



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between the

**Association for the Prevention of Torture**

and the

**International Ombudsman Institute**

The Association for the Prevention of Torture (hereinafter the APT) and the International Ombudsman Institute (hereinafter the IOI), collectively referred to as “the Parties”,

**Guided** by the will to establish a strong and cooperative relationship, with a view to sharing information and best practices in the area of ombudsman institutions and torture prevention;

**Recognizing** that they share similar objectives to establish, strengthen, and improve coherence among independent oversight mechanisms and thereby assist in the prevention of torture and ill-treatment within the scope of their particular mandates;

**Noting** that there is a need for knowledge-sharing, expertise, and capacity building among IOI member institutions in the area of torture prevention and that the Parties have expertise that can be shared;

Have agreed on the following:

### ARTICLE 1

#### Scope

This Memorandum of Understanding creates the framework of cooperation between the Parties and sets out their intended role and participation.

Each Party shall implement this Memorandum of Understanding within the scope of its mandate and in accordance with its own policy framework and rules and procedures. There is no intention under this Memorandum to modify or create any obligations contrary to the institutional and policy framework of either Party or the scope of either's respective mandate. In the event there is an inconsistency between this Memorandum and the relevant framework, the latter shall govern.

The Parties shall respect each other's sphere of competence and policy framework as well as the regulations, rules and procedures applicable to each Party.

## ARTICLE 2

### Forms of Cooperation

Within the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding, the Parties will cooperate to support and promote their common objectives in good faith and on the basis of equality. The forms of cooperation, under this Memorandum, may include support and/or joint activities in the areas of technical assistance, training and education, such as:

#### a) Participation in conferences and meetings

The APT and the IOI shall invite each other to participate in conferences, workshops and training activities that they organise in areas of mutual interest, in particular the field of ombudsman institutions and torture prevention.

#### b) Study visits and training workshops

The APT and the IOI may assist in the facilitation of study visits, training workshops and other activities aimed at improving the torture prevention capacity of IOI member institutions.

Participation of APT experts and IOI members at relevant training workshops organised by its counterpart shall be encouraged whenever the project budget allows for it.

#### c) Exchange of information

The APT and IOI may exchange information on important decisions and activities in fields of mutual interest. In doing so, exchange of information, contact and consultation between the APT and the IOI and its members shall be encouraged and promoted by each institution.

The APT and the IOI and its members are encouraged to share information such as (and not limited to): legislation, reports, recommendations, and other resources and documents. The APT and the IOI agree to assist each other, to the greatest extent possible, to consolidate the role of each institution in promoting the prevention of torture through the establishment and strengthening of independent oversight institutions throughout the world.

### ARTICLE 3

#### Terms and conditions

The terms and conditions of the organisation of specific activities will be decided upon by the parties in each case. In order to put this agreement into effect, the APT and the IOI commit themselves to keeping up regular contacts and engaging in mutual consultations.

### ARTICLE 4

#### Entry into force, amendment, denunciation

This agreement shall enter into force on the date it is signed by both parties. It shall remain valid for five years and be subject to renewal on the agreement of both parties.

Amendments and complements to this agreement may be proposed at the initiative of one of the parties. The amendments shall enter into force when they have been approved by both parties.

This agreement may be denounced by one of the parties by giving written notice to the other. The agreement shall be terminated three months from the date of such notice.

This agreement was signed in Geneva on 22 February 2018, in two sets and three versions, namely: English, French and Spanish. The English version shall be considered as the original.

For the APT:

For the IOI:



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IOI Secretary General