

11 March 2022
Geneva, Switzerland

Mr. President, Mr. Special Rapporteur, Excellencies,

The APT, Dignity, IBAHRI, ICJ, OMCT and PRI welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur.

We share the Special Rapporteur's views regarding the relevance of thematic reports to standard setting, as well as their direct contribution to the development of normative and practical frameworks, integrating interdisciplinary approaches.

As stated in the report, the 2021 Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering are one of the most recent and successful examples in this regard.

The Principles are the result of a four-year drafting process by experts from different fields, responding to the 2016 appeal to the UN General Assembly by then-Special Rapporteur Juan E. Méndez.

Confession driven criminal justice systems incur a higher risk of torture and coercion. The Principles provide concrete and practical guidance to authorities to stop such dangerous practices and instead initiate rapport-based interviewing along with the implementation of legal and procedural safeguards during investigations and other forms of information gathering processes.

In this spirit, we call on Human Rights Council member States to continue supporting mandate holders in the development of thematic reports, as well as to ensure the effective implementation of relevant human rights law, standards, and norms in compliance with the international prohibition of torture and ill-treatment.

Finally, we also would like to seize this opportunity to thank the Special Rapporteur for his important work while his mandate comes to an end.

Thank you.

