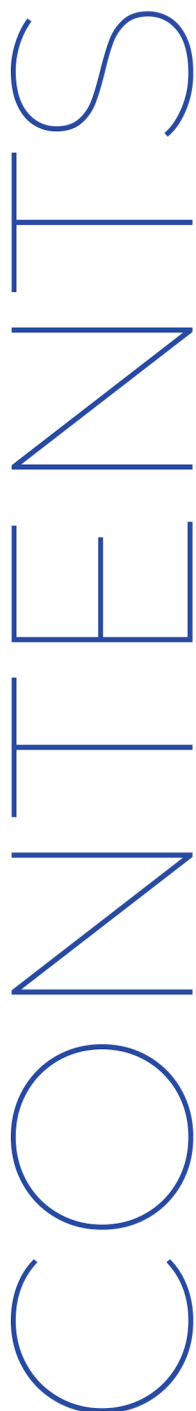




Annual Report

2021

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STATES CORE

CTI is led by the Governments of [Chile](#), [Denmark](#), [Fiji](#), [Ghana](#), [Indonesia](#) and [Morocco](#) – all States strategically located in different regions throughout the world. The work of CTI is led by the Permanent Representatives of these States in Geneva.



As Core States spearheading the CTI, we are pleased to present the 2021 Annual Report.



Following another year marked by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, and faced with the continued challenges to conduct in-person activities over the course of 2021, CTI has boosted efforts to intensify its online work and outreach to States and stakeholders. We remain hopeful that as the global situation improves gradually, we will be able to resume our ambitious programme of in-person activities.

Despite challenges, CTI was delighted to welcome the ratifications of two States - namely Sudan and Suriname - bringing the total number of States Parties to the UN Convention against Torture to 173. This allows to celebrate the Convention as one of the United Nations' core human rights treaties with the highest ratification rates.

We bid farewell in June this year to Dr Alice Edwards, who had steered CTI for five and a half years as the Head of Secretariat. We express our appreciation for her significant contributions to CTI. We welcomed Ms Gayethri Pillay as the new Head of Secretariat at the end of the year in November, and look forward to her leadership in realizing CTI's goals and vision.

We thank our partners and friends for their ongoing support as we embark on the next year's programme of work.

2 NEW RATIFICATIONS

Two States newly ratified the UN Convention against Torture in 2021: **Sudan** (August) and **Suriname** (November)

Key milestones achieved

Two new State groupings have now achieved full ratification - namely all UN Member States in Continental South America, and all States in the League of Arab States.

Only 22 UN Member States remain globally to ratify the Convention.

SUDAN

172nd State Party to UNCAT

Sudan ratified the UN Convention against Torture on the 10th of August, 2021. Sudan had signed the Convention in 1986.

CTI is pleased to have supported and encouraged Sudan's ratification of UNCAT together with other partners and stakeholders. In March 2018, CTI organised a **two-day seminar** in Khartoum. This seminar on dialogue and cooperation on the Convention shared technical advice and State experiences on ways to apply the Convention's main provisions. In early 2021, CTI had also participated in an **online round-table** with Sudanese government and civil society representatives.



SURINAME

173rd State Party to UNCAT

Suriname acceded to the UN Convention against Torture on the 16th of November, 2021. Suriname is the 10th State in the Caribbean region to become party to the Convention.

CTI is pleased to have contributed to Suriname's ratification journey, including through **CTI's roundtable in Paramaribo** on UNCAT ratification in partnership in 2016, as well as Suriname's attendance of CTI's events, which most recently included **CTI's Online workshop** on 'UNCAT: Sharing Experiences of Ratification, Legislative Reform and Reporting' in December 2020.



REGIONAL EVENT FOR WEST AFRICA

In April 2021, CTI partnered with the **Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR)** to conduct its first online professional training workshop on “**Investigative Interviewing for a Fair Administration of Justice**” for five West African States. Organised with the support of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa (CPTA) and hosted by the Government of Ghana as a CTI Core State, the workshop gathered 30 Government representatives from the Police Force/Service, Ministry of Justice and/or Attorney General’s Office and aimed at building the capacity of police services and broader criminal justice actors on non-coercive, rapport-building interviewing methods to strengthen the prevention of torture and ill-treatment in the first hours of police custody.

REGIONAL EVENT FOR PACIFIC

In May 2021, 11 Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) took part in online workshop hosted by the Government of Fiji and organised by CTI in partnership with the **Commonwealth Secretariat** and the **Pacific Community’s Human Rights and Social Development (HRSD) Division**. The event aimed to provide States an overview of UNCAT’s provisions and ratification and legislative requirements, and to assess their own legislation in comparison. The event also provided a platform for States to exchange on best practices in the implementation of UNCAT and on their national journeys. Among the participants were senior level officials from Ministries of Justice, Foreign Affairs, Attorney General’s Chambers and National Human Rights Institutions.

“

Working together on greater professionalization of our police services, adequate training on torture prevention and investigative interviewing, and building the capacity of criminal justice actors, such as judges, prosecutors and lawyers, in preventing torture and ill-treatment, we can reduce risks and incentives to use such abhorrent acts and ensure greater accountability when these occur.

Hon. Ambrose Dery
Minister of the Interior of Ghana
CTI Workshop for West Africa

UN ANTI-TORTURE BODIES

CTI briefed the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (online in March), the Committee against Torture (online in July) and the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (in-person in November) to exchange on UNCAT ratification and implementation progress, inform of CTI's latest activities and events and discuss ways to strengthen mutual collaboration.

ORGANISATION OF AMERICAN STATES

In June, CTI briefed the representatives of Caribbean and Latin American Permanent Missions to the OAS in Washington D.C. at a session aimed at raising awareness on the benefits of becoming party and implementing UNCAT. The briefing was the first of its kind and was organised by the Permanent Mission of Chile to the OAS in commemoration of International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, celebrated yearly on 26th of June.

LDCs/SIDS TRUST FUND

As part of the 48th of the Human Rights Council (13 Sept – 8 Oct), CTI organised a briefing to 15 participating LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Delegates from Africa, the Caribbean and Asia to exchange on good practices to prevent and prohibit torture and other forms of ill-treatment and learn from challenges faced by Small States and ways to overcome them, as 70% of the remaining UNCAT non-States-parties are LDCs and/or SIDS.



September 2021 - CTI Dinner hosted by Ambassador Zniber (Morocco), with H.E. Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights



September 2021 - CTI Briefing to LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Delegates

During the year, CTI's Core States delivered statements to raise awareness on key issues, and to underline CTI's availability to support States in ratifying and implementing the Convention against Torture.

March 2021: CTI's **Item 3 General Debate Statement at HRC46** encouraged Governments to review existing rules and policies as well as training curricula on prison management and law enforcement practices and expressed CTI's committed to continue supporting States' efforts in professionalising police and law enforcement services around the world.

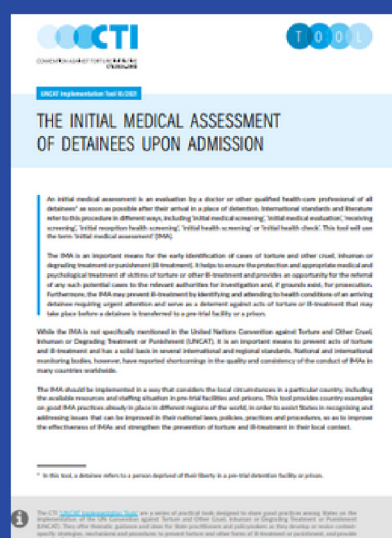
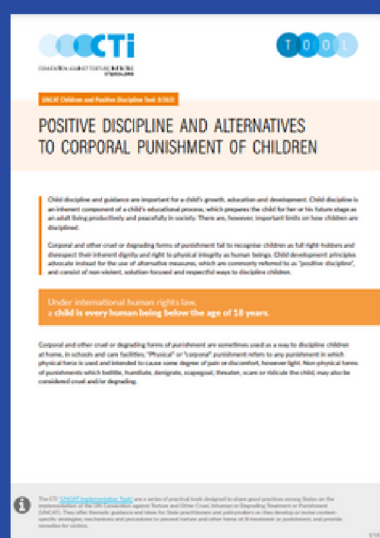


June 2021: CTI Ambassadors' **joint statement on International Day in Support of Victims of Torture** underscored the role of civil society in the fight against torture, particularly in working towards the eradication of torture and other ill-treatment through monitoring places of detention, reviewing draft laws and policies, and providing rehabilitation services for survivors.



October 2021: CTI's **UNGA76 Third Committee Statement** during the interactive dialogue with anti-torture mandate holders provided an update on recent regional events CTI held to support States to ratify/accede to UNCAT and improve implementation and expressed CTI's appreciation for the work of anti-torture mandate holders and a commitment for continued mutual support and cooperation.

In 2021, CTI published new tools and resources on various aspects of the Convention against Torture and promising practices from around the world. All CTI tools and resources for States are available in various languages on CTI's websites.



CTI also featured two States - **Angola** and **Samoa** - in its 'States Parties in Focus' blog series, which highlights experiences of States with UNCAT.

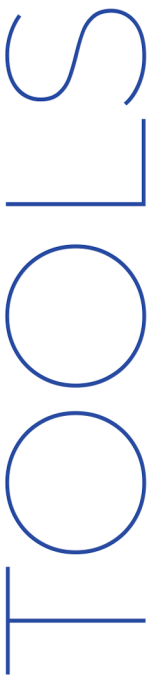
UNCAT IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

CTI UNCAT Implementation Tool 9/2021 on Positive Discipline and Alternatives to Corporal Punishment of Children (April 2021)

CTI partnered with Child Rights Connect to develop a tool on violence-free alternatives to corporal punishment to educate and instill discipline on children, in fulfilment of States' obligations under the UN Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The tool compiles 30 examples of State good practices across regions on how to implement positive discipline approaches through education, training and awareness-raising, adopting legislation prohibiting corporal punishment and developing comprehensive policies to prohibit such practices.

CTI UNCAT Implementation Tool 10/2021 on the Initial Medical Assessment of Detainees upon Admission (November 2021)

The latest entry in CTI's UNCAT Implementation Tool series offers guidance to States on how to provide for an effective initial medical assessment (IMA) of detainees upon admission to pre-trial or prison facilities. Such medical assessments are an important means for the early identification of cases of torture and other ill-treatment and provide an opportunity for the referral of any such cases to the relevant authorities for investigation and prosecution, thereby contributing to the effective implementation of the UN Convention against Torture namely the obligation to investigate and prosecute acts of torture or ill-treatment as well as the obligation to prevent such acts from happening. Knowing that victims of torture are properly identified and that torture does not go unnoticed serves as a strong deterrent for perpetrators and may help prevent torture from happening in the future. Partnering with DIGNITY (the Danish Institute Against Torture), CTI's latest tool provides an overview of existing promising State practices and explains the different purposes and key requirements for an effective initial medical assessment.



Goal 1: Awareness among developing countries is enhanced on the benefits of UNCAT obligations and their capacity to implement the Convention	
Developing countries provided with technical advice on the UNCAT through bilateral meetings and briefings	58
Regional Events held: -West Africa workshop on Investigative Interviewing -Pacific Workshop on fair administration of justice	2
Goal 2: Strengthened institutional engagement on UNCAT	
Senior officials from developing countries participated in CTI events	112
Senior officials from all States participated in CTI events	130
New ratifications: Sudan, Suriname	2
Technical support to experts of LDC and/or SIDS on initial UNCAT-reporting	1
Annual Forum (Group of Friends of CTI, and other key partners)	1
Goal 3: Increased awareness of good States' practices in implementing UNCAT	
Translations and/or new guides or tools developed, consulted upon and disseminated; blogs on developing countries' experiences shared; mapping exercises on regional anti-torture legislative frameworks	4



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