



## Concept Note

### Stakeholders' Consultations

#### **“Towards torture-free trade: examining the feasibility, scope and parameters for possible common international standards”**

#### **United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/304**

1. In its resolution 73/304, entitled “Towards torture-free trade: examining the feasibility, scope and parameters for possible common international standards”, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, with the provisions of resolution 72/163 in mind, to seek the views of Member States on the feasibility and possible scope of a range of options to establish common international standards for the import, export and transfer of goods used for (a) capital punishment, (b) 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. In July 2020, the report of the Secretary-General (A/74/969) was presented before the 74th session of the General Assembly.
2. General Assembly resolution 73/304 further requested the Secretary-General, on the basis of his report, to establish a group of governmental experts, to be chosen on the basis of equitable geographical distribution and guided by the need to appoint individuals reflecting the highest standards of efficiency, competence in the fields of human rights and/or international trade, and integrity, to examine the feasibility, scope of the goods to be included and draft parameters for a range of options to establish common international standards on the matter and to transmit the report of the group of experts to the General Assembly for consideration.
3. In July 2021, the Secretary General appointed the following 10 experts: Ms. Mari Amos (Estonia) - Vice Chair; Ms. Iris Bodendorf (Germany); Ms. Alejandra Costa (Uruguay) - Rapporteur; Mr. Alejandro Dávalos (Ecuador); Mr. Constant Zirignon Delbe (Côte d’Ivoire); Ms. Athena Demetriou (Cyprus); Mr. Asger Kjærøum (Denmark) - Chair; Ms. Natalie Y. Morris-Sharma (Singapore); Mr. Germain Ntono Tsimi (Cameroon); and Mr. Bakhtiyar Tuzmukhamedov (Russian Federation). The Group of Governmental Experts held its first meeting on 12 and 13 October 2021, and its second meeting on 3, 6 and 7 December 2021.
4. **Objective:** The Group of Governmental experts is currently undertaking research and consultations to inform its report to the General Assembly, and the consultation on 17

January is a key meeting in this process. The overall focus of the consultation is to explore perspectives on the elaboration of 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 possible ways forward. Accordingly, and for the purposes of the preparation of its report, the Group of Governmental experts invites representatives from interested States, United Nations organisations and agencies, international and regional organizations, civil society, national human rights institutions, academics and other experts to discuss: (i) the feasibility of common international standards; (ii) the scope of goods to be included; (iii) the draft parameters for a range of options to establish common international standards on the matter; and (iv) whether the question of the death penalty should be addressed on an equal footing with torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

5. The consultations will take place on **17 January 2022 from 11:30-13:30 for States' representatives** and **from 15:00-17:00 for all other stakeholders**.
  
- 6. On 23 December 2021, consultations will be open for registration on INDICO at <https://indico.un.org/event/37340/>**
  
7. Only those who have registered for the event will be allowed access to the consultations and will receive a link to the meeting in advance.
  
8. During the consultations, all participants will have the opportunity to take the floor and deliver **5 minute** interventions.
  
9. Time allowing, the Group of Governmental Experts may engage in a dialogue with the participants during the consultations for further information or clarification on their submissions.
  
10. Participants are asked to focus their interventions on the topics referred to in para. 4 above: i) the feasibility of common international standards; (ii) the scope of goods to be included; and/or (iii) the draft parameters for a range of options to establish common international standards on the matter.
  
11. All participants are encouraged to submit their statements in advance, and no later than **14 January 2022** to the Secretariat, at **[yasmine.hadjoudj@un.org](mailto:yasmine.hadjoudj@un.org)** or by attaching it to their Indico registration, so as to ensure proper interpretation, which will be available in all official UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish, and Russian).

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