**Seventieth session**

\* [A/70/150](http://undocs.org/A/70/150).

Item 73 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

**Promotion and protection of human rights:**

**implementation of human rights instruments**

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

Report of the Secretary-General

|  |
| --- |
| *Summary* |
| The present report is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 36/151 and 68/156. It describes the outcome of the forty-first session of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, in particular the expert workshop of practitioners on redress and rehabilitation of victims of torture in emergency contexts and long-term needs of victims. |
|  |

I. Introduction

A. Submission of the report

1. The present report was prepared in accordance with the arrangements approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/151, by which it established the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. It presents the outcome of the forty-first session of the Board of Trustees of the Fund, held in Geneva from 13 to 17 April 2015. The present report complements the report on the activities of the Fund submitted to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-eighth session ([A/HRC/28/25](http://undocs.org/A/HRC/28/25)), in March 2015.

B. Mandate of the Fund

2. The Fund receives voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals. In accordance with its mandate and the practice established by its Board of Trustees, the Fund provides grants to established channels of assistance, including non-governmental organizations, associations of victims and members of their families, private and public hospitals, legal clinics, public interest law firms and individual lawyers, that submit projects involving medical, psychological, social, financial, legal, humanitarian and other forms of direct assistance to victims of torture and members of their families.

C. Administration of the Fund and Board of Trustees

3. The Secretary-General administers the Fund through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) with the advice of a Board of Trustees composed of five members acting in their personal capacity and appointed by the Secretary-General with due regard to equitable geographical distribution and in consultation with their Governments. The Board is currently composed of Maria Cristina Nunes de Mendonça (Portugal), Morad el-Shazly (Egypt), Anastasia Pinto (India), Adam Bodnar (Poland) and Gaby Oré Aguilar (Peru). The mandates of Ms. Mendonça, Mr. el-Shazly, Ms. Pinto and Mr. Bodnar were renewed by the Secretary-General for a second term ending on 20 October 2017.

II. Forty-first session of the Board of Trustees

4. The forty-first session of the Board was held in Geneva from 13 to 17 April 2015 and was chaired by Mr. Adam Bodnar. At the session, the Board reviewed the implementation of the change management exercise, which it had formulated at its thirty-ninth session, in 2014. Accordingly, the Board focused on three areas: enhanced methods of work, increased outreach and knowledge-sharing.

A. Enhanced methods of work

5. As part of its efforts to improve the quality of operations, the Board paid a monitoring visit to the psychosocial rehabilitation centre Appartenances in Lausanne, Switzerland, on 13 April 2015. Periodic visits to projects are a key methodology of the Fund. The relevant evaluation tools, such as evaluation forms and manuals, are regularly reviewed to reflect the evolving methodology. The visit also allowed the Board to assess first-hand the challenges faced by civil society initiatives in countries of reception, such as Switzerland, in particular in the delivery of assistance to the most vulnerable within the immigration communities. Early identification of victims of torture among asylum-seekers and migrants and the provision of adequate rehabilitation are essential to ensure that the principle of non-refoulement is respected and to increase the chances for the victims’ reintegration into society.

B. Increased outreach

6. On 16 April, the Board of Trustees and secretariat of the Fund convened a public event entitled “Redress and rehabilitation of victims of torture: an integral part of the fight against torture”. The event was open to all Geneva-based State delegations, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and the media. The public event was enriched by the presence of practitioners from grantee organizations of the Fund and attracted a solid diplomatic representation of 45 permanent missions, as well as the World Health Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the International Committee of the Red Cross, civil society actors and the media, including United Nations Television and United Nations Radio. More than 120 delegates attended the public event, which highlighted not only the tangible difference made by this unique United Nations Trust Fund but also the plight of thousands of victims in need of assistance.

7. The event was led by a panel of expert practitioners in the field of rehabilitation of victims of torture. At the event, the value of redress and rehabilitation as core components in the fight against torture was emphasized, in particular their impact on the individual, the family and society. The event also provided an opportunity to present the experience of the Fund and its grantees by showcasing projects and actions on the ground.

8. During the forty-first session, the Board also held bilateral meetings with 21 State delegations. The general impression of the Trustees was that there was a wide appreciation for the Fund’s recent prioritization exercise, the increased transparency in the reporting of its operations and the enhanced coordination with OHCHR field presences, as well as with other torture-related mechanisms.

C. Knowledge-sharing

Expert workshop of practitioners on redress and rehabilitation of victims of torture in emergency contexts and long-term needs of victims

9. On 15 April, the Board and secretariat of the Fund held a one-day expert workshop of practitioners on redress and rehabilitation of victims of torture in emergency contexts and long-term needs of victims in Geneva (see annexes I and II).

10. The workshop aimed at facilitating the sharing of good practices and lessons learned on the redress and rehabilitation of victims of torture in today’s complex emergency contexts and in relation to the long-term needs of victims. It also provided the opportunity to compare working methods and to discuss successful approaches and key developments in the delivery of assistance.

11. The workshop brought together 13 professionals from various backgrounds (medical, psychological, social and legal) from rehabilitation centres financially supported by the Fund and representatives of selected organizations with expertise in the field of redress and rehabilitation of victims of torture. Alessio Bruni, member of the Committee against Torture, Pieter Ventevogel, Senior Mental Health Officer of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Nimisha Patel, Director of the International Centre for Health and Human Rights, and representatives of the World Organization Against Torture also participated in the workshop.

12. The workshop was intended as the first in a series of yearly expert discussions to be facilitated by the Fund, with the aim of collecting and disseminating expertise and best practices on redress and rehabilitation of victims of torture and establishing a community of practice.

13. The workshop was organized around three panel discussions, which were moderated by members of the Board. The main findings that emerged during the day-long exchanges were as follows:

(a) **The complexity of contexts and crises in which torture takes place has grown in recent years, resulting in increases in the practice of torture and the number of victims of torture yearly.** The need for redress and rehabilitation has become more pressing and practitioners in the rehabilitation of victims of torture are facing a surge in intimidation and reprisals. Notwithstanding the unequivocal international normative framework on torture, protracted conflicts, coupled with new crises, extremist violence by non-State actors, efforts to counter terrorism, discourse on the growing sense of relativization with respect to torture, widespread impunity and a disregard for the most basic human rights are conducive to an environment in which torture practices appear to be on the rise and, increasingly, socially “accepted”. Intimidation and reprisals against professionals and organizations providing assistance to victims are also growing challenges in the current complex scenarios;

(b) **Torture affects the individual, family, community and society.** Torture is never an isolated act against an individual. It has a pervasive effect on the family, community and society. Assistance for redress and rehabilitation should include the individual’s family and community;

(c) **Both immediate and long-term assistance are essential for the redress and rehabilitation of victims of torture.** Torture is always an emergency, as it represents a direct threat to life and personal integrity. Assistance needs to be provided at the earliest opportunity and should include a package of physical and psychological measures and be implemented by specialized services. The long-lasting effects of torture, including the potential for transgenerational transfer of trauma, may require a long-term approach. Both the immediate and long-term response to torture call for appropriate human and financial resources, competence and the involvement of multiple stakeholders;

(d) **The redress and full rehabilitation of victims requires a multi‑disciplinary approach and coordination among all relevant actors.** In a context of focused and diminishing short-term financial resources, the increase in the number and complexity of needs of victims necessitates the effective coordination of all relevant actors, including State entities, civil society organizations and networks, as well as United Nations mechanisms, such as the United Nations Fund for Victims of Torture and other United Nations torture-related mechanisms, in particular the Committee Against Torture and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

(e) **Prevention of torture and assistance to victims of torture are complementary and mutually reinforcing.** Effective rehabilitation has a preventive effect. The two approaches are tightly linked and complementary.

(f) **There is a need for effective implementation of article 14 of the United Nations Convention against Torture and general comment No. 3 of the Committee against Torture.** Article 14 of the Convention establishes, and general comment No. 3 adopted by the Committee against Torture, clarifies the legal framework for the right of the victim to redress and full rehabilitation, as well as the resulting obligation for States. The United Nations Fund for Victims of Torture, by awarding rehabilitation projects, plays a key role in supporting the effective realization of this right in many countries in the world.

14. Each of the three panels focused on different issues of concern. The main outcomes are reflected below.

First panel

15. The topic of the first panel was “Setting the context, understanding concepts: main challenges in the redress and rehabilitation of victims of torture in today’s complex scenarios”.

16. The panel noted that the community of practice had tailored different services for victims of torture in the short and long term. However, rehabilitation needed to be seen as a continuum; in fact, some victims might need permanent follow-up. The heterogeneous nature of torture victims also called for a variety of solutions; thus a case-by-case approach was required.

17. The link between impunity and acceptance of torture by society was raised by several participants. Sectors of society wrongly assumed that torture was effective. Mainstream media also contributed to this misconception and to the true impact of torture. The result was, most worrisomely, a “societal acceptance” of torture and impunity. The panellists concluded that tackling impunity was a strategic approach for redress and rehabilitation.

18. Torture had a profound impact on families and communities. The damage it caused could be irreversible for up to two generations.

19. Security issues and the lack of local capacity to deal with victims of torture were some of the challenges in providing or seeking rehabilitation of victims. The lack of financial resources, the gap between the intervention and the provision of funding, and the trend towards short periods of funding represented challenges to maintaining a sustainable model.

Second panel

20. The second panel had as its topic “Providing assistance to victims of torture in emergency contexts”. The experts highlighted that torture was always an emergency. It represented a direct threat to the life and integrity of the person, family and community, all of whom required support. Interventions must to take place at the earliest opportunity, include a package of physical and psychological measures and be implemented in a multidisciplinary way.

21. In emergency situations, the focus should be placed on reducing vulnerability and promoting resilience at the group level, rather than on a therapeutic goal which would require a safer and more stable environment.

22. Victims of torture also had basic needs in other areas of their life. It was therefore important to coordinate with other organizations providing assistance to cover those needs or refer to them. However, in emergency situations, coordination among different organizations was one of the main challenges and referral systems did not always work effectively since it was difficult to find the suitable person or institution.

23. Other challenges in emergency situations identified during the workshop included: the difficulty of distinguishing victims of torture from other victims that had experienced the violence of war; forced displacement or living in a constant state of terror; the provision of adequate services to victims of torture without creating tensions with other victims that had suffered traumatizing events and the local community; and addressing the mistrust of victims, particularly young males. A distinction must be drawn between a feeling of mistrust and real fear regarding concerns about victims’ security and protection. Time was essential to building victims’ trust. In this vein, the work of rehabilitation centres needed to be completely transparent and organizations needed to show that they were independent from State actors.

24. The best practices highlighted included the incorporation of mental health into all assistance services and the prioritization of coordinated approaches and security.

25. Finally, the question of the need for minimum standards for the provision of services was raised during the dialogue. The experts affirmed the need for some minimum standards that take into consideration issues such as culture, safety, security and space for interventions.

Third panel

26. The theme of the third panel was “Providing assistance to victims of torture in response to their long-term needs”. The experts established that the length of treatment depended on the complexity of the trauma and sometimes the duration of the proceedings initiated to obtain redress. They also stated that models of assistance should be chosen and adapted to the circumstances and the contexts of the victims and the societal model they are part of. No strategy was universal or replicable.

27. The success of the assistance did not necessarily depend on the duration of the intervention, but rather on access to a resource or environment in which the victim felt safe.

28. One of the models of assistance mentioned consisted of ensuring that the victim did not play a passive role. Victims were right-holders, and it was therefore important that they took an active role and became protagonists of the restitution of their rights. Fighting against impunity was part of their healing process. Another model cited focused on integration and reconciliation.

29. Aspects of best practice in providing assistance to victims of torture included establishing a strong trust link and having a holistic and interdisciplinary approach (not just a medical approach, but also including other elements, such as restitution of rights) and a process that is continuously re-evaluated.

30. Strategic litigation could have a role in empowering the victim and bringing about systemic changes. However, and for the sake of the well-being of the victims of torture, it was necessary to make a risk assessment and avoid any retraumatization or increase in the vulnerability of the victim. The lack of rehabilitation or reparation measures in court decisions might have a negative effect on the victim. Therefore, it was necessary to assess whether strategic litigation was the best option for the specific case.

III. Coordination with other torture-related United Nations human rights mechanisms

31. The Board continued to pursue regular cooperation with other United Nations torture-related mechanisms. In that regard, a member of the Committee against Torture, Alessio Bruni, participated in the expert workshop and the public event mentioned above.

32. On 30 April 2015, the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Fund participated in a public one-hour meeting with the Committee during its session. At the meeting, the Chair reported on the expert workshop held by the Fund on 15 April 2015, and, in particular, on the current challenges in the field of assistance to victims of torture. At the meeting, it was agreed to continue to increase the cooperation between the two mechanisms. The Fund agreed to disseminate among its grantees general comment No. 3 on article 14 of the Convention against Torture.

IV. United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

33. On 26 June 2015, the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture was commemorated with statements issued by the Secretary-General and jointly by the Committee against Torture, the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.

34. In his statement, the Secretary-General stated that the rise of violent extremism and the unprecedented levels of forced displacement demanded a comprehensive response and that no aspect was more urgent than assisting the many victims of rising levels of torture that these and related trends generated. He also recalled that, at the same time, record numbers of people had fled their homes, risking a perilous journey that was often marred by grave violations of human rights, including torture. The Secretary-General drew attention to the fact that the Fund channelled vital funding to rehabilitation centres, tribunals, hospitals, refugee sites and other places assisting victims worldwide.

35. The Secretary-General stated that victims of torture had the right to compensation and rehabilitation and reminded States of their obligation under international law to provide redress to victims. Finally, the Secretary-General urged States to consider making a contribution to the Fund.

36. The joint statement issued on the same day by the Committee against Torture, the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture stressed that, with the upsurge in migration around the world, it was vital for States to ensure that people fleeing torture were immediately identified to avoid exposing them to further trauma, ill-treatment or forcible return. It was of paramount importance that victims of torture, who may have suffered traumatic events in their countries of origin and during the journey, get immediate support and care to prevent, as far as possible, irreversible physical and psychological harm.

V. Financial situation of the Fund

37. In 2014, the Fund received voluntary contributions exceeding $9 million (see table below).

Contributions received from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014

| *Donor* | *Amount*  *(United States dollars)* | *Date of receipt* |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
| **States** |  |  |
| Ireland | 116 918.84 | 4 April 2014 |
| Kuwait | 10 000.00 | 18 February 2014 |
| Liechtenstein | 25 906.74 | 14 November 2014 |
| Luxembourg | 12 391.57 | 15 December 2014 |
| Mexico | 5 000.00 | 4 November 2014 |
| Netherlands | 50 000.00 | 29 December 2014 |
| Norway | 133 761.90 | 27 May 2014 |
| Peru | 1 850.00 | 5 September 2014 |
| Turkey | 10 000.00 | 30 May 2014 |
| United Arab Emirates | 10 000.00 | 6 May 2014 |
| United States of America | 6 350 000.00 | 9 December 2014 |
| **Individual** **donors** |  |  |
| Nederlands Juristen Comité voor de Mensenrechten | 4 080.00 | 11 March 2014 |
| **Total** | **9 254 745.89** |  |

38. The Fund expects to keep the $9 million mark for 2015. However, this figure is far from the $12 million target, which is estimated by the Board of Trustees as being the minimum threshold that would enable the Fund to meet all demands, including those made in the context of emergency and humanitarian crises.

VI. Upcoming thirty-fifth anniversary of the Fund

39. In 2016, the Fund will celebrate the thirty-fifth anniversary of its establishment by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/151. The Fund will commemorate this event, recalling the unaddressed needs and rights of thousands of victims of torture in every continent and the duty of States to provide redress and rehabilitation. For this important occasion, the Fund will urge renewed support in the form of voluntary contributions from Member States and private donors.

40. Over the last three decades, the Fund has channelled financial assistance of over $168 million to more than 620 organizations worldwide providing medical, psychological, humanitarian, social and legal assistance to victims of torture and members of their families. In 2015 alone, a total over 57,000 victims in over 80 countries are expected to be assisted by specialized practitioners from rehabilitation centres, non-governmental organizations and legal aid groups with the critical support of the Fund.

VII. How to make a contribution to the Fund

41. Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities can contribute to the Fund. For more information on how to contribute and further details about the Fund, donors are requested to contact the secretariat of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations, CH 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; e-mail: unvfvt@ohchr.org; telephone: 41 22 917 9624; fax: 41 22 917 9017.

42. Donations can also be made online at http://donatenow.ohchr.org/torture. Information on the Fund can be found at [www.ohchr.org/torturefund](http://www.ohchr.org/torturefund).

VIII. Conclusions and recommendations

43. **The complexity of contexts and crises in which torture takes place has grown in recent years, resulting in an increase in torture practices and the number of victims of torture yearly. The need for redress and rehabilitation has become more pressing and urgent than ever.**

44. **With respect to the fulfilment of this obligation, the Board notes that:**

(a) **Immediate and long-term assistance is essential for the redress and rehabilitation of victims of torture;**

(b) **Torture affects the individual, family, community and society;**

(c) **The redress and full rehabilitation of victims requires a multi‑disciplinary approach and coordination among all relevant actors;**

(d) **Practitioners in the rehabilitation of victims of torture should be protected from intimidation and reprisal;**

(e) **Prevention of torture and assistance to victims of torture are complementary and mutually reinforcing.**

45. **As recalled by the Secretary-General in his statement of 26 June 2015 (see paras. 34 and 35 above), the Fund channels vital funding to centres assisting victims of torture. It is a practical tool of the United Nations to extend prompt assistance to victims of torture and members of their families. Seeking to provide redress, including rehabilitation, to tens of thousands of victims of torture every year, in all regions of the world, is an integral part of the work of the United Nations against torture.**

46. **Looking ahead, the Fund will continue to strive to achieve a fairer balance in its portfolio of projects so as to be able to better respond to the assistance needs of the greatest number of victims of torture in all regions of the world.**

47. **The Board estimates that the Fund would need to receive $12 million on a yearly basis in order to respond adequately to the ever-increasing demands for assistance, in particular in the face of today’s large-scale human rights crisis and conflicts. The Secretary-General appeals to Member States and other stakeholders to contribute to the Fund, noting its upcoming thirty-fifth anniversary, in 2016.**

48. **The Board stresses that contributing to the Fund is a concrete manifestation of the commitment of States towards the elimination of torture, in line with the Convention against Torture, in particular article 14 thereof.**

Annex I

Concept note for the one-day expert workshop of practitioners on redress and rehabilitation of victims of torture in emergency contexts and long-term needs of victims

Background

1. Each year, over 50,000 victims of torture and their family members are provided assistance by specialized non-governmental entities and rehabilitation centres with the support of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture in all regions of the world. With the Fund’s aid and the professional expertise developed on the ground by expert practitioners, the right of victims to redress and rehabilitation is being upheld, their dignity restored, including by supporting their integration into social, civil and economic life, and their right to truth and justice pursued. Over the last 30 years, the Fund has affirmed itself as one of the largest humanitarian trusts funds of the United Nations: it is estimated that since 1981 the Fund has provided financial assistance of over $168 million to more than 620 organizations worldwide.

2. Since its inception, the Fund has operated based on the recognition that the provision of assistance to victims of torture, be it medical, psychological, social or legal assistance, involves complex and long-term engagement. On the other hand, the Fund is also expected to respond to new, urgent and emerging situations and needs. In fact, the General Assembly has stipulated that priority should be given to aid to victims of violations by States in which the human rights situation has been subject to resolutions or decisions adopted by the General Assembly or the Commission on Human Rights (today the Human Rights Council). In recent years, the Fund has launched targeted special calls for projects aimed at assisting victims of recent events across the Middle East and North Africa region, in particular in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq. The Fund has also recently supported emergency projects for the relief of torture victims in Mali, the Central African Republic and Ukraine.

3. In its general comment No. 3 on the implementation of article 14 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment by States parties, the Committee against Torture clarifies that the provision of rehabilitative services in the direct aftermath of torture does not represent the fulfilment of the obligation of States parties to the Convention to provide means for as full a rehabilitation as possible. Moreover, the Committee affirms that in order to fulfil its obligations to provide a victim with the means for as full rehabilitation as possible, each State party should adopt a long-term, integrated approach.

Objectives

4. As stipulated in its mission statement, the Fund enables the collection and dissemination of expertise and best practices, with the aim of building capacity at the national level.

5. To that end, the one-day expert workshop to be held in the context of the forty-first session of the Board of Trustees of the Fund will be the first of a planned series of yearly expert discussions gathering professionals in the field of redress for and rehabilitation to victims of torture in order to share knowledge.

6. The 2015 expert workshop will be held in the context of increasingly complex operational scenarios, in which emergency and longer-term needs often intersect.

7. In particular, the expert workshop will aim at:

(a) Facilitating the sharing of good practices and lessons learned from different regions among the Trustees, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Fund’s grantees on the redress and rehabilitation of victims of torture in complex emergency contexts, both during conflict and post-conflict (including violence and extremism and large-scale displacement and migration flows), and as a response to the long-term needs of victims;

(b) Comparing working methods and identifying similarities and specificities in the delivery of assistance (medical, psychological, social and legal) in emergency contexts and in the response to victims’ long-term needs;

(c) Strategizing on successful approaches and key developments in the delivery of assistance to victims of torture in the context of emergencies and in response to victims’ long-term needs.

Modalities

8. Participants will include professionals from selected rehabilitation centres financially supported by the Fund with expertise in working in emergency settings and/or in the provision of assistance to victims in the longer term.

9. The expert workshop will be divided into three one-and-a-half-hour discussion segments. Each discussion will be introduced by short remarks (5-7 minutes each) from selected participants, followed by a moderated interactive exchange between all participants and the Board of Trustees.

10. A Rapporteur will summarize the main points of discussion and conclusions at the end of the expert workshop.

11. A written contribution will be requested from each participant. The collection of papers will be made available prior to the workshop on the Fund’s webpage.

12. Interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish.

Outcomes

13. A short set of recommendations and best practices will be drawn up at the end of the expert workshop for the benefit of all of the Fund’s grantees and professionals engaged in the delivery of assistance to victims of torture.

14. A collection of written contributions will be made available on the public website of the Fund.

Annex II

List of participants in the one-day expert workshop of practitioners on redress and rehabilitation of victims of torture in emergency contexts and long-term needs of victims, held on 15 April 2015

Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund

Adam Bodnar (Chairman, forty-first session of the Board of Trustees)

Gaby Oré Aguilar (rapporteur)

Maria Cristina Nunes de Mendonça

Anastasia Pinto

Morad El Shazly (absent)

Invited experts

Radhia Nasraoui, President, Organisation contre la torture en Tunisie, Tunisia

Camelia Doru, Director, ICAR Foundation, Medical Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Survivors, Romania

Felicitas Treue, Co-Founder, Colectivo Contra la Tortura y la Impunidad, Mexico

Jasna Zecevic, President and Director, Association Vive Žene, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Lin Piwowarczyk, Psychiatrist, Boston Medical Centre, United States of America

Norberto Liwski, President, Comité para la Defensa de la Salud, la Ética y los Derechos Humanos, Argentina

Ahmed Mohammed Amin Ahmed, Executive Director, Organization for Victims of Human Rights Violations, Iraq

Peter Kiama, Executive Director, Independent Medico-Legal Unit, Kenya

Simone van der Kaaden, Country Director, Centre for Victims of Torture, Jordan

Sotheara Chhim, Executive Director, Transcultural Psychosocial Organization, Cambodia

Suzanne Jabbour, Director, Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture (RESTART), Lebanon

Philip Grant, Director, Track Impunity Always (TRIAL), Switzerland

Victor Madrigal-Borloz, Secretary-General, International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims, Denmark

Other participants

Alessio Bruni, Member, Committee against Torture

Pieter Ventevogel, Senior Mental Health Officer, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Nimisha Patel, Director, International Centre for Health and Human Rights and Consultant Clinical Psychologist; World Organization against Torture