

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **2022**

CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE INITIATIVE

# 2022 IN REVIEW

## LED BY CTI'S SIX CORE STATES

CTI is spearheaded by the Governments of Chile, Denmark, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia and Morocco, supported by a full-time Secretariat, based in Geneva. The six CTI Core States leading the initiative are engaged through their direct bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, as well as through sharing and exchanging on national practices and challenges with other governments by hosting and participating in various activities.

Galvanized by the opening of public spaces and allowances for in-person activities, in 2022 CTI endeavored to restart in-person activities to support States in their efforts to ratify and implement the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ('UNCAT' or the 'UN Convention against Torture').

CTI was delighted to hold a regional and national workshop in Indonesia and The Gambia respectively. CTI held four briefings to regional groupings and UN anti-torture mechanisms, aimed at raising awareness on the modalities of support available from CTI, as well as to shine light on the utility and value of the UN Convention against Torture for States. CTI also released a total of six tools, including launching its Police Resource Toolkit aimed to support human rights compliant policing. Continuing to utilize online modalities, CTI held three online events this year.

CTI appreciates the support of its partners under the variety of projects undertaken this year, and looks forward to further collaborations in the pursuance of the mutual goal of a torture-free global community.

As we embark on the final two years of CTI's initial mandate, CTI will take stock of lessons learned and experiences gained to guide its work and approaches to States and relevant stakeholders. CTI will continue to strive to highlight best practices from States and to create and foster platforms for their sharing, in order for States to learn from and inspire one another.

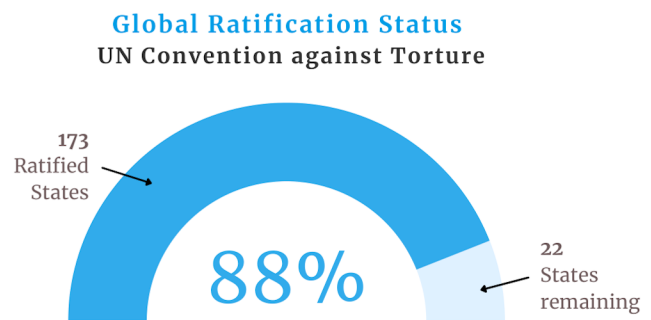


# UNCAT RATIFICATION

Since CTI's establishment in 2014, 19 new States have become party to the UN Convention against Torture.

During the year, CTI has supported States' ratification journeys through its awareness raising and capacity building activities. CTI also provided confidential guidance and advice to States in their efforts to ratify the Convention.

In 2022, CTI conducted a study visit in Geneva for a non-State party.



## CELEBRATION

In October, CTI held a reception in Geneva to celebrate the full ratification of the UNCAT by all Arab States and States from South America.

Over 70 ambassadors and representatives from States, International Organizations, and NGOs in Geneva, convened to celebrate this key milestone.



# CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS



## **The UN Convention against Torture: Building robust Preventive Frameworks in the Asia-Pacific region**

In April, CTI held a regional seminar on building robust preventive frameworks and the implementation of safeguards against torture and other ill-treatment in practice in the Asia-Pacific region. Hosted by Indonesia, and organised in partnership and collaboration with the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR), the Representative of Indonesia to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), and the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), the event built on previous dialogues and seminars

that CTI has held for the Asia and Pacific region in 2015, 2019 and 2021. In particular, the seminar built on two key recommendations from 2019: to continue to share experiences of processes of ratification and effective implementation of UNCAT and to add thematic discussions allowing for deeper engagement on specific challenges, such as the effective implementation of safeguards in the early stages of police custody.

## **Strengthening complaints, investigations and prosecution mechanisms**

CTI held a Technical Workshop on “Improving implementation of the UN Convention against Torture: Strengthening complaints, investigations and prosecution mechanisms” in Serekunda, The Gambia. Hosted by the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General’s Chambers of The Gambia and organised in partnership with REDRESS, the Workshop aimed at building the capacity of 14 Gambian Government representatives from seven agencies, composed of the Ministry of Justice, the High Court, the Gambia Police Force, the Drug Law Enforcement Agency, the Armed Forces, the State Intelligence Services and the Prisons Service.





# CTI BRIEFINGS

CTI conducted four key briefings in 2022 to regional groupings, UN anti-torture bodies, and State delegates.



## **CARICOM**

January

CTI conducted a virtual briefing to representatives of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in Geneva. This was CTI's first ever briefing to the CARICOM group.



## **UNVFT**

March

CTI held its annual briefing to the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT) during the 55th session of the Board of Trustees of the UNVFVT,



## **LDC/SIDS Trust Fund**

September

CTI organised a briefing to delegates of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund who were in Geneva to attend the 51st session of the Human Rights Council, taking place from 12 September to 7 October.



## **CAT**

October

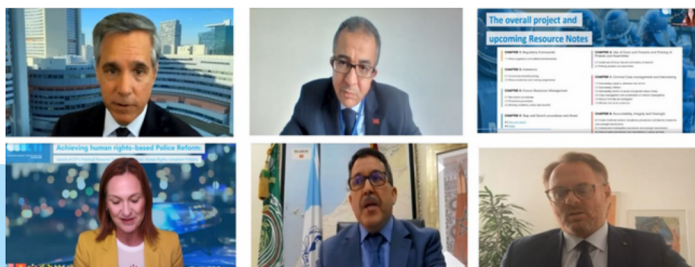
CTI held its annual briefing to the UN Committee against Torture (CAT) as part of the Committee's 75th session, which took place in Geneva from 31 October to 25 November, and marked CTI's first in-person briefing to the Committee since May 2019.



# ONLINE EVENTS

In March, CTI held a side event on the margins of the 49th session of the HRC titled, “**Preventing and Investigating Torture and other ill-treatment in detention: The role of lawyers, doctors, and judges**”. Featuring speakers from Brazil, Morocco, Sierra Leone, and the Philippines, the event’s attendees included representatives from 17 States, in addition to representatives from the UN, renowned academics, experts and civil society organizations working on torture prevention and rehabilitation of torture victims.

In April, in collaboration with REDRESS, CTI held the online webinar “**Towards Torture Prevention and Eradication in Common Law Africa**” to launch the report titled “Anti-Torture Standards in common law Africa: Good Practices and Way Forward”.



In May, CTI held a side event on the margins of the 31st session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) titled “**Achieving human rights-based Police Reform**” to present and launch its Practical Resource Toolkit for Professional, Human Rights-compliant Policing developed in partnership with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

# CTI STATEMENTS

CTI issued four statements through its Core State Ambassadors in New York and Geneva.



## Human Rights Council

March

CTI delivered a statement on behalf of the CTI's Core State group under the General Debate on Item 3 at the United Nations Human Rights Council's (HRC) 49th Session in Geneva.



## International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

June

In commemoration of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, CTI issued a statement recalling the absolute and non-derogable nature of the prohibition of torture under international human rights law and international humanitarian law.



## UNGA Third Committee

October

CTI delivered a statement at the UNGA Third Committee, highlighting the utility and value of ratifying and implementing the UN Convention against Torture.



## OPCAT Anniversary

December

Marking the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) on 18 December 2002, a joint statement was released by the CTI Core States.





# TOOLS & RESOURCES

CTI released a report titled “**Anti-Torture Standards in common law Africa: Good Practices and Way Forward**”, developed in partnership with REDRESS. The report reviews the anti-torture legal and regulatory framework in The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe and provides an analysis of standards in place to prevent, prohibit and respond to torture and other ill-treatment in these States, showcasing positive examples of domestic legal protection against torture and other ill-treatment.

CTI developed two **new entries to its “States parties in focus” blog**, which is a series of profiles, prepared in consultation with the profiled State, which shares inspiring journeys and experiences with other States that are considering ratifying or are in the process of implementing the UN Convention against Torture.

They provide concise and easy-to-read information on the reasons why States have opted to join UNCAT, the steps they have taken to implement the Convention and the positive outcomes for national and local authorities, agencies, citizens and other stakeholders.



## Indonesia in Focus

In May, CTI released a State Parties in Focus blog on Indonesia, highlighting promising practices that Indonesia has undertaken since its ratification of UNCAT in 1998.

In October, CTI released its ninth entry to the blog series exploring the Maldives’ experiences in ratifying and implementing UNCAT.



## Maldives in Focus



# POLICE RESOURCE TOOLKIT



CTI launched the first three Chapters of CTI's Police Resource Toolkit on Stop and Search, Arrest, and Safeguards in Police Custody respectively.

The Toolkit is addressed to police officers and other law enforcement officials, lawmakers, policy-makers and government officials in charge of developing and reforming national laws, policies, programmes and practices to professionalise police services and strengthen human rights-compliant policing.

Despite a large volume of international, regional and national handbooks, guidelines and other tools on best police practices, resources on applicable human rights law and standards for the various aspects of policing are still limited.

In this light, CTI in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), is developing a Police Resource Toolkit for Professional, Human Rights-compliant Policing to provide practical orientation on how to effectively implement existing international law and human rights standards in policing and law enforcement activities. The Resource Toolkit compiles existing resources and promising State practices on various aspects of policing and is intended to inform police reforms, fairness and transparency in policing and reducing the risks and incentives for torture or other ill-treatment.

Chapters will be released from 2022 to 2024.



## Annual Forum

In December, CTI held its 2022 Annual Forum in Geneva. For the first time since 2018, CTI welcomed its Group of Friends in person to discuss key achievements in the prevention of torture over the past year, and opportunities for improvements. Over 46 participants were in attendance at the Forum.



## CTI GROUP OF FRIENDS

CTI's Group of Friends is a diverse coalition of UN Member States, international and regional organisations, non-governmental organisations, researchers, academics, torture prevention and other theme related experts. Friends buttress the work and progress of CTI by providing assistance through active engagement in CTI technical workshops, training, seminars and other forums.

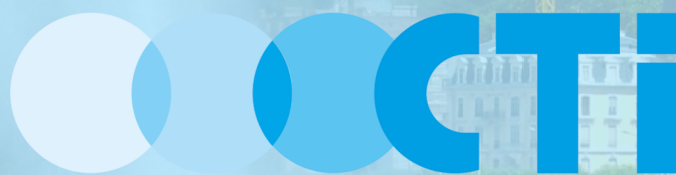
In 2022, 3 States newly joined CTI's Group of Friends – Angola, the Maldives and Marshall Islands. This brings the tally of CTI's State Friends to 47.



# RESULTS FRAMEWORK

<b>Goal 1: Awareness among developing countries is enhanced on the benefits of UNCAT obligations and their capacity to implement the Convention</b>	
Study Visit	1
Regional Workshop on UNCAT implementation	1
National Workshop on UNCAT implementation	1
Countries provided with advice on the UNCAT through bilateral meetings, briefings and events, including emphasis on SIDS and Non-States Parties	60 +
<b>Goal 2: Strengthened institutional engagement on UNCAT</b>	
Briefings to UN bodies on CTI to enhance engagement	3
Side events to regional/international events	2
Annual Forum (Group of Friends of CTI, and other key partners)	1
<b>Goal 3: Increased awareness of good States' practices in implementing UNCAT</b>	
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	6





CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE INITIATIVE  
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