

HIGH LEVEL ICC/NHRI MISSION AT UN HEADQUARTERS TO DISCUSS STRATEGIC TRIPARTITE PARTNERSHIP WITH UNDP AND OHCHR IN SUPPORT OF NHRIS WORLDWIDE

Geneva, 18 June -- A high-level mission comprised of representatives of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC) and regional coordinating committees joined together in New York, to discuss with partners from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) opportunities for cooperation in support of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) worldwide.

The tripartite meeting, held in New York from 11 to 13 June 2014, focused on identifying concrete cooperation opportunities emerging from each of the partners' strategic plans. Areas of future cooperation that have been identified among the partners include knowledge management and communications, the post 2015 development agenda, human rights and business, and leadership development within the ICC and NHRIs. The meeting also discussed the institutionalisation of global methodologies for the NHRI capacity needs assessments and gaps analyses.

Following the tripartite meeting, the partners from ICC, UNDP and OHCHR hosted a Seminar on Business and Human Rights and the roles of NHRIs, with the participation of a cross-regional group of NHRIs, member states and representatives from civil society.

Speaking at the opening of the tripartite meeting, ICC Chair Adv. Lourence Mabedle Mushwana acknowledged the “high strategic importance of the partnership” and thanked the partners for their important contributions.

UNDP Director a.i. , Democratic Governance Group, Patrick Keuleers and Vladlen Stefanov, Chief, OHCHR National Institutions and Regional Sections acknowledged the significant role that NHRIs can play in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and stated UNDP's and OHCHR's respective commitment to continued support of the work of NHRIs, including in the implementation of UNDP's and OHCHR's respective strategic plans.

The tripartite partnership was initiated following a meeting between UNDP Administrator Helen Clark, UN High Commissioner Navi Pillay and then ICC Chair Rosslyn Noonan in March 2010. The partnership aims at increasing cooperation among the parties towards better coordinating and leveraging knowledge, expertise and capacity aimed at strengthening the effectiveness of NHRIs.

Whilst in New York, the ICC/NHRI delegation also met with UNDP Administrator Helen Clark, Assistant Secretary General Ivan Simonovic, and participated in the 7th Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including with an ICC statement and ICC-hosted side event.

The delegation also met with high-level UN officials, several Permanent Missions to the United Nations and with colleagues from non-governmental organisations. Discussions focused on next steps in the implementation of the landmark 2013 GA resolution on NHRIs, calling for UN system-wide standing of NHRIs (A/RES/68/171).