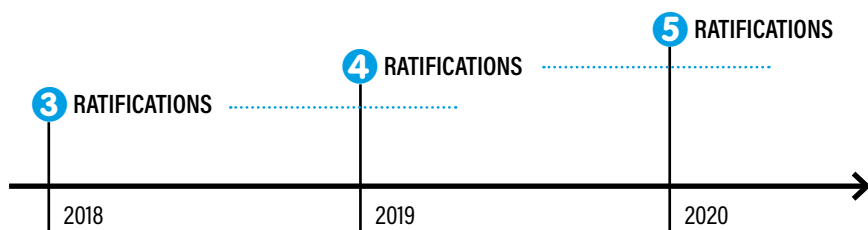
The CTI is supported by a full-time Secretariat, based in Geneva, which provides strategic, policy and technical advice to the core States and Friends, and is responsible for guiding the annual programme of activities, through:

- raising awareness and knowledge through developing, publishing and disseminating [ratification and implementation tools](#);
- understanding, analysing and exploring the challenges and opportunities for ratification and finding opportunities for engagement and collaboration;
- coordinating, designing and participating in the programme of diplomatic and/or technical in-country visits and seminars, study visits to Geneva for visiting inter-ministerial delegations, as well as CTI's major regional events, technical workshops and other events;
- hosting a platform for information and knowledge dissemination through CTI's website, [www.cti2024.org](http://www.cti2024.org).



In 2018-20, the CTI Secretariat will bolster its capacity to support States through:

- acting as a “remote help desk” for technical queries relating to ratification or implementation from States;
- acting as a “referral service” to connect State requests for support with appropriate partners and friends, where the CTI Secretariat is not best placed to support or advise;
- partnering with a diverse range of partners and experts to bring the most up-to-date knowledge, analysis and expertise to bear on the work of CTI.



## ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL RATIFICATION



Since the launch of the CTI in 2014 and publication of this Strategy, 10 additional States have ratified/acceded to the Convention.<sup>2</sup> Two new States joined the Convention in 2018. The total number of UNCAT States parties is 164. Of the remaining 31 non-States-parties, 7 have already signed the Convention.



While the number of States parties continues to rise gradually (two per year on average) and while the CTI and its partners have been building good momentum, there will need to be a statistical uptick in ratifications per year in order to reach CTI’s goal of universal ratification by 2024, and this will require deeper and broader engagement to raise awareness, address concerns and challenges, and better promote the [benefits of ratification](#). CTI will also work with States to remove any remaining reservations to the treaty.

The majority of States that are still to ratify are Small Island Developing States (SIDS), with over 50% located in the Caribbean (9) and the Pacific (8). CTI is keen to offer its support to these States to deliver on accepted UPR recommendations to ratify UNCAT, while acknowledging challenges regarding resource and personnel capacity, also in relation to timely and meaningful reporting to the UN Committee against Torture (see further [below](#) under “Towards effective implementation”). Eighteen (18) of the 31 non-States-parties are members of the Commonwealth,

<sup>2</sup> The new States parties are in alphabetical order: Central African Republic, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Comoros, Eritrea, Fiji, Marshall Islands, São Tomé and Príncipe, South Sudan, State of Palestine, and Viet Nam

suggesting the CTI should draw closer support from its Commonwealth partners. Africa is the region that has seen the highest number of recent ratifications, and as such is poised in the CTI's view to be the first region outside Europe to achieve regional universality, with only five States left to ratify. CTI will also follow up on opportunities in Asia and the Middle East; and in all regions, CTI will work to foster stronger links with regional and sub-regional organisations and the UN, wherever relevant and useful.

**UPR** Along with other criteria, the UPR will continue to guide and indicate political will to ratify UNCAT. CTI will engage with States regarding meeting their voluntary commitments. During the first and second cycles, ratification of UNCAT and improved implementation on torture-related themes were in the [top 5 recommendations](#) made by States to other States. In the years ahead, CTI core States will continue to reach out to States, in particular during the period leading up to and following their UPR.

CTI's engagement in 2018-20 will entail raising awareness and building knowledge and technical capacity of non-States-parties through bilateral engagement in Geneva and New York, as well as through an enhanced schedule of diplomatic visits to countries, inviting inter-ministerial delegations to Geneva to study the Convention with a view to prepare for ratification and implementation, or designing tailored programmes of technical assistance and seminars upon request.

CTI will keep its [tools supporting ratification updated](#), and expand its [blog series](#) which shares States' experiences of ratifying and implementing the Convention with the hope to inspire other States. Where relevant to particular countries or regions, CTI will explain the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT), encourage accession and share experiences regarding such matters as prison reform and the preventive role of monitoring.

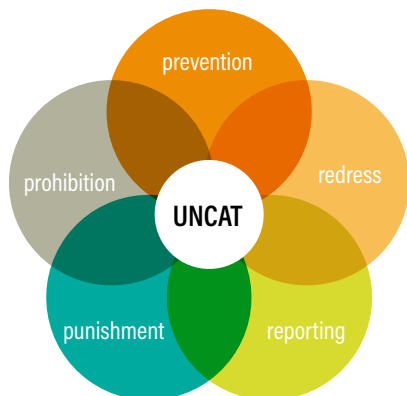


CTI core States will enlist their networks of diplomatic presences in relevant countries as well as cooperate with CTI States' Friends in different countries to promote ratification. Putting the Convention on the agenda of regional organisations will be pursued, where relevant.

# TOWARDS EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION



## PRINCIPAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE UNCAT



In working with States to prevent and eradicate torture, it is necessary to understand the conditions that allow it to occur, and how and why it persists. Research shows that a combination of political, economic, legal, cultural and social processes and structures create the conditions conducive to its use. As individuals who torture or abuse their position of power are only one part of a complex bureaucracy, any approaches to preventing torture and ill-treatment should address all aspects that contribute to the overall process that permits such practices. At the

centre of CTI's approach is UNCAT: UNCAT guides States, step-by-step, on how to put in place policies, legislation and prevention responses, with ample flexibility for States to tailor them to their national constitutional, legal and practical realities. CTI will keep up to date with the latest research and design its regional seminars and other activities to address the root causes of ill-treatment.

The CTI will support States to address implementation challenges through its regional dialogue format, as well as through technical workshops and tools. The focus of such activities will be guided by the interests, needs and shared challenges across regions. The [CTI Ratification and Implementation Strategy 2016-17](#) identified three thematic priorities: 1. Supporting States to adopt or amend national laws in compliance with the Convention, 2. Supporting States to prevent torture in the first hours of police custody through improved safeguards and investigative interviewing techniques, and 3. Improving reporting to the UN Committee against Torture, in particular for newly ratifying States. CTI also held a number of events focused on rehabilitation for victims of torture. CTI will continue to work with States on the three priority themes from 2016-17, and rehabilitation, as relevant to particular regions.

There are though many other areas relevant to the fight against ill-treatment that may be relevant and of interest to particular regions or groups of countries, such as prison overcrowding and conditions, juvenile justice, the link between corruption and violent government practices, security/counter-terrorism, and other aspects of the justice sector that may support abusive practices, such as the failure of courts to apply the exclusionary rule that prohibits torture-tainted evidence to be admitted in proceedings. In 2018-20, CTI will take account of these issues in the design of its regional events, and build on its existing set of implementation tools to cover additional areas of interest to States. The [reports](#) from CTI's regional meetings will further serve as a source of good State practices and recommendations for action.



In 2018-20, CTI will remain available to support newly ratifying States in submitting their initial report to the UN Committee against Torture (per Article 19, UNCAT). CTI will also extend this support to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) that may be delayed in their initial reports. Although a State's initial report is key to show resolve after ratification and to plan for implementation, it is also a notable barrier to ratification for some countries, owing to limited resource and/or personnel capacities. For these reasons, CTI will also raise awareness of good practices in this area including through disseminating CTI's [implementation tool on reporting](#). This work will be closely coordinated with the OHCHR's capacity building initiative.

# COMMUNICATIONS



CTI's website, [www.cti2024.org](http://www.cti2024.org), provides a repository of tools and information on ratification and implementation, in a simple uncluttered format, with nearly 3,400 unique users. The website will post major CTI news items and generate an e-newsletter seasonally for those registered. Given efforts to translate CTI materials and resources into multiple languages, CTI will add a "library" of CTI materials and resources available in other languages. The CTI will also continue to build and maintain a social presence via:



[@cti2024](https://twitter.com/cti2024)



[facebook.com/CTI2024](https://facebook.com/CTI2024)

# FINANCIAL POSITION



The CTI is in a secure financial position thanks to the support of its major donors and supporters. Specific project fundraising may be sought to respond to particular requests from States, and the CTI is open to receiving funding in partnership for particular projects. For requests from States where CTI is not in a position to respond, the CTI Secretariat will play a role in twinning the request with other organisations, partners or governments taking into account mutual interest and capacity.

# MONITORING AND EVALUATION



As part of efforts to monitor, evaluate and report on progress towards universal ratification and improved implementation, updates will be provided to the Group of Friends, a public annual report will be prepared by the CTI Secretariat, and an annual forum will bring together CTI Friends to discuss progress and opportunities.

See annex

# ANNUAL CALENDARS OF EVENTS



This strategy will be updated in 2021, or as otherwise required. Annual calendars of events will be published at [www.cti2024.org](http://www.cti2024.org).

**June 2018**

# ANNEX: RESULTS FRAMEWORK



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	3 in 2018
	4 in 2019
	5 in 2020

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)
	An annual schedule of in-country visits and study visits are carried out that raise awareness, knowledge and capacity of States (3 per year)
	CTI's " <a href="#">10 good reasons to ratify</a> " is reviewed, updated and shared
	An animated video on UNCAT is developed and released (2019)
	Technical advice on the UN Convention against Torture provided (10 States per year)
	The experiences of more States parties are shared through the <a href="#">CTI blog series</a> (1-2 per year)



**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	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)
	A series of regional and sub-regional technical workshops on legislative drafting for anti-torture laws (1-2 per year)
	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, Geneva, and during the Third Committee or General Assembly and other opportunities in New York (2-3 per year)
	Space for discussion on reporting at relevant events secured (2-3 opportunities per year)
	Technical support on reporting through experts for newly ratified States and SIDS on initial reports, offered (2 per year)
	CTI's <a href="#">UNCAT Implementation Tool on Reporting</a> translated and disseminated

**RESULT 4:**

## Increased awareness of good States' practices in ratifying and implementing UNCAT

Output indicator

CTI tools sharing technical advice and good State practices developed, translated and disseminated to relevant stakeholders

Outputs

CTI's [UNCAT Ratification Tool](#) is kept updated and shared

New CTI's [UNCAT Implementation Tools](#) on UNCAT developed, translated and disseminated (up to 3 per year)

The CTI website is kept updated, and is a "go-to" repository for tools and good practices

A "library" of other language documents created and kept updated on website

Seasonal electronic newsletters distributed (3 per year)

An annual report published annually

CTI's Annual Forum is convened

A major global forum to inspire ratification and implementation, and to keep UNCAT on the agendas of all States as the Convention marks its 35<sup>th</sup> birthday and the CTI reaches the half-way point held, Copenhagen, Denmark, June 2019



# STRATEGY



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