



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development shares UNCAT's vision of dignity, justice and equality.

The UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT) sets out States' obligations to prevent torture and other ill-treatment, ensure accountability and provide redress for victims. Its effective implementation strengthens the rule of law and accountability — essential foundations for peace, justice and sustainable development. Implementing UNCAT advances several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 16 on justice, rule of law and accountable institutions, as well as SDGs 3, 4, 5, 10, 13 and 17, among others.

Peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16)

UNCAT and SDG 16 share a common foundation in the rule of law and justice. UNCAT obligations to prohibit, criminalise and investigate torture (Arts. 2–7, 12–15) directly advance peaceful and inclusive societies (targets 16.1–16.3). Training and review of detention practices (Arts. 10–11) strengthen accountability (target 16.6), while State reporting to the Committee against Torture (Art. 19) enhances transparency and information-sharing (target 16.10).

Partnerships for implementation (SDG 17)

UNCAT fosters international cooperation through extradition, mutual legal assistance and jurisdictional collaboration (Arts. 7–9). CTI's by States for States approach exemplifies SDG 17 by promoting dialogue, technical support and peer learning among governments, experts and partners committed to universal ratification and implementation.

Education, training and a culture of lawfulness (SDG 4)

UNCAT obliges States to integrate education and information on the prohibition of torture into the training of all law-enforcement, medical and custodial personnel (Art. 10). This contributes to SDG 4.7 by embedding human rights, non-violence and ethical conduct within professional education.

Health, well-being and rehabilitation (SDG 3)

The right of victims to redress and rehabilitation (Art. 14) promotes both physical and mental health, social reintegration and access to essential services, in line with SDG 3 on ensuring healthy lives and well-being for all.

Climate action and human security (SDG 13)

Climate change and environmental stress can heighten risks of violence, displacement and vulnerability, including through deteriorating conditions of detention. Implementing UNCAT helps build resilient, rule-based institutions capable of protecting rights even in times of crisis. Torture prevention and respect for human dignity strengthen the human-centred responses needed for effective climate adaptation and sustainable peace.

Equality and non-discrimination (SDGs 5 & 10)

UNCAT prohibits torture based on discrimination "of any kind" (Art. 1), supporting efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls (target 5.2) and to ensure equal protection under the law (target 10.3). Through the non-refoulement obligation (Art. 3), States safeguard vulnerable persons from being returned to situations where they would face torture or ill-treatment, reinforcing inclusion and protection (target 10.2).

The effective implementation of UNCAT accelerates progress across the 2030 Agenda by promoting dignity, equality, justice and accountable governance: essential foundations for sustainable peace and development.