

## Annex III

### Biographical data form of candidates to the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT)

**Name and first name:**

Andrew Christoffel Nissen

**Date and place of birth:**

28 June 1958, Cape Town, Republic of South Africa

**Working languages:**

English and Afrikaans

**Educational background:**

- Master of Arts: with an emphasis on Indigenous religion and culture - University of Cape Town (1990)
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) - University of Cape Town (1988)
- Diploma in Theology with emphasis on contextual theology and black theology - Federal Theological Seminary, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa (1980)

**Professional background:**

Have held executive and managerial positions in both private and public sectors in the Republic of South Africa. As a social justice activist, Chris has worked with civil society across South African communities and is active as a minister of the Uniting Presbyterian Church of South Africa.

**Current position/function: (5 lines maximum)**

Part-time Commissioner of the national human rights institution of the Republic of South Africa (NHRI) responsible for Civil and Political Rights and the National Preventive Mechanism.

**Main professional activities: (10 lines maximum)**

As the Commissioner responsible for civil and political rights, Chris Nissen is often involved in issues relating to migration and refugees, policing and human rights, decriminalisation of petty offences and the status of human rights defenders. These issues have policy implications which often require submissions to and interaction with national authorities such relevant parliamentary portfolio committees and government departments. With the ratification of the OPCAT, Chris Nissen has been

the lead Commissioner at the SAHRC overseeing the full implementation of the OPCAT by establishing its National Preventive Mechanism (NPM). On that basis, he has undertaken numerous visits to places of deprivation of liberty in South Africa. These places include, inter alia, correctional centres, police stations, immigration detention centres and secure care facilities for children in conflict with the law.

**Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture: (10 lines maximum)**

As the lead Commissioner in the implementation of the OPCAT in South Africa, Chris Nissen is involved in publicizing the mandate of the NPM through continuous stakeholder engagements with relevant stakeholders such as the bodies designated to undertake the NPM functions, heads of institutions where persons are or may be deprived of their liberty and civil society and regional and international treaty body mechanisms. Since South Africa adopted a multi-body NPM, Chris leads the coordinating body. However, since the NHRI has a functional role in South Africa's NPM, Chris Nissen also leads the programmatic work of the NPM. He also leads the NHRI's work concerning the conduct of law enforcement and security personnel through regular meetings and capacity development initiatives. Over the past two years, he has also led an extensive grassroots level monitoring network in response to the human rights implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. He is similarly involved in mediation – at own initiative and court-appointed – in community disputes on policing and law enforcement, refugees and asylum seekers and protest action emanating from service delivery related complaints.

**List of most recent publications in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture: (5 lines maximum)**

- NHRI Shadow Report to the Committee against Torture
- 2019/20 and 2020/21 National Preventive Mechanism Annual Reports
- Oversight of the Submission to Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture on the Development for a General Comment on Article 4 of the OPCAT
- Oversight of the Submissions to the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture.