

CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE INITIATIVE
CTI2024.ORG

THE UN CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL,
INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT:
**SHARING EXPERIENCES OF RATIFICATION,
LEGISLATIVE REFORM AND REPORTING**

1 – 3 December 2020

**CTI ONLINE REGIONAL
WORKSHOP (Zoom)**
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH
CARIBBEAN



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CTI Online Regional Workshop for the
Commonwealth Caribbean

The UN Convention against Torture and Other
Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or
Punishment: Sharing experiences of ratification,
legislative reform and reporting



CONCEPT NOTE

- 1 Building on the Convention against Torture Initiative's (CTI) past activities in the Caribbean and in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, CTI and its partners are offering an **online technical workshop on the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT, or the Convention)**, with the aim to support Commonwealth Caribbean governments towards ratifying and implementing the Convention.
- 2 Made up of stable democratic countries committed to human rights, the rule of law and the fair administration of justice, there is growing interest amongst Commonwealth Caribbean countries in joining the UN Convention against Torture and awareness of the benefits it can bring to delivering justice, maintaining order and sustaining peaceful communities. Seven of the twelve Commonwealth Caribbean States are party to UNCAT, with The Bahamas, Grenada and St Kitts and Nevis being the newest States parties. The region has many good laws, policies, institutions and practices to share that intersect with the Convention's goals to prevent and respond to incidents of torture and related forms of ill-treatment. At the same time, like other regions, there remain challenges.
- 3 Having an anti-torture legal framework in place is an important foundational element of strong rule of law based systems. Criminalising torture as a specific offence, for example, sends a strong signal to citizens and authorities alike that such

practices are not tolerated, and acts as a legislative form of prevention; likewise, procedural rules and safeguards can help guide the conduct of relevant actors and grow professionalism within the uniform services.

- 4 Although legislative compliance with UNCAT is not required ahead of ratifying the treaty, undertaking legislative "stocktaking" is often a preparatory step for Cabinet submissions on treaty ratification. Such stocktaking is also an important exercise for States parties as they plan implementation priorities and are required to report to the UN Committee against Torture. Such exercises help identify not only compatibility with UNCAT but can also catalyse domestic priorities in matters relating to criminal justice reform.
- 5 The CTI has been working closely with a number of Caribbean governments – bilaterally as well as through regional seminars – over the past few years to support activities towards UNCAT ratification and implementation in the region. In April 2017, CTI and the Government of Chile hosted a regional seminar for Latin American and Caribbean States in Santiago, Chile, on "[Implementing the UN Convention against Torture in Latin America and the Caribbean: Sharing experiences of national legislative and institutional frameworks](#)", which saw the participation of 22 States including eight Caribbean countries.¹ In June 2018, CTI held its second regional

event for Caribbean countries in Saint Lucia, on "[Sharing experiences and building capacity in the Caribbean: The Fair Administration of Justice and the UN Convention against Torture](#)", involving the participation of 10 Caribbean States, including five at ministerial level.²

OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR

- 6 Under the overall goals to support regional cooperation and strengthen State capacity, the objectives of the Seminar are to:
 - Share good practices and success stories, as well as challenges, in constructing effective legislative and institutional prevention frameworks;
 - Exchange on methods for the further professionalisation of the police and law enforcement, with a focus on procedural safeguards and investigative interviewing;
 - Identify concrete proposals for the way forward to further strengthen capacity of law enforcement to contribute to a culture of prevention domestically, and in the region.

¹ The participating Caribbean States were: Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Belize, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname.

² The participating Caribbean States were: Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

FINAL PROGRAMME



DAY 1: 1 DECEMBER 2020 ALL TIMES ARE IN GMT-4 (LOCAL TIME IN GRENADA)

9:00-09:30

PRE-OPENING SESSION (PARTICIPANTS TO CONNECT TO THE ZOOM PLATFORM)

NB: This is 8 AM the Bahamas time; 9 AM Grenada time; 1 PM UK time; 2 PM Switzerland time; 4 PM Uganda time

9:30-10:05

HIGH LEVEL OPENING: INSPIRING PROGRESS AND SOLIDARITY

Welcome from hosts (Grenada, Chile/CTI) and the UN Committee against Torture

Learning outcome/Purpose

Hear about the host country's experiences of ratifying and implementing the UN Convention against Torture, and benefits of the Convention and progress towards a torture-free world from the perspective of the UN Committee against Torture.

High-level Speakers:

- **Hon. Oliver Joseph**, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and CARICOM Affairs of Grenada
- **H.E. Carolina Valdivia**, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Chile
- **Dr. Jens Modvig**, Chairperson of the UN Committee against Torture
- **Moderator: Dr. Alice Edwards**, Head of CTI Secretariat

10:05-10:30

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION FROM THE CO-ORGANISERS

Learning outcome/Purpose

Setting out the purpose and goals of the training, and the support available.

Speakers:

- **Dr. Alice Edwards**, Head of CTI Secretariat
- **Dr. Tawanda Hondora**, Head of Human Rights Unit, Commonwealth Secretariat
- **Mr. Rupert Skilbeck**, Director of REDRESS

10:40-11:20

SESSION 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE UN CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE UNCAT: KEY SUBSTANTIVE PROVISIONS: 20' BY MS. JULIE BARDÈCHE

Presentation and Showing of CTI's video on UNCAT

Brainstorming session on sample legislative provisions: 15' facilitated by Mr. Rupert Skilbeck

5' Recap by REDRESS

Learning outcome/Purpose

Gain an understanding of the scope and obligations under UNCAT and its legislative requirements with reference to some good national laws, legislative review processes and highlighting some challenges.

Speakers:

- **Ms. Julie Bardèche**, REDRESS Legal Advisor
- **Mr. Rupert Skilbeck**, Director of REDRESS

11:20-11:30 COFFEE/TEA BREAK

11:30-12:30

SESSION 2: INTRODUCTION TO LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING: 25'

Roundtable: exchange of good laws and identifying gaps in legislation facilitated: 30'

Recap and conclusions: 5'

Learning outcome/Purpose

Understand the basic principles of good legislative drafting in Caribbean countries and refresh on the techniques of legislative drafting. This interactive session will include examples of good legal drafting (sample provisions) and participants will participate in some exercises.

Participants will each mention 3 positive laws or provisions in their legal systems and identify at least one key challenge or gap in their legislation.

Speakers:

- **Ms. Olive Zaale Otete**, Legislative drafting consultant, Uganda
- **Ms. Ruth Ssekindi**, Director for Monitoring and Inspections, Uganda Human Rights Commission
- **Dr. Justin Pettit**, Human Rights Adviser, Commonwealth Secretariat

DAY 2: 2 DECEMBER 2020 ALL TIMES ARE IN GMT-4 (LOCAL TIME IN GRENADA)

9:20-9:30

OPENING SESSION: ENABLING PARTICIPANTS TO CONNECT

NB: This is 8:20 AM the Bahamas time; 9:20 AM Grenada time; 1:20 PM UK time; 2:20 PM Switzerland time; 4:20 PM Uganda time

9:30-09:50

ROUNDTABLE OF EXPECTATIONS FOR DAY 2

Including feedback session for all participants on day one, lessons learned so far, and expectations for Day 2.

Facilitators:

- **Ms. Julie Bardèche**, REDRESS Legal Advisor

9:50-10:50

SESSION 3: BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Presentation by the facilitator: 5'

Exercise/discussion: 40' in the following breakout groups:

Group 1: Legislative Drafting for UNCAT States Parties

Building on the legislative requirements of UNCAT and, using previously circulated country legislation notes, participants will identify gaps in their own national legal frameworks, priorities for specific reforms and options/processes for filling these gaps.

Experiences from other countries will also be explored, including Uganda.

Facilitators:

- **Ms. Ruth Ssekindi**, Expert from Uganda
- **Ms. Olive Zaale Otete**, Legislative drafter from Uganda

Extra resource person: **Ms. Laura Blanco**, CTI Legal Officer

Group 2: Cabinet Submissions and Legislative Review Processes to support Ratification/Accession to UNCAT: for UNCAT Non-State Parties

Using previously circulated sample Cabinet submission materials, country legislation notes and CTI's UNCAT Ratification Tool, participants will be able to identify the main elements and arguments to be included in Cabinet submissions proposing UNCAT ratification/accession, as well as guiding decisions on reservations/declarations.

Experiences from other countries will also be explored, including the Bahamas.

Facilitators:

- **Ms. Jewel Major**, Chief Counsel, Office of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs, Commonwealth of the Bahamas
- **Mr. Steve Onwuasoanya**, Human Rights Adviser, Commonwealth Secretariat

Extra resource persons:

- **Dr. Alice Edwards**, Head of CTI Secretariat
- **Mr. Othman Boucetta**, CTI Adviser

10:50-11:00

COFFEE/TEA BREAK

11:00-12:00

SESSION 4: REPORTING TO THE UN COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE BY MS. MICHELLE BRATHWAITE: 30'

Brainstorming session on reporting: 20'

Recap and Q/A: 10'

Learning outcome/Purpose

Gain a better understanding of reporting timeframes, procedures and content of reports to the UN Committee against Torture and good practices and recommendations.

Facilitators:

- **Ms. Michelle Brathwaite**, National Human Rights Adviser, Resident Coordinator's Office for Barbados and the OECS, OHCHR

12:00-12:05

CONCLUSION OF DAY 2:

REDRESS

DAY 3: 3 DECEMBER 2020 ALL TIMES ARE IN GMT-4 (LOCAL TIME IN GRENADA)

9:50-10:00

ENABLING PARTICIPANTS TO CONNECT

NB: This is 8:50 AM the Bahamas time; 9:50 AM Grenada time; 1:50 PM UK time; 2:50 PM Switzerland time; 4:50 PM Uganda time.

10:00-10:30

LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING, CABINET SUBMISSIONS AND LEGISLATIVE REVIEW PROCESSES: BEST PRACTICES AND TAKE-AWAYS FROM SESSION 3/ BREAKOUT GROUPS, RECAPPING AND Q/A

Learning outcome/Purpose

The moderator of each breakout session summarises the main take-away messages of the session with the assistance of the participants. Followed by a Q/A..

 **Facilitator:** Dr. Alice Edwards, Head of CTI Secretariat

 **Reporters:** Ms. Olive Zaale Otete; Ms Ruth Ssekindi; Ms Jewel Major, the Commonwealth Secretariat.

10:30-11:30

SESSION 5: WAY FORWARD FOR BUILDING STRONG ANTI-TORTURE LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AND CARIBBEAN-WIDE RATIFICATION/ACCESSION TO UNCAT

Each participant will summarise key lessons learnt from the workshop; and propose a way forward for their country towards ratification and/or implementation of UNCAT. Participants will also share requests and suggestions for additional capacity building or technical support.

 **Moderator:** Mr. Rupert Skilbeck, Director of REDRESS

 **Concluding remarks from the co-organisers:**

Dr. Alice Edwards, Head of CTI Secretariat

Mr. Steve Onwuasoanya, Human Rights Adviser, Commonwealth Secretariat

11:30-11:45

COFFEE/TEA BREAK

11:45-12:00

CLOSURE

Closing remarks by CTI Ambassadors.

 **Speakers:**

- **H.E. Ramses Joseph Cleland**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ghana to the UN in Geneva
- **H.E. Frank Tressler**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Chile to the UN in Geneva

 **Moderator:** Dr. Alice Edwards, Head of CTI Secretariat

Surveys on expectations will be sent prior to the workshop.

Post-workshop survey: these will be sent after the workshop.

One-on-one follow-up consultations will be organised in the weeks following the workshop.

SPEAKERS' AND CHAIRS' BIOGRAPHIES



(In alphabetical order)



JULIE BARDÈCHE

Legal Advisor, REDRESS

Julie is a legal advisor at REDRESS since 2018. Prior to REDRESS, she worked as a Legal Officer for the International Co-Investigating Judge at UNAKRT in Cambodia for five years. There, she worked on four different investigations relating to allegations of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Between 2011 and 2013, she practiced at the Paris (France) Bar for two years, where she represented asylum seekers and practiced criminal law, amongst others. She also worked on developing legislative frameworks for public private partnerships, and white collar crimes, as well as on regional human rights cases in West Africa. She has an LLM in Human Rights, Conflict and Justice at SOAS, and a Master's in Public International Law at Paris 2 Panthéon-Assas.



MICHELLE BRATHWAITE

**National Human Rights Adviser,
Office of UN Resident Coordinator
for Barbados and the OECS**

Ms. Brathwaite is the National Human Rights Adviser in the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the OECS. Ms. Brathwaite serves as the primary United Nations human rights focal point for Barbados and the OECS. In her role, Ms. Brathwaite works with Eastern Caribbean governments to better engage the United Nations international human rights system, to implement international human rights obligations, and to increase awareness around human rights issues in the Caribbean region.

Ms. Brathwaite was raised in Barbados where she attended primary and secondary school. She earned an International Baccalaureate from the Armand Hammer United World College of the American West and went on to receive a bachelor's degree from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, U.S.A. and a law degree from the University of Southern California.

After graduating law school, Ms. Brathwaite worked for a number of years as a corporate transactional lawyer in California and as a legal consultant in Barbados, California and Toronto.

H. E. RAMSES JOSEPH CLELAND



**Permanent Representative of
Ghana to the United Nations in
Geneva**

Ambassador Cleland was appointed as Ghana's Ambassador to Switzerland and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva in 2017.

Ambassador Cleland has been working as a diplomat since he joined the Ghanaian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration in 1989. Since that date, he has been posted at the Embassies of Ghana in France (1996-2000), Brazil (2002-2003), Côte d'Ivoire (2003-2006), Ireland (2008-2009), the United Kingdom (2006-2012) and Togo (2016-2017).

In Accra, Ambassador Cleland worked as the Director of the Europe Bureau (2013-2016), and Acting Director of the Policy Planning and Research Bureau (2006-2007) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration. He also worked in the Protocol Bureau (1989-1994), the State Protocol Department (1992-94 and 2001-2), and the Americas Bureau (2000-2001). Regionally, he worked as a Research Assistant within the Office of the Chairman of the African Union Commission, President J.A Kufuor of Ghana, in 2007-8.

He holds an LLB from the University of London, BPP School of Law and was called to the Ghana Bar in 2017. He also holds a Master of International Humanitarian Law Degree from the Geneva Academy.



ALICE EDWARDS

Head of CTI Secretariat

Dr. Edwards has been Head of the Convention against Torture Initiative Secretariat since January 2016, providing strategic and policy advice to the CTI Core States and delivering the annual

programme of bilateral and multilateral diplomacy. Dr. Edwards has over 20 years' experience working in the human rights and social justice sectors. Prior to taking up her CTI appointment, she was the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' Chief of Protection Policy and Legal Advice, based in Geneva. She has held academic appointments in law at the universities of Oxford and Nottingham and is widely published. She has worked in diverse countries with the United Nations and non-governmental organisations, such as in Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Morocco, Mozambique, Rwanda, Switzerland and the UK (the latter with Amnesty International).

She holds degrees in law and political science from the University of Tasmania (UTAS), an LLM (Distinction/1st class) in Public International Law from the University of Nottingham, and obtained a PhD in Public International Law from the Australian National University. She is admitted to practice as a barrister and solicitor before the Supreme Court of Victoria and the High Court of Australia.



TAWANDA HONDORA

**Head of Human Rights Unit,
Commonwealth Secretariat**

Dr. Tawanda Hondora is the Head of the Rule of Law and Human Rights Departments at The Commonwealth Secretariat in London. He is an experienced lawyer with

both private legal practice and in-house experience in Zimbabwe and England and Wales. Tawanda has extensive experience in the international human rights sector and has an exceptional track record of delivering change and meaningful results for international organisations. He previously worked as an Investments Director at Humanity United and as Head of Strategic Litigation at Amnesty International, among other senior human rights roles. Most recently, he was the Executive Director of World Federalist Movement – Institute for Global Policy (WFM-IGP), an organization that acts as the Secretariat for the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) and the International Coalition on the Responsibility to Protect, among other coalitions.



HON. OLIVER JOSEPH, MP

**Minister of Foreign Affairs,
International Business
and CARICOM Affairs**

Hon. Oliver Joseph joined Grenada Public Service in 1982. He served in various positions including Director of Trade in 1999 and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs from August 2006 to October 2009. He was an active Trade Unionist, having served as 1st Vice President of the Public Workers' Union and General Secretary of the Grenada Trades Union Council.

Mr. Joseph was an adjunct lecturer in Economics at the T.A. Marryshow Community College and a tutor at the University of the West Indies Open Campus. On the 1st of November 2009, he was seconded to the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD) as Integration Specialist, where he served for three years. Mr. Joseph was elected as a Member of Parliament for St. David's on the 19th February 2013. He held the portfolios of Minister for Economic Development, Trade, Planning & Co-operatives. He was re-elected to the House of Representatives on the 13th March 2018 and assigned the portfolios of Minister for Trade, Industry, Co-operatives and Caricom Affairs.

He is a graduate of the University of The West Indies (UWI). Mr. Joseph holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and Management, Diploma in Trade Policy and a Master's Degree in International Trade. He has also received specialized training in Trade Negotiations from the World Trade Organization, Training Institute.



JEWEL MAJOR

Chief Counsel, Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs of the Bahamas

Ms. Major provides leadership to the organization of the Transfer of Offenders matters, Mutual Legal Assistance

and Criminal Justice International matters. She works on the Child Abduction matters, vetting request from Ministry of Finance and Human Rights matters (concerning woman, children). She made a contribution to the “Fundamental Rights of Women Section” in preparation for the Universal Periodic Review Adoption of The Bahamas in December 2008, in Geneva, Switzerland and conducting research to contribution to answering questions for the Attorney-General on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. She attended training sessions on Human Trafficking sponsored by The American Embassy in 2008. Among other activities, she has represented the Bahamas before several UN human rights bodies, including Treaty Bodies, and during the Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review. Since 2015, she established and chairs the National Reporting Cooperation Mechanism (NRCM), to design a master framework for the scheduling, preparation and submission of reports to Treaty Bodies.

Ms. Major has been called at The Bahamas Bar from 1997 and has been in the Office of The Attorney-General since 2007.



JENS MODVIG

Chairperson, UN Committee against Torture

Dr. Modvig is the Chairperson of the UN Committee against Torture (CAT) and Chief Medical Officer at the Danish

Institute against Torture (DIGNITY), as well as Clinical Associate Professor in Social Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Copenhagen. He has served as Director of the UN Office in Belgrade, Serbia (2007-2008) and was Deputy Head of Mission at OSCE’s Mission in Pristina, Kosovo (2004-2007). From 2000-2004, he served as Secretary General of the International Rehabilitation Council for Victims of Torture (IRCT).

Dr. Modvig qualified as a medical doctor at the University of Copenhagen (1988) and holds a PhD in Public Health Epidemiology from the University of Copenhagen (1991). Among other activities in the field of human rights, since 2009, he serves as a Member of the Advisory Board of Torture of the Journal on Rehabilitation of Torture Victims and Prevention of Torture, and since 2010, he is a member of the Independent Forensic Expert Group organised by the IRCT. Since 1994, he has carried out around 165 short-term missions to 45 countries to support projects for rehabilitation of torture victims, for prevention of torture or to do advocacy or fundraising for the fight against torture.



STEVE ONWUASOANYA

Human Rights Adviser, Commonwealth Secretariat

Steve Onwuasoanya is a Lawyer and international human rights advocate, currently serving as a Human Rights Adviser at

the Commonwealth Secretariat, London. Steve holds a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) degree from the University of Lagos and Master of Laws degree (International Law and Justice) from Fordham University Law School, New York, USA. After several years of legal practice, Steve joined the United Nations.

Steve has had an extensive international career working for different agencies of the United Nations on issues of rule of law and development, access to justice and promotion and protection of human rights. Steve has a demonstrated global experience in driving sustainable human rights initiatives in collaboration with member governments, inter-governmental, regional and international human rights institutions, spanning across North America, Europe, Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

Steve is an engaging communicator skilled in building positive relationships with stakeholders.



JUSTIN PETTIT

**Human Rights Adviser (Acting),
Commonwealth Secretariat**

Dr. Justin Pettit is an Adviser in the Human Rights Unit at the Commonwealth Secretariat where he supports member states to effectively engage with the international human rights

mechanisms, provides guidance on establishing and strengthening national human rights institutions, and gives technical assistance on human rights matters to small states for the development and implementation of policies and programmes. Before joining the Commonwealth Secretariat, Justin was a Lecturer at the Department of Social Sciences at the University of Roehampton where he taught courses on international human rights law and global political economy. He was also a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Essex School of Law. He holds a PhD in Law from the University of Essex.



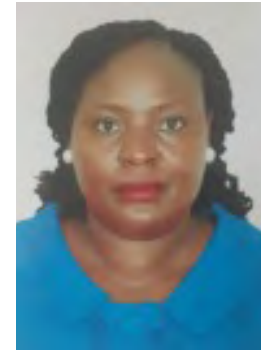
RUPERT SKILBECK

Director of REDRESS

Rupert Skilbeck is a barrister who specialises in human rights law and international criminal law, and who has directed strategic litigation around the world. Before joining REDRESS on 1 February

2018, Rupert was the Litigation Director at the Open Society Justice Initiative, where he oversaw human rights litigation in more than 100 cases including torture, deaths in custody, discrimination, fair trial rights, corruption, national security, and international criminal law.

Prior to this he worked with international and hybrid criminal tribunals in Cambodia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Sierra Leone. In 2006 he was appointed by the United Nations as the Principal Defender for the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. He was also the director of Odsjek Krivicne Odbrane, the criminal defence section of the State Court in Sarajevo, and the defence advisor at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. From 1995 to 2004 he practiced primarily at the criminal bar in London and on the Midland circuit.



RUTH SSEKINDI

**Director for Monitoring and
Inspections, Uganda Human
Rights Commission**

Ruth Ssekindi is a passionate and keen human rights lawyer, with a Masters of Laws degree from the University of Witwatersrand in South

Africa. Ms. Ssekindi has dedicated over 15 years in the field of protecting and promoting human rights in Uganda. Ruth is currently the Director for Monitoring and Inspections, a position she took up on 16th January 2018, and was previously the Director of Complaints, Investigations and Legal Services at the Uganda Human Rights Commission a position she served in for over 10 years.

Ruth is a visiting faculty at the University of Zurich (Switzerland), and a part-time lecturer at the Uganda Christian University (Kampala Campus) where she teaches Criminal Procedure Law and Human Rights Law. She is also one of the human rights lawyers who drafted and lobbied for the enactment of the Prevention and Prohibition of torture Act. Ms. Ssekindi is currently one of the sixteen international experts drafting the Universal Protocol on Investigative Interviewing and Associated Safeguards. She is a writer of human rights articles and journals and is always keen on providing technical support on human rights related matters.



H. E. FRANK TRESSLER

Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations in Geneva

In the course of Ambassador Tressler's 29 year-long diplomatic career in Chile, he served at the Planning Directorate, at the

Directorate of Multilateral Policy as Head of the United Nations Department, at the Directorate for Special Policy, in charge of disarmament and international security affairs, of which he became Director in 2017, he was responsible for the negotiations within the UN and Inter-American systems on matters related to Defense, Disarmament, Transnational Organized Crime, Corruption, among others. In 2011 he was a Cabinet member of Minister Alfredo Moreno, and later on between 2011 and 2012, he served as Human Resources Director in the Foreign Ministry.

Abroad he has served in Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, Ireland, Australia, and, since October 2019, he is the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations in Geneva. Ambassador Tressler holds a Law Degree from the Catholic University of Santiago, graduated in 1991 from the Diplomatic Academy "Andrés Bello" as the best student of the year. In 1993 he completed an MSc in international relations in the framework of the Master of Science in Financial Services (MSFS) Fellows Programme of the University of Georgetown. In 1995, he obtained a Master's Degree in Law (LLM) from the University of Ottawa, Canada.



H. E. CAROLINA VALDIVIA

Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile

Vice-Minister Valdivia is a lawyer from the Universidad Católica, Master in Law and Economics from the Instituto Ortega y Gasset - Universidad

Complutense de Madrid, Spain and graduated from the Andrés Bello Diplomatic Academy.

At the time of her appointment, she was the Director General for Legal Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Previously, she was Executive Coordinator of the Agency before the International Court of Justice in The Hague in the case of "Obligación de Negociar un Acceso al Océano Pacífico" between Chile and Bolivia. She also practiced law in Spain and Chile as part of the law firm Cariola Diez Pérez Cotapos & Cía Ltda.

She has several academic publications. She is a visiting professor of Public International Law at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. She is also a professor of the Frontiers and Neighborhood Policy course at the Diplomatic Academy of Chile, along with several specialization courses for officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other State bodies.

She is also a member of the Chilean Society of International Law and the American Society of International Law.



OLIVE ZAALE OTETE

Legislative drafter consultant

Ms. Otete is an Advocate of the High Court of Uganda, working as a Managing Partner with M/S Zaale Otete and Company Advocates in Kampala,

Uganda. She holds a Bachelor of Laws (LL. B) Degree and a Master of Laws (LL.M) Degree, both of Makerere University, Kampala. She has over 25 years of experience in developing and drafting legislation. She started her legislative drafting career in the Uganda Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs where she served for twelve years, rising to the Senior Rank of Commissioner, Legislative Drafting.

Between 2011 and 2012, she was a Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC) expert who assisted the then Kingdom of Swaziland to align its laws with the Constitution. She has assisted a number of other African Countries including the Republic of Namibia, the Republic of Seychelles, the Republic of Rwanda and currently the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to develop and draft legislation. From 2014 till July 2020, she was the Chairperson of the Uganda Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Appeals Tribunal. She is an Associate member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, United Kingdom, and a trained and practicing mediator.

ABOUT THE CTI

Created in 2014, the Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI) is a ten-year global initiative of the Governments of Chile, Denmark, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia and Morocco (Core States), to support and facilitate universal ratification and implementation of the UN Convention against Torture (UNCAT) by 2024.

OBJECTIVES

The CTI aspires to strengthen institutions, policies and practices for dignified and rule-based governance and to reduce and prevent the risks of torture and ill-treatment through

- dialogue and exchange,
- technical assistance, capacity-building support and institution-strengthening,
- sharing evidence-based recommendations, expert advice and best practices,
- developing, compiling and translating practical examples, experiences, tools, resources and other materials,
- convening seminars, conferences and workshops,
- hosting a platform for information and knowledge dissemination and awareness raising.

OUR VISION

We want, once and for all, to remove torture from the toolkit of terror and oppression and to put an end to the profound traumas and societal wounds caused by this violent practice.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES

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

Constructive. The CTI takes a constructive approach. 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 – typically in regional settings.

Inspirational. CTI inspires, it does not prescribe. CTI hopes to inspire countries by exposing them to the experiences of other countries, and through learning from those experiences.

ORGANISATION

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

The **CTI Secretariat** provides policy and strategic advice to the CTI Core States, friends and partners, and delivers an ambitious, tailored annual programme of activities providing capacity building, know-how and technical assistance to States and other stakeholders.

The CTI’s work is encouraged and bolstered through a [Group of Friends](#), a network based on cooperation, allowing for the exchange of knowledge, experience and ideas regarding how best to overcome obstacles to full implementation of UNCAT. All UN Member States and relevant NGOs, experts and academia are invited to join the CTI’s Group of Friends.

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

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

HOW THE CTI CAN HELP



There are a number of ways that the CTI can assist States. This includes States that are considering ratification and those that have already ratified but want help to implement the Convention more effectively.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

As a cross-regional initiative, CTI sees the advantages of regional and sub-regional exchanges between States that share legal traditions, practical similarities and friendship. Annually the CTI works with national counterparts to arrange a number of peer-to-peer government dialogues on themes of relevance to States in a region. These confidential meetings offer a unique opportunity for States to share experiences on the challenges and opportunities provided by ratification and implementation of the Convention with a view to building strong relationships between States at regional level.

STUDY VISITS

The CTI can arrange “study visits” to Geneva for delegations from non-States-parties to the Convention who have shown an interest in learning more about what it means to be a State party. The visits generally consist of expert briefings on the Convention, meetings with high level UN and other Government officials, including the UN Committee against Torture, to explain and share views, and there are opportunities to observe a session of the Committee against Torture in their review of a State party report and the State party’s replies.

COUNTRY DIPLOMATIC AND/OR TECHNICAL VISITS

CTI carries out a number of high-level diplomatic and/or technical delegation visits each year to States to provide assistance on a range of issues relating to ratification and implementation of the Convention. A seminar with national stakeholders may be included in such a visit. Visits are tailored to the needs and wishes of the individual Government, and are not used to lobby or pressure. The CTI will work in close partnership with the State in question to meet its exact needs.

HIGH-LEVEL UN AND REGIONAL EVENTS

The CTI holds regular meetings at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva and the UN General Assembly in New York, and also at regional fora. Through these meetings, the CTI brings together States and torture prevention experts to discuss progress and opportunities for increased ratification and better implementation of the Convention.

[Tools and Guides](#) – The CTI works with expert partners to prepare tools intended to assist officials to understand and implement the Convention more effectively. These tools are practical and share good State practices.

Non-English language versions are also available.

The [CTI Secretariat](#) is also available to support States through:

- A **remote Advice Hub**, responding to technical queries relating to ratification or implementation of the Convention: advicehub@cti2024.org;
- A **referral service**, connecting State requests for technical advice and support with appropriate partners and friends if the CTI is not best placed to support or advise;
- **Partnering** with a diverse range of partners and experts – CTI will keep up dated with the latest knowledge, analysis and expertise relevant to the prohibition and prevention of torture and ill-treatment.

If you would like to learn more about any of the above, please contact the [CTI Secretariat](#).

CTI GROUP OF FRIENDS



THE CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE INITIATIVE (CTI)

CTI is a 10-year inter-governmental, cross-regional initiative of the Governments of Chile, Denmark, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia and Morocco, launched at the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention against Torture (UNCAT) in March 2014.

The Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI) provides technical advice, support and cooperation among States parties as well as non-States-parties to the Convention – in order to help States overcome technical and capacity-related obstacles to ratification and implementation of the Convention.

CTI GROUP OF FRIENDS

The CTI is achieving progress with the help of its many Friends. Governments, international, regional and non-governmental organisations and experts sharing the vision and the ambition of the CTI are invited to join the Initiative by becoming members of the CTI Group of Friends.

Who: The CTI Group of Friends consists of UN Member States and Non-Governmental Friends. All 193 UN Member States are invited to participate in the Group of Friends. NGOs, international and regional organisations, experts, researchers and academics are invited on the basis of expertise, track-record and potential for contributing to the objectives of the CTI.

What: The Group of Friends serves as a platform for the exchange of knowledge, experience and ideas on how to overcome obstacles to ratification and implementation of the UNCAT.

Friends of the CTI are involved in the achievements, progress and development of the CTI through various forums. In particular, Friends are invited to attend the CTI's Annual Forum which provides an opportunity for Friends to inter alia provide input and advice on the overall strategic direction of the CTI, as well as to address specific regional and thematic challenges in the ratification and/or implementation of the Convention.

Membership of the Group of Friends does not come with specific obligations or commitments; however, Friends are expected to share the vision and goals of the CTI and to work positively to those ends. The CTI Secretariat welcomes specific offers of support.

Current members (updated on a rolling basis):

States: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Egypt, Finland, France, The Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Myanmar, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA.

Non-Governmental, International and Regional Organisations: ACAT France, African Center for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV - Uganda), Amnesty International, Center for Victims of Torture (USA), Centre for Civil and Political Rights, DIGNITY (Denmark), FIACAT, International Aid Network, International Bar Association, International Commission of Jurists, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, Omega Research Foundation, Penal Reform International, REDRESS Trust, SAVE CONGO, Shield for Justice Foundation (Kenya), Universal Rights Group, University of Bristol, UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.

Experts: A wide number of experts working in the field of torture prevention and response, as well as the policing, intelligence, corrections and justice sectors are included in the CTI Friends.

The full list of CTI Friends can be found at: <https://cti2024.org/en/group-of-friends/>

How: Interest in joining the CTI Group of Friends can be indicated by letter or email to the CTI Secretariat info@cti2024.org.

OUR PARTNERS



Ending torture, seeking justice for survivors

REDRESS is an international non-governmental organisation working on seeking justice and reparation for survivors of torture, combat impunity for governments and individuals who perpetrate it, and develop and promote compliance with international standards. REDRESS operates from offices in London and The Hague, and has dedicated team of lawyers, advocates and program staff who work on our projects, campaigns, events, communications and administration. The work of REDRESS' staff is supported by our Board of Trustees, our Patrons, and a Legal Advisory Council.



The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of [54 independent and equal countries](#). The Commonwealth Secretariat is the intergovernmental organisation that supports member countries to achieve the Commonwealth's aims of development, democracy and peace. The Commonwealth works with member countries in different thematic areas, including: promoting democracy; promotion and protection of human rights in the Commonwealth; promoting the rule of law; strengthening public sector governance; and tackling corruption, among others. The Commonwealth has a dedicated Office of Civil and Criminal Justice Reform, helping member countries through the creation of fair and effective national laws. The Commonwealth provides examples of good legislation practices from across the Commonwealth through model laws, standards, templates and legal insight and legal network and facilitates knowledge and information sharing to member countries based on these resources.



CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE INITIATIVE
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