

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has the honour to refer to the provisions of articles 5 to 9 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment relating to the election of members of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, the text of which is attached (Annex I).

The Eighth Meeting of the States parties to the Optional Protocol will be convened by the Secretary-General at the United Nations Office at Geneva on **Thursday 22 October 2020** to elect twelve members of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture to replace those whose terms are due to expire on 31 December 2020 (Annex II).

Pursuant to articles 6 and 7 of the Optional Protocol, the Secretary-General has the honour to invite His Excellency's Government to submit its nomination(s) of candidate(s) for this election, together with the biographical data of the nominated candidates, using the attached model (Annex III) and **not exceeding 38 lines**.

The Secretary-General would like to draw attention to the General Assembly resolution A/68/268, adopted on 9 April 2014, entitled "Strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system" and its provisions 10 and 13 on the nomination and election of treaty body experts:

*"Encourages States parties to continue their efforts to nominate experts of high moral standing and recognized competence and experience in the field of human rights, in particular in the field covered by the relevant treaty, and, as appropriate, to consider adopting national policies or processes with respect to the nomination of experts as candidates for human rights treaty bodies;"*

*"Encourages States parties, in the election of treaty body experts, to give due consideration, as stipulated in the relevant human rights instruments, to equitable geographical distribution, the representation of the different forms of civilization and the principal legal systems, balanced gender representation and the participation of experts with disabilities in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies;"*

The Secretary-General would also like to draw attention to the attached note (Annex IV) on the requirements, responsibilities and entitlements relating to the membership of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture.

Nominations and biographical data, in electronic version (**Word format**), should be submitted, by a Note verbale of the Permanent Mission, to the Secretary-General, c/o Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Office at Geneva ([registry@ohchr.org](mailto:registry@ohchr.org), copy to [opcat@ohchr.org](mailto:opcat@ohchr.org)), by **18 August 2020 at the latest**.

In accordance with article 6(3) of the Optional Protocol, the Secretary-General shall prepare a list, in alphabetical order, of all the persons nominated, with an indication of the States parties which have nominated them. All documents concerning the eighth meeting of the States parties will be available on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/OPCAT/Pages/Elections2020.aspx>

18 May 2020