

## **World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)**

### **Terms of Reference for the organisation of a roundtable to discuss the follow-up of the UN Committee Against Torture's review of Afghanistan and for the drafting of the follow-up shadow report**

#### **I. ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROJECT BACKGROUND**

##### **A. The OMCT**

The World Organization Against Torture (Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture – OMCT) was founded in 1985. Based in Geneva but working through its large and active SOS-Torture Network working in more than 90 countries, it is among the largest civil society coalitions fighting against torture and all other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in the world. The mission of the OMCT is to contribute to the eradication of torture, summary executions, disappearances, arbitrary detention and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and to provide protection to victims and potential victims through its global network of civil society organisations working in partnership and solidarity. OMCT is the CSO coordinator for the United Nations Committee Against Torture (hereinafter CAT) and provides support to civil society organisations engaging with CAT.

##### **B. The Project**

OMCT supported Afghan civil society in engaging with CAT's review of Afghanistan during its 60<sup>th</sup> session in 2017. As a follow up to this endeavor, OMCT would like to support an Afghan civil society organisation in arranging a roundtable discussion with members from Afghan civil society and the Detention Working Group; and the subsequent drafting of a follow-up shadow report,<sup>1</sup> striving towards domestic implementation of the Convention Against Torture. OMCT contributes to the strengthening of domestic anti-torture coalitions in the run up or follow-up to CAT reporting, supported by the European Union (EU), the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DFAE), and in working with and supporting the global anti-torture movement. The total available amount of the provision for the roundtable and report is capped at **EUR 6,500**.

Further information about the OMCT and its activities with the UN Committee Against Torture can be found on the [website](#), as well as the OMCT's CAT [Blog](#), or through our social media outlets on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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<sup>1</sup> The Committee Against Torture has issued guidelines for follow-up to concluding observations (CAT/C/55/3), available at:

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G15/210/35/PDF/G1521035.pdf?OpenElement>.

## II. SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT AND METHODOLOGY

The roundtable and the drafting of the follow-up report will have to be organized and finalized prior to the CAT deadline for submission of the follow-up shadow report of **12 of August 2018**.

OMCT will provide technical support to the organisation of the roundtable, including participating in the roundtable through web conference introducing and explaining the CAT follow-up procedure in detail. Technical support and orientation will also be provided during the drafting of the follow-up shadow report.

The roundtable and the drafting of the follow-up shadow report will have to be organized in a manner taking due account of the safety and security of the participating persons/organisations.

### **1. Roundtable to discuss the follow-up of the UN Committee Against Torture's review of Afghanistan**

The roundtable will have to include the participation and representation of a wide range of organisations of the Afghan civil society with a focus of the ones that have submitted or participated in the submission of the CAT review of Afghanistan, as well as members of the Working Group on Detention. Participating CSO members will also have to represent particularly vulnerable groups in Afghanistan, such as women and children. The discussions will have to be held under the Chatham House rule<sup>2</sup> for safety issues.

The aim of this roundtable is to strengthen Afghan civil society in the follow-up of the CAT review of Afghanistan and the national implementation of the Convention in general and the CAT recommendations in particular.

The roundtable should take place as a half or full day event and will have to be organized in a manner facilitating the free participation of all CSO representatives present at the event.

The roundtable discussions will have to treat the CAT follow-up issues on:

- the culture of impunity;
- coerced confessions;
- the death penalty;<sup>3</sup>
- recent developments in Afghanistan relating to the Convention or other CAT recommendations, such as the recent ratification of the Optional Protocol.

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<sup>2</sup> “When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed”, Chatham House. The Royal Institute of International Affairs, <https://www.chathamhouse.org/chatham-house-rule>.

<sup>3</sup> See paras. 8(c), 28(c), 34 and 47 of the CAT concluding observations, CAT/C/AFG/CO/2, available at: <http://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2fPPRiCAqhKb7yhsvcH2I9LRmRCiK1D39tB1YFCw9f7Fc9B3%2fh3bmiTM53fb%2b5pgDkP%2bNb21%2f856K5yCkbo1ezXX72QW4sxmKViuXFuWII8jiF3ejA%2fGrdrI1s6>.

The roundtable and the report will also address the rating of Afghanistan's implementation of the CAT recommendations from A (recommendation has largely been implemented) to E (the recommendation has been counteracted).<sup>4</sup>

## **2. Drafting of the follow-up shadow report**

The follow-up shadow report will have to make account of the discussions held during the roundtable on the abovementioned follow-up issues. In drafting the follow-up shadow report, it is recommended that the elected organisation does the following:

- Provide in a structured manner information on the implementation of the CAT follow-up issues in the Concluding Observations of Afghanistan;
- Sustain the information with factual, reliable, precise and clear facts;
- Use concrete examples and statistics;
- Make constructive recommendations for improvement of the implementation of the Convention Against Torture in Afghanistan;
- If relevant, refer to Concluding Observations, reports, statements issued by other UN treaty bodies and special procedures, as well as by regional human rights mechanisms;
- Information should not contain names of victims except if related to cases already in the public domain or if the consent of the victims or their families is obtained.

The word limit for the follow-up shadow report is 3500 words.

## **IV. DURATION AND LOCATION**

The organisation of the roundtable and the drafting of the follow-up shadow report are to be undertaken during the month of July and first half of August and must be completed by the 12 of August 2018. A narrative and financial report of the activities will have to be submitted to OMCT 30 September 2018.

## **V. REQUIREMENTS and ELEGIBILITY**

Organisations with the following profile and competencies are encouraged to express their interest:

- Afghan civil society organisations specialized in working on the prohibition against torture and on shadow reporting;
- Afghan civil society organisations that have submitted or participated in the submission of shadow reports to the CAT review of Afghanistan;
- Afghan civil society organisations with previous experience or interest in CSO coalition building;
- Afghan civil society organisations with demonstrated experience of the organisation of similar activities and with a sufficient financial and operational capacity;
- Fluency in English of the person in charge of communication with OMCT is required.

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<sup>4</sup> See para. 20 of the CAT Guidelines for follow-up to concluding observations, available at: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G15/210/35/PDF/G1521035.pdf?OpenElement>.

## VI. APPLICATIONS AND CONSIDERATION

Applications will be accepted up to the **20<sup>th</sup> of June 2018**, only via email, to Ylva L. Hartmann, Human Rights Adviser at the OMCT Asia-desk, at: [ylh@omct.org](mailto:ylh@omct.org). Thank you for understanding that we cannot answer phone enquiries.

In order for your application to be considered, please send an email indicating "Roundtable and follow-up shadow report - CAT" in the subject heading, with the following attachments:

- A short narrative application identifying the objectives and expected results of the organisation of the roundtable and an outline for the follow-up shadow report and the methodology for information collection. The narrative application should also include how the sustainability of the activities will be secured;
- A budget specifying the different expenses related both to the organisation of the roundtable and the drafting of the follow-up shadow report;
- A timeline of the organisation of the roundtable and the follow-up shadow report.

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
Netherlands



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