

40
YEARS

CTI FORUM 2024

Varembé Conference Centre (CCV)

19 November 2024

Join us in commemorating

40 Years of the
UN Convention Against Torture

10 Years of the
Convention Against Torture Initiative

9.00 AM – HIGH LEVEL FORUM

Opening statement by [H.E. Volker Türk](#) – United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Video statement)

Commemorating 40 years of the UN Convention against Torture
[Claude Heller](#) – Chair, UN Committee against Torture

Statement by person with lived experience
[Neris González](#) (Video statement)

The Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI) – Road ahead
[H.E. Ambassador Ib Petersen](#) – Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Statement by [H.E. Ambassador Patricia Ann Hermans](#) – Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

10 years of CTI – Key achievements
[Gayethri Pillay](#) – Head of Secretariat, CTI

Statement by [H.E. Acting High Commissioner Janet Charles](#) – Dominica High Commission in London, UK (Video statement)

9.50 am **Coffee break & Group photo**

10.20 am [Dr. Alice Jill Edwards](#) – UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Video statement)

10.30 am **The Convention against Torture Initiative:
CTI's support modalities and global impact over 10 years**
[Gayethri Pillay](#) – Head of Secretariat, CTI
[Laura Blanco](#) – Legal Advisor, CTI

11.00 am **Pathways to UNCAT ratification: Reflections from recently ratified States**
Chaired by [H.E. Ambassador Luke Daunivalu](#) – Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

12.30 pm **Lunch break** (*provided at venue*)

2.00 pm [H.E. Ambassador Achsanul Habib](#) – Chargé d'affaires a.i, Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

2.05 pm **Reflecting on 40 Years of UNCAT: Progress, challenges, and the road ahead**
Chaired by [H.E. Ambassador Claudia Fuentes](#) – Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

3.15 pm **Coffee break**

3.30 pm **Tools, measures and mechanisms supporting UNCAT implementation**
Chaired by [Nicole Hogg](#) – Secretary General, Association for the Prevention of Torture

4.45 pm **Closing remarks**
[Miriam Ragala](#), Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva



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UN CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE &
CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE INITIATIVE

High Level Segment

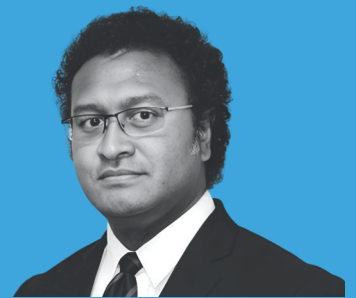


10.20 - Remarks by Dr. Alice Jill Edwards, UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Video statement)



10.30 - Presentation on CTI's support modalities and global impact over 10 years by Laura Blanco, Legal Adviser, CTI, alongside Gayethri Pillay, Head of Secretariat, CTI

Pathways to UNCAT Ratification: Reflections from recently Ratified States



11.00AM TO 12.30PM

Chaired by H.E. Ambassador Luke Daunivalu, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Since CTI's establishment, 20 States have become newly party to the UN Convention against Torture, many of whom CTI has been pleased to support. This segment will provide an opportunity for States that have recently ratified UNCAT to share their ratification journeys, as well as the steps taken towards implementing the Convention's provisions. The discussion aims to promote knowledge-sharing among States by highlighting promising practices, and identifying common challenges and related solutions.

Panelists will include (Listed alphabetically by country)

The Bahamas Janet C. McKenzie, Assistant Commissioner of Police in the Royal Bahamas Police Force

Oman Talal Hilal Al Siyabi, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Suriname Roy Baidjnath Panday, Special Advisor to the Cabinet of the President

Tuvalu Galivaka Tekafa, UN Senior Advisor


Interactive Discussion Segment - The Chair will open the floor to allow other States and stakeholders to share their UNCAT ratification and implementation experiences, best practices and challenges.



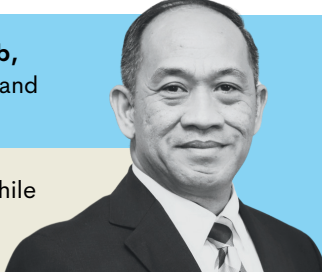
2.00PM TO 3.15PM

Reflecting on 40 Years of UNCAT: Progress, challenges, and the road ahead

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Opening remarks for afternoon segment by H.E. Ambassador Achsanul Habib,
Chargé d'affaires a.i, Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations Office and
other international organizations in Geneva



Chaired by H.E. Ambassador Claudia Fuentes, Permanent Representative of Chile
to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention against Torture, this panel discussion will reflect on the progress made, the challenges faced, and road forward to ensure the effective implementation of UNCAT globally. The Panel will explore the rationale behind the adoption of the Convention, the impact it has had across regions, and how key actors view the path forward in terms of ratification and implementation of UNCAT.

Expected Outcomes:

- A reflection on the UNCAT's achievements, challenges, and future;
- Key insights into experiences of States, NGOs/civil society, and other stakeholders in their efforts in supporting UNCAT implementation;
- To explore future opportunities and strategies for advancing the Convention's implementation globally;
- Recommendations for overcoming current obstacles collaboratively as we enter the next phase of global implementation of UNCAT and other anti-torture initiatives.

Panelists:

UN Committee against Torture

Ana Racu, Member of the United Nations Committee Against Torture

Regional State Perspectives

H.E. Ambassador Emmanuel Antwi, Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

H.E. Ambassador Colin Murdoch, Permanent Observer, Permanent Delegation of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

NGO / Civil Society Perspectives

Nicole Hogg, Secretary General, Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT)

Carin Benninger-Budel, Deputy Secretary General, World Organization against Torture (OMCT)



Tools, measures and mechanisms supporting UNCAT implementation

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3.30PM TO 4.45PM

Chaired by **Nicole Hogg**, Secretary General,
Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT)



Over the past four decades, the global efforts to prevent and address torture and other ill-treatment have continued to evolve from legal commitments to a range of tools and mechanisms to effectively implement UNCAT. This panel will explore how key instruments and mechanisms —such as the Méndez Principles and the Istanbul Protocol — have been developed and implemented to translate the principles of the UNCAT into effective measures that prevent torture, support accountability, and protect the rights of individuals. The Panel will be composed of speakers who work on the real-world application of these tools and mechanisms.

The Panel will also welcome speakers from organizations that support UNCAT implementation.

Expected outcomes:

- Showcasing key tools, measures and mechanisms that support UNCAT implementation and increase awareness of these amongst States and stakeholders;
- Promotion of best practices in torture prevention and investigation, and to support sharing of knowledge and lessons learnt; Identification of gaps, challenges, and opportunities for future collaboration amongst stakeholders;
- Identification of gaps, challenges, and opportunities for future collaboration amongst stakeholders.

Panelists:

Istanbul Protocol

Asger Kjaerum, Director of Advocacy, International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)

The 'Méndez Principles'

Valentina Cadelo, Senior Adviser, Law and Advocacy, APT

Supporting effective UNCAT implementation

Nosy Ramamonjisoa, Human Rights Officer and Coordinator, Treaties Capacity Building Programme, OHCHR

Dr. Justin Pettit, Human Rights Adviser, Commonwealth Secretariat, UK

Susanne Flølo, Senior Adviser, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights

Closing remarks by Miriam Ragala, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

