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, and wishes to confirm that the eighth meeting of the States parties to the Optional Protocol, which will elect twelve members to the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, is scheduled to be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva on Thursday 22 October 2020, at 10:00 a.m., Palais des Nations, Room XVIII.

The State party is invited to be represented at the meeting and to forward, as soon as possible and not later than 15 October 2020, the credentials for its representative, issued either by the Head of State or Government, or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Credentials should be directed to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Office at Geneva, Palais Wilson, Geneva 10, Switzerland, to the attention of Mr. João Nataf, Secretary of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (registry@ohchr.org and opc@ohchr.org). Due to restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic, credentials will not be accepted on the day of the meeting.

Also due to restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic, the total capacity of room XVIII has been limited to 105 persons. Therefore, only one representative per each of the 90 States parties to the Optional Protocol shall be admitted at the meeting.

The following documents for the meeting will be available on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/OPCAT/Pages/Elections2020.aspx):

(a) Provisional Agenda (CAT/OP/SP/17);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General containing the list of candidates and biographical data (CAT/OP/SP/18 and CAT/OP/SP/18/Add.1);

(c) Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Meetings of the States Parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT/OP/SP/3);

(d) General Assembly resolution on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system (A/RES/68/268).

3 September 2020