**Annex III**

**Biographical data form of candidates to the**

**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

Name: Stott Despoja, Natasha

Nationality: Australian

Date and place of birth: 09 September 1969, Rose Park, South Australia

Working languages: English

Current position/function:

* Chair of Our Watch, an Australian initiative focused on the prevention of violence against women and their children)
* Non-Executive Director of Global Citizen
* Member of the Global Women’s Institute Leadership Council
* Member, Advisory Council of the 50/50 by 2030 Foundation, an Australian foundation focused on increasing women’s representation in leadership positions
* Member, Australian National University Council

Main professional activities:

* Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls (2013-2016)
* Represented Australia at gender-focussed multilateral and regional meetings including UN Commission on the Status of Women, the Human Rights Council, APEC Women and the Economy Forum, Pacific Women Business Leaders DialogueMember of the United Nations High Level Working Group on the Health and Human Rights of Women, Children and Adolescents (2017)
* Member of the World Bank Gender Advisory Council (2015-2017)
* Senator for South Australia (1995-2008) and Leader of the Australian Democrats party (2001-2002), Australian Parliament

Educational background:

* Honorary Visiting Research Fellow, University of Adelaide (2019)
* Honorary Doctorate, University of South Australia (2019)
* Bachelor of Arts (Political Science, History), University of Adelaide (1991)

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women:

Ms. Stott Despoja has extensive applied legislative and policymaking experience and a thorough understanding of international law and treaties, acquired in her role as a Senator in the Australian Parliament. During this time, she pursued various gender equality initiatives, including tabling Australia’s first paid maternity leave bill in the Australian Parliament and advocating for Australia’s ratification of the CEDAW Optional Protocol.

In her role as the Chair of Our Watch, Ms. Stott Despoja has overseen the development of the first-ever national framework for the prevention of violence against women. This framework has been referenced by other countries and has informed the finalisation of the UN’s framework to underpin action to prevent violence against women.

List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights:

* *On Violence*, Melbourne University Press, 2019.
* “Women, peace and security: Australia in the UNSC”, International Humanitarian Law Magazine, 2015.