



The Permanent Missions of Chile, Denmark, Ghana, Indonesia and Morocco

Invitation

High Level launch event of the

Convention against Torture Initiative

A new global initiative for universal ratification and implementation of the UN Convention against Torture

Tuesday 4 March 2014 13:00-14:30

Room XXIV, Palais des Nations

(refreshments will be provided as of 12:45)

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Opening address by Ms Navi Pillay, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Moderated discussion, led by Mr Mark Thomson, Secretary General of the Association for the Prevention of Torture. Current challenges faced by States in the ratification and implementation of the Convention against Torture will be addressed by high level panellists:

H.E. Minister Delegate for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco, Ms Mbarka Bouaida

H.E. Under Secretary of State for Legal Affairs MFA Denmark, Mr Jonas Bering Liisberg

H.E. Permanent Representative of Chile to the UN in Geneva, Mr José Luis Balmaceda

H.E. Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the UN in Geneva, Mr Triyono Wibowo

Deputy Permanent Representative of Ghana to the UN in Geneva, Mr Ebenezer Appreku

The Convention against Torture Initiative is a 10 year commitment to support States to overcome obstacles for ratification and to explore good practice and technical assistance in the implementation of the Convention. The adoption of the UN Convention against Torture, in 1984, was a landmark in the global fight against torture and ill-treatment. The Convention underlined a fundamental principle: Torture is never, under any circumstances, justified. Yet some thirty years later, torture and ill-treatment of men, women and children remain a serious global problem. The time has come for a more concerted effort among Governments, UN and other intergovernmental agencies, national institutions, relevant non-governmental organizations and experts, who are capable of providing quality advice and assistance, to step up international efforts towards universal ratification and implementation of the Convention against Torture. *The Convention against Torture Initiative is still in its early stages and inputs and ideas from participants which can contribute to shape the next stages of the initiative will be highly welcome.*