



2017

ANNUAL REPORT



CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE INITIATIVE
CTI2024.ORG



CONTENTS

A FOREWORD FROM THE CTI CORE STATES.....	4
ABOUT THE CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE INITIATIVE (CTI).....	6
2017 IN REVIEW: FROM THE HEAD OF THE CTI SECRETARIAT.....	7
TIMELINE OF CTI EVENTS 2017.....	11
REACHING UNIVERSAL RATIFICATION.....	12
TOWARDS MORE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION.....	15
TOOLS.....	19
GLOBAL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS.....	21
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.....	23



A FOREWORD FROM THE CTI CORE STATES

Chile, Denmark, Ghana, Indonesia and Morocco

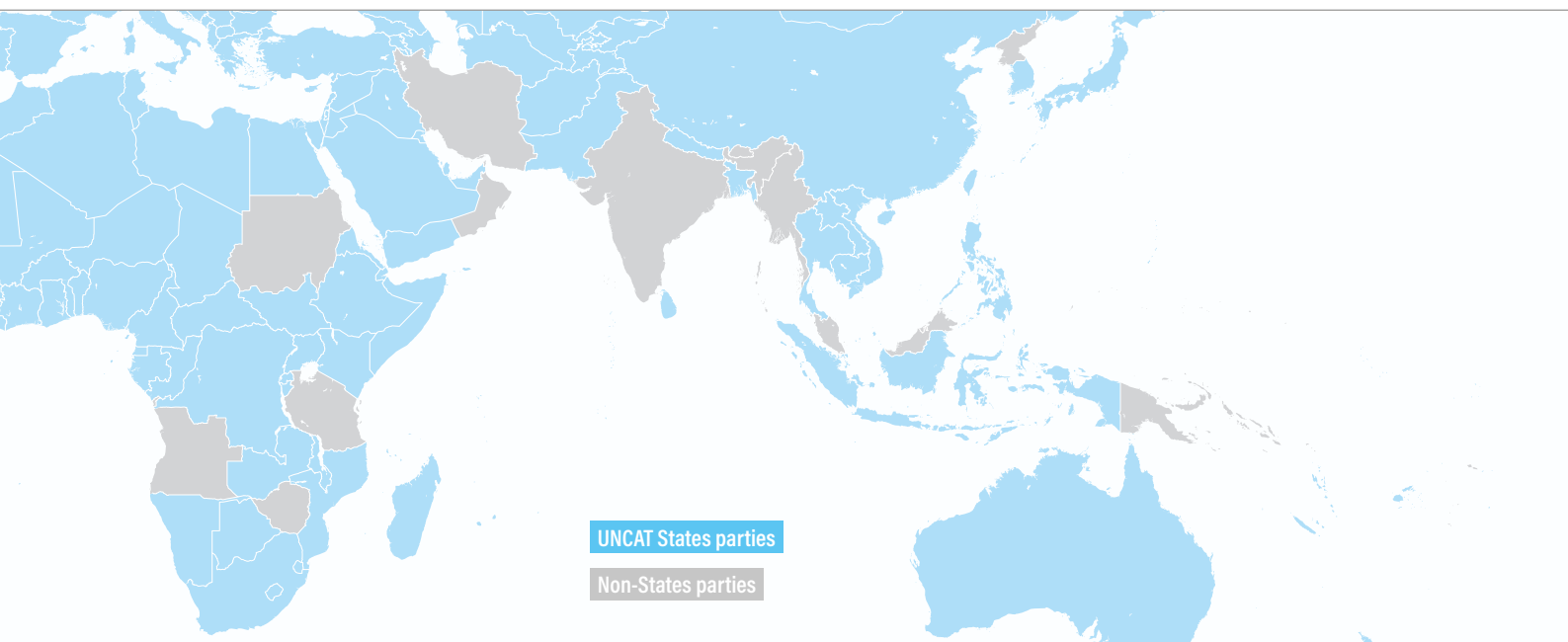
Torture and ill-treatment are among the worst violations of human rights and human dignity. A number of recent surveys have showed that attitudes to torture have alarmingly softened over time, while others note that there remains considerable support for or uncertainty about the utility and morality of torture, even as the majority of persons worldwide reject torture.¹ The CTI – as an inter-governmental initiative – promotes constructive and peer-based dialogue and technical support in a spirit of cooperation. The CTI is an important bulwark against such views, but we are also trying to do much more than this.

The CTI is striving to achieve universal ratification of the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT) as well as improved implementation at the national level. The core States and our Friends believe in the benefits of being part of an international rule of law based system, and international treaties are an integral part of that system. In the case of UNCAT, ratifying this treaty commits and guides States, through an incremental process of improvement, on effective torture prohibition, prevention, punishment and redress for victims.

There are many benefits to ratifying UNCAT: it contains a practical list of steps that strengthen the administration of justice and good governance and reduce the risk of abuses committed against citizens by public authorities, while giving States adequate flexibility to develop good practices that appeal to their own national context. Implementing UNCAT in turn promotes social and political stability, economic investment and the Sustainable Development Goals (especially SDG16). For the CTI core States, ratifying and implementing UNCAT is seen not only as a human rights issue, but also as a development issue, which is why we made the focus of the CTI's Annual Forum held at the United Nations in New York in December on the inter-linkages between UNCAT and SDG 16 on open and inclusive societies and the administration of justice. We hope to do more on this in the years ahead.

Throughout 2017, CTI continued to respond to the needs and requests of States in different regions of the world, and to work with those States committed to eradicating torture and other violence as tools of government authorities. We had many positive events and activities, which are shared in this report.

¹ See Amnesty International's [2014 survey on Attitudes to Torture](#); [ICRC/Gallup 2016 survey on People on War](#).



We particularly wish to welcome **Comoros** and **São Tomé and Príncipe** in becoming the 161st and 162nd States parties to the Convention, as well as the many States that are taking action towards ratification. We also wish to congratulate **Australia**, **Madagascar**, the **State of Palestine** and **Sri Lanka** that ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture in 2017. Furthermore, we welcome the many positive developments at national level to eradicate torture and other ill-treatment, and to improve national legislative, procedural and institutional frameworks and practices to this end. Ratification is an important, albeit initial step in a process towards continual improvement. This is what we are all striving towards.

Lastly, in 2017, the CTI bid farewell to three of the CTI core group Ambassadors, H.E. Mr. Sammie Eddico of Ghana, H.E. Mr. Triyono Wibowo of Indonesia and H.E. Mr. Mohamed Auajjar of Morocco. They now form part of our illustrious alumni, and already Minister of Justice of Morocco, H.E. Mr. Auajjar, ensured the success of the CTI event in Fes, not only as an international dialogue but also in sending a strong message to the public in Morocco that torture will never be tolerated. Ambassador Eddico joined the CTI delegation visit to the Bahamas, in his personal capacity, and was able to share the experiences of Ghana in a constructive and positive spirit. We wish to thank each of them for their significant contributions to the CTI and through their commitment, they have put the CTI on a secure footing as we move ahead.

We stand with our growing number of partners and friends to eradicate torture and other ill-treatment together. We count on your support as we intensify our efforts in 2018 and beyond,



H.E. Ms. Marta Maurás,
Ambassador of Chile to the
United Nations in Geneva



H.E. Mr. Ramses Joseph Cleland,
Ambassador of Ghana to the
United Nations in Geneva



H.E. Mr. Hassane Boukili,
Ambassador of Morocco to the
United Nations in Geneva a.i.



H.E. Mr. Carsten Staur,
Ambassador of Denmark to the
United Nations in Geneva



H.E. Mr. Hasan Kleib,
Ambassador of Indonesia to the
United Nations in Geneva

February 2018

ABOUT 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 and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (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

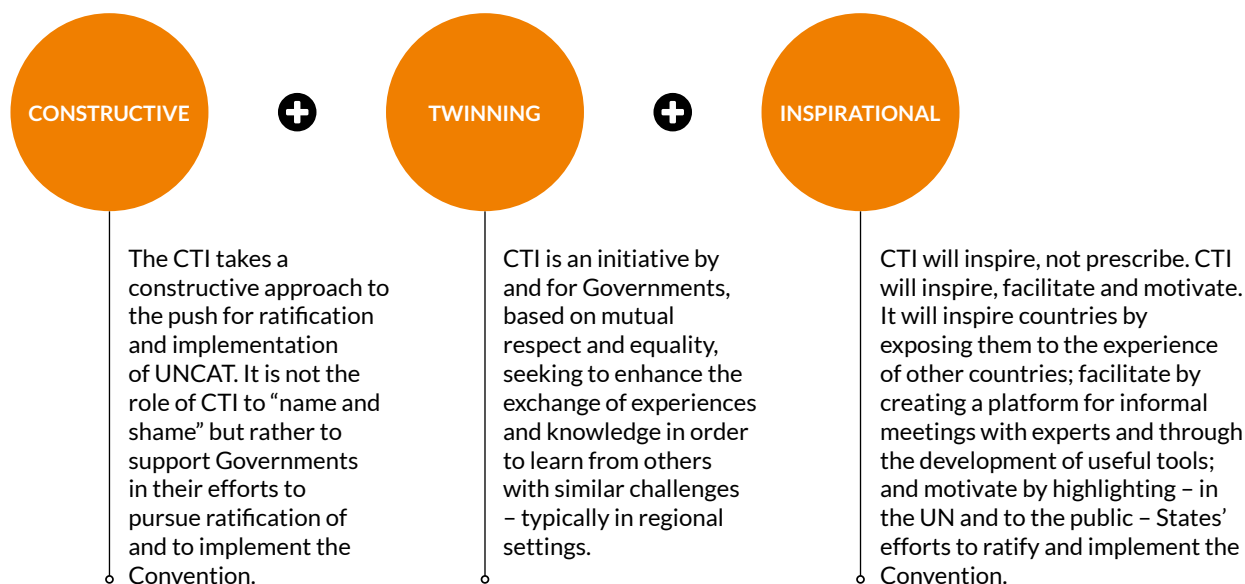
Objectives

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:



2017 IN REVIEW: FROM THE HEAD OF THE CTI SECRETARIAT



One of the most valuable assets of the CTI is that it is an initiative of cooperation between States, based on mutual respect and equality. This “no-name, no-shame” approach facilitates dialogue with the purpose of achieving shared goals of the just treatment of their peoples, and has provided many opportunities in which States can build mutual confidence and explore good detention practices and ongoing challenges in administering justice. The CTI complements the important work being undertaken by our partners and other stakeholders towards the aim of the CTI to reach universal membership of the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT, or Convention), and to prevent and eradicate torture and other abuses in practice.

2017 was another extremely active year, with many positive steps towards achieving the CTI’s goals and meeting the key objectives of the [2016-17 Ratification and Implementation Strategy](#). Below are a few highlights, with more detail contained in this Annual Report.

REACHING UNIVERSAL RATIFICATION

As in preceding years, the number of States that have ratified UNCAT remained steady at two per year, with the welcome addition of **São Tomé and Príncipe** and **Comoros** in 2017. The total number of States parties now stands at 162, with 33 States still to join.

+2

UNCAT RATIFICATIONS IN 2017
São Tomé and Príncipe; Comoros



33

STATES
still to join

13

NON-STATES-PARTIES
participated directly in CTI meetings and events

There are many good reasons to be optimistic about further ratifications: many of the non-ratifying States committed to do so in their previous UPR, some have undertaken national consultation processes, others have embarked upon comprehensive legislative reviews, and in 2017 alone, 13 non-States-parties participated directly in CTI meetings and events. Throughout 2017, the CTI also continued its bilateral diplomacy with a number of other States that have yet to ratify.

Some progress was delayed or interrupted, for example, by changes in ministerial portfolios, while many countries in the Caribbean were particularly affected by recovery efforts as a result of the devastation caused by hurricanes hitting the region in mid-late 2017. In other States, such as the Gambia, the end of 22 years of dictatorship has opened up new commitments to human rights, with President Barrow announcing to the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights in October his country’s intention to ratify UNCAT in the near future.

As we enter the “middle years” of the Initiative, efforts will need to be intensified. Good momentum is building, though statistically there will need to be a bump in ratifications in order to reach CTI’s goal of universal ratification by 2024. Drawing an ever greater circle of Friends and partners will also help to respond more effectively to States’ concerns about ratification.

Of particular note, in 2017 CTI undertook two diplomatic and technical delegation visits to [Samoa](#) in October and to the [Commonwealth of the Bahamas](#) in November. In each country, CTI organised a full-day seminar to share knowledge and understanding of UNCAT and to explain and prepare for what ratification entails for public authorities, benefiting from the national experiences of Chile, Denmark and Ghana whose officials participated in those missions.² While in Samoa, the delegation took the opportunity to travel to Suva, [Fiji](#), and met with representatives from Pacific UNCAT States parties ([Fiji](#), [Nauru](#), [Vanuatu](#)) and non-States-parties ([Papua New Guinea](#), [Tonga](#)), in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Also in 2017, CTI contributed funding to permit Mr. Abdelwahab Hani, Member of the UN Committee against Torture, to visit [Malaysia](#) and to meet with government officials and other stakeholders to discuss possible UNCAT ratification, organised by the national human rights institution and civil society groups.

In a confidential meeting, held after the regional event for [Latin American and Caribbean States](#) held in Santiago, Chile, in April, CTI core States had the opportunity to discuss ratification and implementation with six Caribbean States parties and four non-States-parties ([the Bahamas](#), [Jamaica](#), [Saint Lucia](#) and [Suriname](#)). Additionally, [Brunei Darussalam](#), [the Gambia](#), [Malaysia](#) and [Sudan](#) met with CTI core States – informally and formally – during the CTI-Wilton Park inter-regional event in Fes, [Morocco](#) in October. In September, two [Gambian](#) officials and a representative of the [India Law Commission](#) took part in CTI’s regional workshop on anti-torture legislation for African common law countries, held in Entebbe, Uganda, in September.



OPCAT RATIFICATIONS IN 2017
Australia; Madagascar;
State of Palestine; Sri Lanka

Also in 2017, four new States ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT); with Australia, Madagascar, State of Palestine and Sri Lanka. With these ratifications, the total number of 88 states in 2018 working on preventing torture through designating or setting up national

preventive mechanisms with access to monitor all places of detention. CTI took the opportunity to raise OPCAT ratification wherever possible and relevant, and was pleased to brief the [UN Sub-Committee](#) on the Prevention of Torture during its February session.

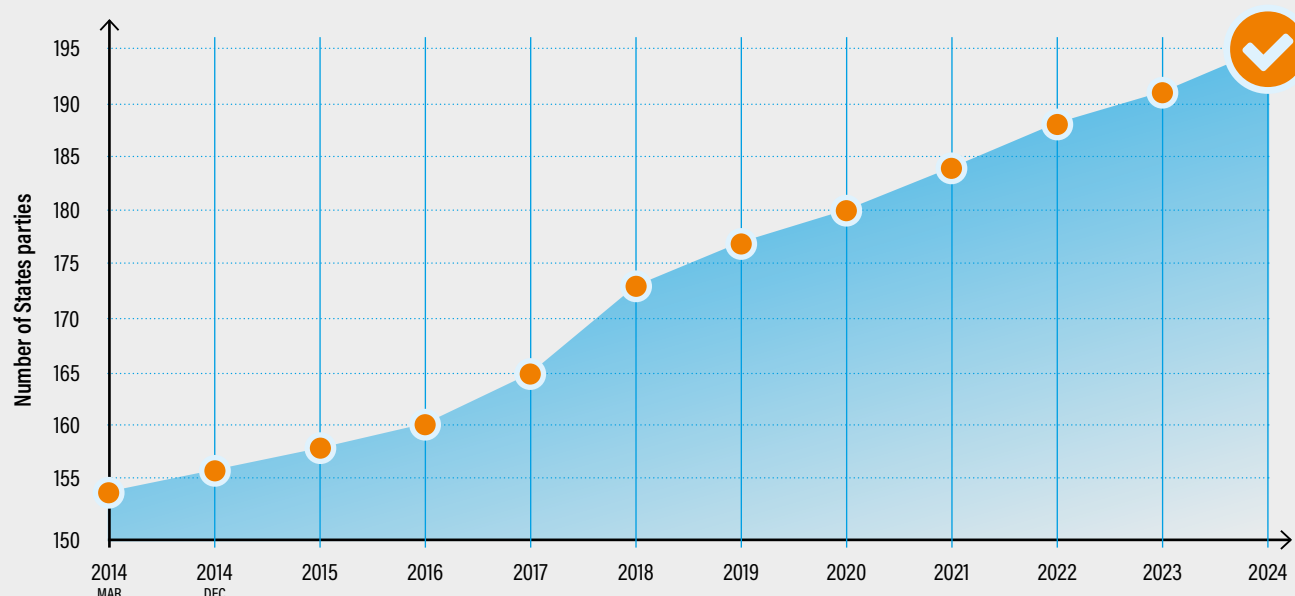


[The UN General Assembly] welcomes and acknowledges the work of the Convention against Torture Initiative, launched in March 2014 on the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention to achieve the universal ratification and improved implementation of the Convention by 2024, as well as related regional initiatives on the prevention and eradication of torture.”

[UNGA resolution A/C.3/72/L.20/Rev.1, 72nd session of UN General Assembly](#), 6 November 2017, para. 47.

² In the case of Ghana, former Ambassador H.E. Mr. Sammie Eddico joined the delegation to the Bahamas in his personal capacity.

PROJECTED STATE RATIFICATION OF UNCAT



Goal 2 ACTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

Alongside ratification, CTI continued to pursue its three main thematic priorities for implementation in its [2016-17 Strategy on Ratification and Implementation](#), namely to:

- 1 Support States to adopt or amend national laws to align them with UNCAT;
- 2 Support States to prevent torture in the first hours of police custody through improved safeguards and investigative interviewing techniques; and
- 3 Improve reporting to the UN Committee against Torture by States parties, in particular for newly ratifying States.

80

STATES
participated in CTI
regional events

In 2017, representatives from more than 80 States participated in CTI regional events, covering Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, and the OSCE region. This was a sizeable jump from the already impressive 46 States that shared their national experiences in CTI's 2016 events.

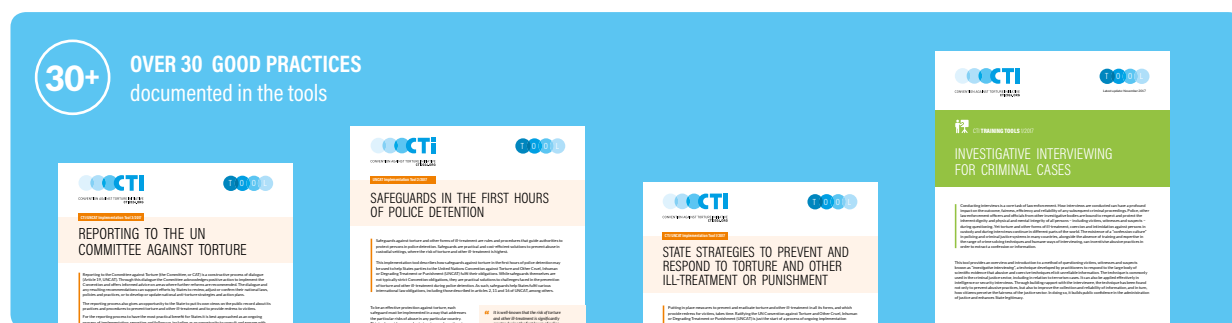
Two major CTI regional events were held in 2017. The first was an [event](#) on anti-torture legislative and institutional frameworks in Santiago, Chile in April, for 22 Latin American and Caribbean States, and was kindly hosted by the Government of Chile and organized by the Association for the Prevention of Torture. The second [event](#) was held in Fes, Morocco, in October, and co-hosted by the Governments of Morocco and Indonesia, and facilitated by Wilton Park. This event brought together over 60 participants from 21 States in Africa, Asia and the Middle East to discuss good national practices to improve the administration of justice and law enforcement. Both events attracted high level government participation and interest: the Santiago seminar was opened by President H.E. Mrs. Michelle Bachelet, while the Fes event was opened in front of 300 international and Moroccan guests by Morocco's new Minister of Justice, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Auajjar (and former Ambassador of Morocco to the United Nations in Geneva and core member of the CTI), and Minister of State for Human Rights, H.E. Mr. Mustapha Ramid.

In addition to the main regional events, in September, we held together with REDRESS and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, our first **technical workshop on legislative drafting of anti-torture laws**. It took place in September in Entebbe, Uganda. Eight African States participated, together with the Indian Law Commission, and expertise was shared by experts from Mauritius and Uganda.

“[W]e are all looking for some glimmer of light, some evidence that the historic trajectory of human rights is still bending forward. The CTI is one such reason to hope. Think of it: States – the duty bearers themselves – coming together to promote legal accountability, and to work for the eradication of torture.”

Mr. Craig Mokhiber, Director of the New York Office of OHCHR at opening ceremony of CTI's fourth Annual Forum in New York, USA, December 2017

Numerous events were convened in the contexts of the [OSCE in Vienna](#), the [UN Human Rights Council](#) in Geneva, a public [event](#) in Geneva in October, where our close partners from the Norwegian police carried out a role-play on investigative interviewing, and our [Annual Forum](#) was held at the United Nations in New York and focused on the synergies between the anti-torture agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.



Finally, we have been delighted to team up with a number of organizations in the conceptual development and preparation of a set of **UNCAT implementation tools, showcasing good State practices on various themes**. Over 30 good practices are documented in the tools. All tools are available for free download on [CTI's website](#). More tools will be developed in 2018.

Thank you's and partnerships

Finally, the CTI is particularly thankful to its Friends and partners. The CTI benefits greatly from the expertise and experience they have shared throughout the year, in particular the positive collaboration we enjoy with the Association for the Prevention of Torture in its special role as a strategic adviser to the CTI. We look forward to continuing these partnerships and exploring new avenues for collaboration for the critical years ahead.



Alice Edwards
Head of CTI Secretariat
February 2018

TIMELINE OF CTI EVENTS 2017



REACHING UNIVERSAL RATIFICATION



2017 witnessed a significant rise in engagement in CTI's work to achieve universal ratification with States and other relevant stakeholders. Below are highlighted a number of meetings and activities that CTI organised during the course of the year.



Ratification meeting with Caribbean States

7 April 2017, Santiago, Chile

A follow-on closed meeting for Caribbean States on UNCAT ratification was held after the CTI regional seminar on "Implementing the UN Convention against Torture in Latin America and the Caribbean: Sharing experiences of national legislative and institutional frameworks" for Latin America and the Caribbean States held in Santiago, Chile in April (see [summary below](#)). This closed meeting was attended by four non-States-parties to the Convention (Bahamas, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Suriname) as well as five States parties (Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominican Republic, Guyana, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines). Together, they explored opportunities to advance ratification of UNCAT across the region, and discussed implementation challenges and good practices of Caribbean States as well as how CTI and its partners can best be of assistance.



Debriefing with Latin American and Caribbean States

30 May 2017, Geneva, Switzerland

14 June 2017, New York, USA

The CTI held a debriefing meeting with representatives from Latin American and Caribbean States (Argentina, the Bahamas, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, St Kitts & Nevis), hosted by the Permanent Representatives of Chile to the UN in New York and Geneva respectively, regarding the CTI regional seminar held in Santiago, Chile, from 5-7 April 2017 (see [summary below](#)). These debriefings offered an opportunity not only to share with the diplomatic attendees some of the major topics that were discussed at the seminar, but also to build solidarity within the region and share suggestions on how to encourage States from the region that have yet to ratify to take this important step.



Dialogue on Malaysia's accession to UNCAT

5-7 July 2017, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

In collaboration with the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) and the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), CTI part-financed the visit of Mr. Abdelwahab Hani, a member of the UN Committee against Torture (CAT) and Board Member of APT, which took place from 5-7 July 2017. The visit aimed to enhance the understanding of the government and civil society organisations on the importance of UNCAT and proposed ways forward for Malaysia's accession to the Convention. A number of good practices and examples on the implementation of UNCAT by other countries, particularly Islamic countries, were explained. The visit received positive press coverage.



Diplomatic in-country visit and pre-mission workshop

12-13 October 2017, Apia, Samoa

A CTI delegation headed by Ambassador Staur of Denmark in Geneva carried out a visit to Samoa where they met with the Acting Prime Minister, the Acting Attorney General, the CEO of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Ombudsman, and representatives of civil society and the diplomatic community in Samoa. Discussions centred around how UNCAT ratification can promote and support domestic reforms in areas such as police procedures and prison conditions. At the request of the Government, the CTI collaborated on a one-day pre-mission workshop on 2 October 2017, which helped prepare different government departments for the CTI visit and also started a process of identifying a post-ratification implementation roadmap. Twenty-four government officials participated in the workshop.



The CTI delegation together with Acting Prime Minister, Hon. Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure), October 2017.

➡ Read the press release [here](#).



Visit with Pacific States and roundtable discussion on UNCAT ratification and implementation

15-16 October 2017, Suva, Fiji

As part of the CTI's visit to the region, CTI held a roundtable discussion and other meetings on UNCAT ratification and implementation in Suva, Fiji. Representatives from Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Vanuatu attended the roundtable, which was organised in cooperation with OHCHR's Pacific Office. Separate meetings were also held with participants from Tonga who travelled from their capital to attend, bilateral meetings with Fiji, and with CTI State Friends based in the region. Areas where cooperation between CTI and governments from the region could be strengthened included providing technical advice such as in relation to pre-ratification legislative reviews.



Ratification meetings with non-States-parties to UNCAT

1 November 2017, Fes, Morocco

Following the CTI regional seminar on The Administration of Justice and Law Enforcement held in Fes, Morocco on 30-31 October ([see below](#)), the CTI organised a half-day close meeting with Malaysia and the Sudan as States that are not yet party to UNCAT to explore progress and possibilities for ratifying/ acceding to UNCAT as well as challenges, and how CTI and its partners could be helpful in moving the process forward. Along with the CTI Secretariat and CTI Core States (Denmark, Ghana and Morocco), Mr. Abdelwahab Hani, a member of the UN Committee against Torture and APT contributed advice and expertise. In addition to this half-day meeting, bilateral meetings were held with the Gambia and Brunei Darussalam on the sides of the CTI regional event.



CTI in-country visit to the Bahamas, November 2017.



Diplomatic and technical visit to the Commonwealth of the Bahamas

13-15 November 2017, Nassau, the Bahamas

A CTI delegation led by Ambassador Ib Petersen, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the UN in New York, visited the Bahamas from 13-15 November 2017. The diplomatic delegation, made up of H.E. Mr. Sammie Eddico, Former Ambassador of Ghana to the UN in Geneva; Dr. Alice Edwards, Head of the CTI Secretariat; Mr. Sebastián Cabezas Chamorro, Chief of Protection Division, Vice-Minister of Human Rights, Chile; and Ms. Stefanie Engelberg, Policy Adviser, Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN in New York, had very positive meetings with the Minister of Legal Affairs and Acting Attorney-General, the Hon. Elsworth Nathaniel Johnson, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Darren A. Henfield. A one-day seminar was also held with over 30 senior-level officials from different departments to discuss issues of ratification and implementation, and to take stock of existing good practices in the Bahamas and areas where UNCAT could catalyse domestic changes. The delegation also met with State Friends of the CTI and local civil society organisations. Positively, the visit recognised that there are no legal impediments to ratification.

➡ Read the press release [here](#).



Meetings with regional partners in Barbados

16 - 17 November 2017, Bridgetown, Barbados

A smaller contingent of the CTI delegation that visited the Bahamas, namely Alice Edwards, Head of CTI Secretariat and Sebastian Cabezas Chamorro, Chief of Protection Division, Vice-Minister of Human Rights, Chile, continued to Barbados to make contact with regional partners, and CTI Friends. The purpose of these meetings was to learn more about opportunities and challenges in the Caribbean region generally, and also informing them about the CTI and some of its upcoming regional activities in 2018. Meetings were held with CARICOM, OHCHR, the Organization of American States, diplomatic missions of CTI Friends, and the European Union delegation to Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean States, the OECS and CARICOM/ CARIFORUM.

TOWARDS MORE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION



Throughout 2017, CTI organised – oftentimes together with partners – a range of important regional events that focused on a range of thematic issues. Below are the highlights.

OSCE-CTI Workshop on preventing torture in the early stages of police custody and during investigation



28 March 2017, Vienna, Austria

The OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights together with CTI organised a workshop on preventing torture in the early stages of police custody and during investigation, hosted by the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the OSCE and co-sponsored by the Austrian Chairmanship and French, German, Norwegian, Swiss and UK governments. The panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Alice Edwards, Head of the CTI Secretariat, and heard experiences of how legal and procedural safeguards can work in practice as well as a number of challenges from current and former Norwegian and German police officers, the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) and the Civic Solidarity Platform. Thirty-six OSCE participating States participated in this open platform including hearing more about the benefits of developing a universal set of standards for non-coercive interview and evidence-gathering methods.

 Read the press release [here](#).



OSCE- CTI workshop on the prevention of torture in the early stages of police custody and during investigation, March 2017.



Group photo of CTI's regional seminar on sharing experiences of national legislative and institutional frameworks in Latin America and the Caribbean, April 2017.

Seminar on sharing experiences of national legislative and institutional frameworks in Latin America and the Caribbean



5-7 April 2017, Santiago, Chile

The Government of Chile as part of the CTI hosted the year's first major regional seminar in Santiago, Chile, for Latin America and the Caribbean States on "Implementing the UN Convention against Torture in Latin America and the Caribbean: Sharing experiences of national legislative and institutional frameworks." The 22 participating States from the region (13 Latin American and nine Caribbean States) explored ways to prohibit and respond to incidents of torture and ill-treatment through the development of legal and institutional frameworks. The seminar was organised for the CTI by the APT.

Discussions revealed that legislative reform is an ongoing process in the region. In some countries, for instance, the prohibition of torture is embedded in national constitutions, whereas other States have made torture a criminal offence by either amending their criminal codes and other relevant laws or adopting specific anti-torture legislation. Engaging relevant stakeholders in the legislative process was seen to allow the final law to reflect political, social and legal contexts, traditions and priorities. Some key challenges for countries in the region identified during discussions included the prevalence of excessive use of force during detention, overuse of prison as a way of punishment and structural violence. A call for similar seminars at regional or sub-regional level was made by participants.

➡ Find the seminar report here in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

“The challenge remains of having adequate institutional arrangements for the prevention and eradication of all types of torture.”

H.E. Michelle Bachelet, President of Chile, at opening of the CTI's regional seminar in Santiago, Chile, April 2017



OHCHR-Anti-Torture Initiative-UNPOL-CTI Roundtable on developing a model for investigative interviewing and attendant procedural safeguards

9 June 2017, New York, USA

CTI partnered with OHCHR, the Anti-Torture Initiative and UN Police Division on a roundtable on investigative interviewing and attendant procedural safeguards hosted at the EU delegation to the UN. The aim of the roundtable was to exchange and generate discussion among UN Member States and experts about the former Special Rapporteur on Torture's [proposal](#) for the development of standards and guidelines on investigative interviewing by police and other law enforcement agencies, as one of the many safeguards to assist authorities to prevent torture and ill-treatment during questioning. The event brought together senior officials, expert officers and academics working on topics regarding investigative interviewing models and techniques.



Technical workshop on legislative drafting for anti-torture laws for common law African States

12-14 September 2017, Entebbe, Uganda

CTI held together with the [African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights](#) and the [REDRESS Trust](#), its first technical workshop on legislative drafting of anti-torture laws, in Entebbe, Uganda. Eight African States, along with a judge from the Indian Law Commission, participated in the workshop, which was supported by the experiences of Mauritius and Uganda in criminalizing torture in national laws. This workshop was a direct follow-up to requests received from States that participated in the [CTI regional meeting in Accra](#), Ghana, in April 2016, and provided an important opportunity to combine the latest plain language legislative drafting techniques with the policy goals of anti-torture legislation.

 Read the workshop report [here](#).



Group photo of CTI's technical workshop on legislative drafting for anti-torture laws, Entebbe, Uganda, September 2017.



The closing ceremony from CTI regional seminar on the administration of justice and law enforcement, Fes, Morocco, October 2017.

Cross-Regional Seminar on “The Administration of Justice and Law Enforcement: International Co-operation and Sharing Experiences”

30-31 October 2017, Fes, Morocco

As part of its role to foster government-to-government exchanges, the Governments of Morocco and Indonesia as part of the CTI held an important cross-regional seminar in Fes, Morocco, focusing on ways to improve the administration of justice and law enforcement practices. The event, organised in partnership with [Wilton Park](#), brought together over 60 participants from Asia, Africa and the Middle East sharing similar legal frameworks and cultural traditions, supported by a number of other States’ representatives, as well as international and regional organisations, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organisations and academics. The opening ceremony, which was attended by around 300 international and Moroccan participants, focused attention on international and national efforts to combat torture and other abuse.

The seminar discussed and covered a wide range of issues related to the administration of justice and law enforcement practices, such as the importance of political buy-in at the highest levels to prevent torture, professionalising and strengthening the capacity of law enforcers and medical staff in places of detention, and system-wide reforms that carry appropriate checks and balances – such as through monitoring and complaints mechanisms – to minimise corruption and the abuse of power.

➡ Read the seminar report [here](#).

“ [Efforts] to fight torture need to happen on a daily basis.”

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Auajjar, Morocco’s Minister of Justice at CTI’s regional seminar in Fes, [Morocco](#), October 2017

TOOLS



As part of its [2016-17 Ratification and Implementation Strategy](#), the CTI Secretariat released a number of new tools on ratification and implementation of UNCAT, with the help of a number of collaborators.

Leaflet: 10 Good Reasons to Ratify the Convention

This innovative, straightforward one-page document explains 10 reasons why 162 States have already ratified UNCAT. In identifying the added value of ratifying the Convention, it is intended to encourage reflection by States that have not yet ratified UNCAT.

➡ The leaflet is available in Arabic, English, French and Portuguese [here](#).

UNCAT Implementation and Training Tools

CTI launched the first four in a series of online [UNCAT Implementation and Training Tools](#) showcasing good State practices from around the world and intended to offer support, guidance and ideas for State practitioners and policymakers as they develop or revise context-specific strategies, mechanisms and procedures for the effective implementation of UNCAT. More tools will be released in 2018.

UNCAT Training Tool No. 1: [Investigative interviewing for criminal cases](#)

This training tool provides an overview of a method of questioning victims, witnesses and suspects known as “investigative interviewing”. It introduces the technique developed by investigators and detectives and which responds to the large body of scientific evidence that abusive and coercive techniques elicit unreliable information and lead to false confessions.

➡ Each of these tools is available in Arabic, English and French and they are free to download [here](#).

UNCAT Implementation Tool No. 1: [State strategies to prevent and respond to torture and other ill-treatment or punishment](#)

This implementation tool showcases the different approaches adopted by governments in developing national torture prevention strategies and action plans. The tool canvases specific strategies on torture prevention, or examples where such objectives are subsumed within broader human rights national action plans or included within national development plans. At a practical level, the tool also shares operational plans of specific departments or services.

“ [T]he core that unites us is the promotion and protection of human rights, and the elimination of the vice of torture.”

Mr. Med Kaggwa, Commissioner of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights at CTI technical workshop in Entebbe, [Uganda](#), September 2017

UNCAT Implementation Tool No. 2: [Safeguards in the first hours of police detention](#)

This implementation tool shares rules and procedures developed by States to guide police authorities in a practical way in order to reduce incidents of torture and other abuses (and related allegations) in the first hours of police detention.

UNCAT Implementation Tool No. 3: [Reporting to the UN Committee against Torture](#)

Reporting to the UN Committee against Torture (CAT) is considered a constructive process of dialogue. Through this dialogue, the CAT acknowledges positive action to implement the Convention and offers informed advice on areas where further reforms are recommended. This tool gives examples of how governments manage the reporting process.


Blog series – “State parties in focus”

CTI launched a blog series called “States parties in focus”. The blogs are prepared with a view to sharing inspiration and experiences with other States that are considering ratifying UNCAT or OPCAT. Each blog draws on the main factors that fostered the political will to ratify, and reflects on the positive effects of ratification and implementation.

The first blog features Fiji, which is available [here](#).


CTI-APT Overview of anti-torture legislation in Latin America and the Caribbean

Complementing the [APT-CTI Guide on Anti-Torture Legislation](#), released in 2016, CTI again collaborated with the Association for the Prevention of Torture on an overview of anti-torture legislation in Latin America and the Caribbean covering 14 Caribbean and 17 Latin American States. The tool explores the legislative practices in this region, reflecting different legal systems and traditions (civil and common law) with the aim to guide and provide other States – both inside and outside the region – and other relevant stakeholders with valuable examples of legislative and institutional frameworks from the region.

 Read the tool [here](#).

United Nations General Assembly resolution on Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, 72nd Session

On 6 November 2017, the UN General Assembly, during its 72nd session, welcomed and acknowledged the work of the Convention against Torture Initiative in its annual resolution. The biennial resolution is an important document containing agreed standards by UN Member States.

 See the full resolution [here](#).

GLOBAL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS



HRC34 High-level side event on public perceptions of torture

27 February 2017, Geneva, Switzerland

During the CTI's high-level side event on the margins of the 34th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, around 70 participants from 35 States, the UN and civil society, discussed strategies in the face of growing public perceptions that torture is an effective policing or security method in certain situations, such as in times of war or terrorism, according to recent surveys. Chaired by Dr. Alice Edwards, Head of CTI Secretariat, opening remarks were presented by H.E. Anders Samuelsen, Denmark Minister for Foreign Affairs while panelists shared their expertise from neuroscience, journalism and practitioner perspectives.


 Read the press release of this event [here](#).



UNGA72 High-level event on effective police interviewing and investigation

22 September 2017, New York, USA

OHCHR, the UN Police Division, the Anti-Torture Initiative of the American University Washington College of Law and CTI cooperated on a high-level panel discussion on "Torture during Interrogations: Illegal, Immoral, and Ineffective" during the opening week of the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly in September. The event focused on how torture and other ill-treatment can be prevented during interrogations from legal, moral and practical perspectives. The event also offered an opportunity to share leading examples of non-coercive interviewing techniques and other key safeguards, which are increasingly being applied to positive effect in many countries worldwide.

 Read the press release of this event [here](#). You can also watch the full discussion [here](#).



CTI Public event and role-play on investigative interviewing

5 October 2017, International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum (ICRC), Geneva, Switzerland

Along with 14 co-sponsors, CTI held a public event on “Truth without torture: A role-play on investigative interviewing” to launch its first three online implementation and training tools and as a contribution to the OHCHR’s inter-sessional seminar on safeguards during police custody and pre-trial detention ([See next](#)). The event included a role play on “investigative interviewing” that was carried out by officers of the Norwegian police. The primary aim of the role play was to sensitize the attendees – experientially – on how police can carry out interviews ethically and more effectively with commentary from Brazilian and British specialists. The event also provided an opportunity for participants to discuss and share some of their views on and experiences with investigative interviewing.

➡ Read more about the public event and the role-play [here](#).



OHCHR Inter-Sessional Seminar on safeguards during police custody and pre-trial detention

6 October 2017, Geneva, Switzerland

CTI contributed to and participated in OHCHR’s inter-sessional seminar, requested by UN member States in the Human Rights Council resolution [A/HRC/31/L.26/Rev.1](#), which took place on 6 October 2017 in Geneva and brought together States, relevant United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, intergovernmental organizations, treaty bodies, special procedures, and other relevant stakeholders. The seminar looked at and discussed how effective safeguards can prevent torture during police custody and pre-trial detention and encouraged the exchange of national experiences and practices on the implementation of effective safeguards to prevent torture.

➡ Read more about the seminar [here](#).

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



CTI briefing of the UN Sub-Committee on Prevention of Torture

15 February 2017, Geneva, Switzerland

During the 31st session of the UN Sub-Committee on Prevention of Torture in Geneva, the CTI gave an update of its [Ratification and Implementation Strategy for 2016-2017](#) and discussed with the Sub-Committee major achievements, key developments as well as challenges in terms of UNCAT ratification and implementation, and opportunities for further injecting OPCAT into CTI's engagement with States.



CTI's first meeting with State Group of Friends

12 June 2017, New York, USA

On 12 June 2017, the CTI Group of Friends met for the first time in New York at the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN. Alongside CTI core States, Chile, Denmark, Ghana, and Morocco, 19 members of CTI's Group of State Friends (primarily at Ambassadorial-level) attended the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to formally introduce the CTI and its work to the New York-based State Friends and to hear ideas and recommendations from the Friends on how the CTI can increase its visibility and impact in New York and in other relevant settings. Many positive suggestions were put forward.



Role play on "investigative interviewing" by Norwegian police officers.

Working breakfast with CTI State Group of Friends

28 June 2017, Geneva, Switzerland

CTI held a working breakfast meeting for its State Group of Friends in Geneva that was attended by, besides CTI core States, 21 State Friends. CTI gave an update on developments on UNCAT ratification and implementation and States also contributed their own activities. An open discussion followed and concluded with set of specific recommendations for future follow-up.

CTI Fourth Annual Forum

12 December 2017, New York, USA

CTI held its 4th Annual Forum in New York on 12 December, with the focus on the inter-linkages between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the CTI's ambition of universal ratification and active implementation of UNCAT. Many links were made with SDG16 and the importance of UNCAT as an instrument to achieve the fair administration of justice in society. The event, which gathered CTI Friends and other invited guests, heard from States on their experiences of looking at the SDGs from a human rights perspective, from Argentina, Georgia and Uganda, as well as from the OHCHR, the Committee against Torture and the New York University's Center on International Cooperation. The annual meeting also provided an opportunity to share and discuss States' efforts and achievements in terms of UNCAT ratification and implementation. CTI is thankful to the Universal Rights Group for organising the Forum for the CTI.

“ To promote peaceful, inclusive societies for sustainable development, to provide access to justice for all and to build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.”

SDG16



Panel on SDG16 and the UN Convention against Torture, December 2017.



CTI meeting with Group of Friends, New York, June 2017.

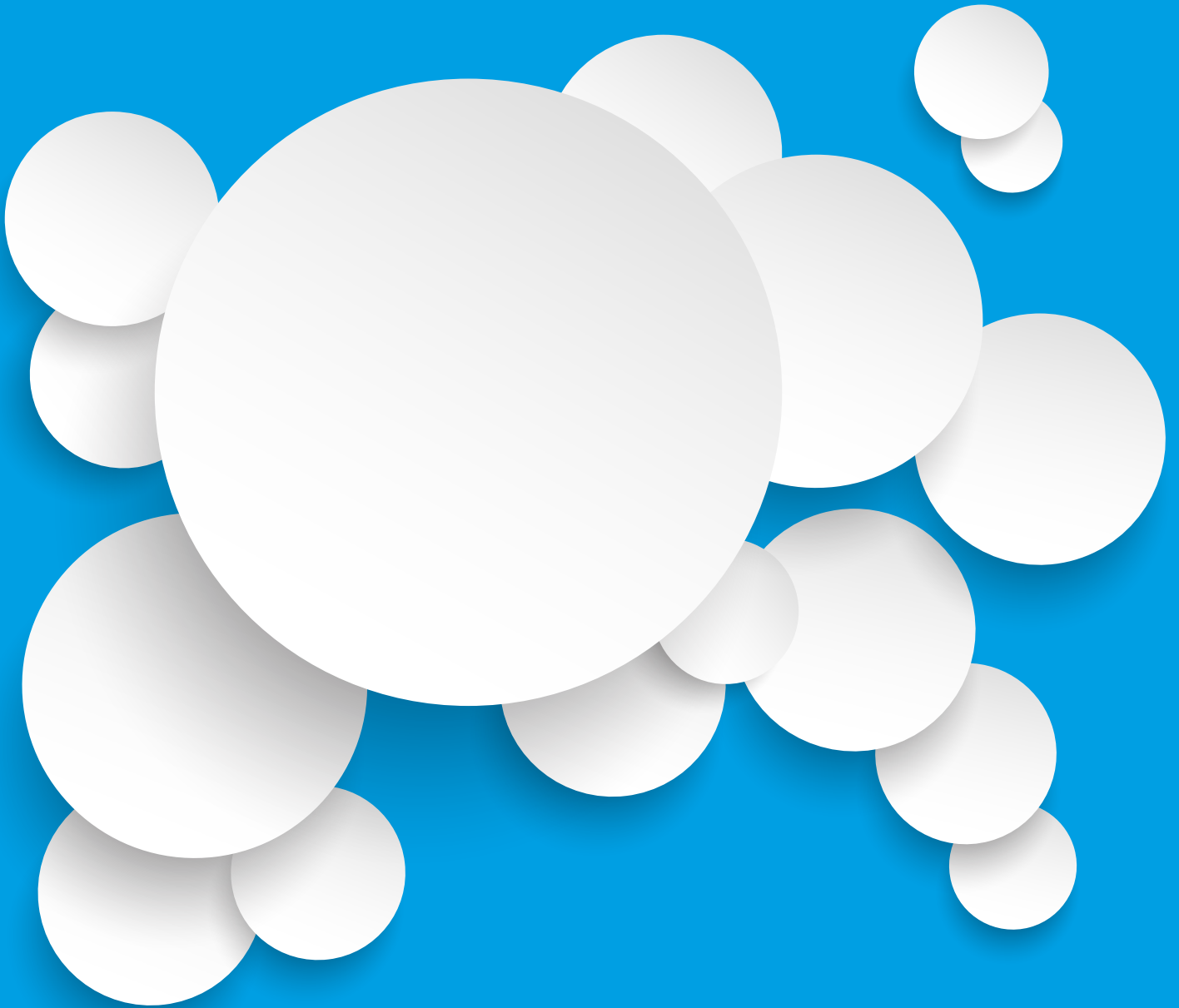
CTI Friends and partners

CTI enjoyed substantial support from a number of Friends – States, NGOs and independent anti-torture experts alike. They participated in many of CTI's events and also contributed to CTI's in-country diplomatic visits. By the end of 2017, CTI counted on the support of 39 States, 18 prominent anti-torture and human rights NGOs as well as 13 independent experts.

➡ Click [here](#) to learn more about the essential role of CTI's Group of Friends.

As we reflect on a year of growth and engagement across our regional and international channels, CTI is thankful for the support in particular of the Association for the Prevention of Torture as the CTI's strategic partner. The CTI is also grateful for the support of the following partners who worked closely with us in 2017:





CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE INITIATIVE
CTI2024.ORG