Statement by the members of the Global Alliance for Torture-Free Trade[1]
On the occasion of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
26 June 2019

We stand in solidarity with the victims and survivors of torture and reaffirm our abiding commitment to achieve a world without torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

The international community is united in its condemnation of torture. 166 states have ratified the UN Convention against Torture and have thereby pledged to take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent acts of torture in their territory.

The trade in goods used for torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment has been a longstanding concern at the UN. The first UN Special Rapporteur on Torture addressed the issue over 30 years ago and since then, the United Nations and several regional organisations, such as the African Union Commission and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, have recommended action.

We cannot turn a blind eye to the import and export of goods used to inflict torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. To this end, we have tabled a draft resolution that calls on the United Nations to examine the feasibility, scope and parameters for possible 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 we invite all UN Member States to join the initiative.

As we mark International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, this is one small step towards protecting others from falling victim.

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[1] Full list of countries in the Alliance (three States are in the process of joining):

Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Vanuatu, European Union