

**Interactive dialogue with mandate holders on prevention of torture**

**UN General Assembly's Third Committee, 77<sup>th</sup> session**

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**Joint statement by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, United Kingdom, Uruguay, and Chile, in support of the Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr President,

Distinguished experts,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of 53 countries from different regions, including my own country, Chile.

We extend our congratulations to Dr. Alice Edwards, as the first woman assuming the mandate of UN Special Rapporteur on torture. We commend the Special Rapporteur on her priorities for the next years, in particular domestic legislative frameworks including safeguards, the use of force by law enforcement actors, and the accountability of military and security actors.

We welcome both annual reports from the Committee against Torture and Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, and reaffirm our support for your mandates to prevent and combat torture.

As highlighted in the report of the SPT, the Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering (known as the Méndez Principles) constitute an essential step in the cultural shift towards the respect of human rights at all stages of the criminal justice process.

We share the views of the SPT, that the Principles provide guidance for police and others on obtaining accurate and reliable information in full respect of the human rights of the person being interviewed, including through the implementation of legal and procedural safeguards in the first hours of police custody.

We very much welcome the contribution of the Méndez Principles to make the work of law enforcement more efficient and to strengthen compliance with human rights obligations, including under the UN Convention against Torture.

We thus encourage all UN Member States to support the use of the Principles as a useful reference framework to prevent torture and other ill-treatment during questioning and information gathering, in accordance with human rights, the rule of law and SDG 16 on just peaceful and inclusive societies.

Thank you.