



Thank you Mr. Chairman,

The World Organization Against Torture welcomes the initiative of convening a Global Consultation and believes that this event can lead to a powerful tool in the fight against torture, inhuman and degrading treatment.

On this occasion we would like to make two short remarks concerning the absolute nature of the right to challenge the lawfulness of detention and special safeguards related to children.

With regard to the first issue, we would welcome a specific principle on the non-limitation of the right to challenge the lawfulness of detention. While several human rights can be limited in order to protect national security, public order, or the rights and freedoms of others, the right to challenge the lawfulness of detention needs to be absolute and non-derogable.

Secondly, we would like to also emphasize the importance of implementing independent and child-friendly complaints systems accessible to children deprived of liberty, their families and the staff working in the juvenile justice system, that not only allows children to challenge the lawfulness of their detention but also lead to an effective investigation of possible abuses committed during the arrest and deprivation of liberty.

It is also imperative that safeguards ensure that the complainant and witnesses are protected against all ill-treatment or intimidation as a consequence of his or her complaint or any evidence given.

Thank you Mr. Chairman,