

# CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

The States Parties to this Convention,

CONSIDERING that, in accordance with the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations,<sup>(1)</sup> recognition of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

RECOGNIZING that those rights derive from the inherent dignity of the human person,

CONSIDERING the obligation of States under the Charter, in particular Article 55, to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms,

HAVING REGARD to article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>(2)</sup> both of which provide that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

HAVING REGARD ALSO to the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted by the General Assembly on 9 December 1975,

DESIRING to make more effective the struggle against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment throughout the world,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

## PART I

### ARTICLE 1

1. For the purposes of this Convention, the term "torture" means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is

<sup>(1)</sup> Treaty Series 1945 No. 7

<sup>(2)</sup> Treaty Series 1976 No. 47