23rd March 2011

Chairperson of the ICC on NHRIs
Ms. Rosslyn Noonan,

RE: UNDP-OHCHR-ICC COLLABORATION

Following our meeting between yourself, as the Chair of the International Coordinating Committee of National Human rights Institutions (hereinafter, ICC), the UNDP Administrator and the High Commissioner for Human Rights in March 2010, and subsequently agreed on the 25th February 2011, at UNDP, New York, we would like to share the following proposals intended to increase cooperation between the parties towards better coordinating and leveraging knowledge, expertise, and capacity aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of National Human Rights Institutions.

Please be assured of our collective commitment to strengthen our partnership with the ICC. This commitment stems from relevant UN General Assembly resolutions, the most recent of which is resolution 64/161 “National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights”, by which the Assembly recognized “the important role of the United Nations ... in assisting the development of independent and effective national human rights institutions, guided by the Paris Principles...”.
We are also guided by the operative paragraph 17 of res 64/161, by which the General Assembly “encourage[d] all United Nations human rights mechanisms as well as agencies, funds and programmes to work within their respective mandates with Member States and national institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights with respect to, inter alia, projects in the area of good governance and the rule of law”.

After having discussed and explored all options for collaboration, and acknowledging that the parties’ collaboration with the ICC will take place within the scope of the parties’ respective rules and regulations, mandates and activities, we confirm our agreement, that the tripartite collaboration should be approved by an exchange of letters between the partners, while future specific operational arrangements could be defined outside this communication. This, we believe, would allow us flexibility in defining priorities, identifying comparative advantages of the parties and approving the division of labor.

To this end we propose the following key broad areas to underpin our collaboration:

a) Facilitate and support engagement on key thematic issues towards strengthening the work of NHRIs;

b) Strengthen and support regional Networks through joint capacity building activities and exchange of knowledge and expertise;

c) Engage and support information sharing and knowledge management at the national, regional and global levels between and within NHRIs,

In order to facilitate the partnership process, we propose an annual UNDP-OHCHR-ICC strategic meeting to discuss implementation-related issues. We believe that such a global review will be informed by contributions from regional networks of NHRIs as well, the details of which could be explored at the operational level.
We consider this letter an important step towards approval of the Framework for Collaboration and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

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