



## Joint Communiqué, New York, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018

We, the members of the Global Alliance to end trade in goods used for capital punishment and torture, reiterate our firm commitment to the respect for the human rights of all human beings and reaffirm the Political Declaration adopted by members of the Alliance on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017. We welcome the new States that have joined the Alliance for Torture-Free Trade at its first Ministerial Meeting in New York on 24 September 2018 and we encourage other countries to join.

We take stock of the work carried out since the Alliance for Torture-Free Trade was launched on 18 September 2017, particularly as regards its first technical meeting of experts held in Brussels on 29 June 2018. At that meeting, a global network of Focal Points for sharing information and best practice was set up. The network of Focal Points will facilitate providing technical assistance to other members for the design and implementation of relevant legislation when requested.

We take note and encourage relevant initiatives undertaken at the international, regional and subregional levels between States, in particular the Resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 19 December 2017<sup>1</sup>, and the Council of Europe<sup>2</sup> and of the role played by non-governmental organizations and civil society, to enhance cooperation, improve information exchange and transparency in the field of trade of goods used for capital punishment, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

We recognize that the absence of common international standards on the import, export and transfer of goods used for capital punishment, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is a contributory factor to facilitate the availability of these goods and enable such practices. We acknowledge the growing support across all regions for concluding an international instrument negotiated on a non-discriminatory, transparent and multilateral basis, to establish common international standards for the import, export and transfer of goods used for capital punishment, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

We commit to advancing a draft resolution, to be adopted by the United Nations General Assembly during its seventy-third session, in order to:

- Request the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the feasibility and possible scope of a range of options, including a legally binding instrument, to establish common international standards for the import, export and transfer of goods used for capital punishment, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and to submit a report on the subject to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session.

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<sup>1</sup> 72th Session, agenda item 72(a), 72/163. §19 *Calls upon all States to take appropriate effective legislative, administrative, judicial and other measures to prevent and prohibit the production, trade, export, import and use of equipment that has no practical use other than for the purpose of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.*

<sup>2</sup> 89<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee for Human Rights and Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2123 (2018) of June 2018.

- Request the Secretary-General to establish a group of governmental experts, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, informed by the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, to examine the feasibility, scope and draft parameters for a range of options including a legally binding instrument to establish common international standards for the import, export and transfer of goods used for capital punishment, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and to transmit the report of the group of experts to the Assembly for consideration at its seventy-fifth session.