



**B3-04.08**

## **Guidelines on country engagement**

Following an impressive increase in APT activities, these guidelines have been prepared by the APT staff to assist in a logical choice of countries for the APT to work in, according to a variety of criteria that should be applied to ensure maximum input of APT time and resources. These guidelines were discussed, improved and approved by the APT Board on 10 November 2007.

### **A. Criteria for medium-term APT country engagement**

1. There should be a sincere interest and public commitment from governmental and/or non-governmental actors to take measures to better prevent torture and other ill-treatment.
2. The APT engagement should be capable of having an impact in the national context. In particular, there should exist the possibility to promote and pursue the three integrated elements for effective prevention of torture (transparency, legal frameworks, will and capacity changes).
3. The engagement should reflect existing APT priorities, and should add value. It should not be duplicative of work already being done in the country by other NGOs.
4. There should be identified national governmental and non-governmental partners willing and capable to cooperate with the APT as well as its regional and international partners.
5. There should be an interest in cooperating over several years (average 3) to ensure lasting legal and institutional reforms, improvements in access to detained persons and changes in practice.
6. There should be, as far as possible, country engagements in all regions of the World (Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific, Europe & Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa).

### **B. Criteria for other APT in-country activities**

1. There should be a sincere interest and public commitment from governmental and/or non-governmental actors to take measures to better prevent torture and other ill-treatment.
2. The activity should be capable of having an impact in the national context.
3. The activity should reflect existing APT priorities, and should add value. It should not be duplicative of work already being done in the country by other NGOs.
4. There should be in-country partners (national, regional or international) willing and capable of following through with other national prevention initiatives.

5. Where there are possibilities for the APT to improve its knowledge, contacts and identify potential partners.

### **C. Phases of APT country engagement**

1. There should be prior consultations with governmental and non-governmental actors, as well as regional and international partners, to clarify objectives, types of activities, timing and other details of an APT country engagement. This should include research on what has been done or planned by other organizations and mechanisms (national, regional and international).
2. Funders of APT country engagement projects should be identified and approached as early as possible, including sometimes in the planning stages, to gauge and possibly secure their interest.
3. Reporting and evaluating by partners and participants should be incorporated and encouraged throughout the country engagement, in order to build in flexibility for strategy and redefining partners, schedules and expected outcomes.
4. The follow-up phase of APT country engagement should be agreed at an early stage with partners in order to clarify expected limits to APT's engagement.

### **D. Conclusions**

The APT staff will use the above guidelines in all stages of APT projects (design, implementation, evaluation, reporting, follow-up). They may be revised by the staff and approved by the APT Board.