Dear National Human Rights Institutions,

In our capacity as Secretariat to the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC), we are pleased to invite you to its 24th Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held from 17 to 19 May 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland, in Room XIX at Palais des Nations. In addition, the ICC Bureau Meeting will take place on 16 May and a Workshop on the role of prevention for the promotion and protection of human rights will be held on 20 May.

The Annual Meeting’s agenda will include discussions on: NHRI best practice in following up Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations; NHRI treaty body engagement; NHRIs and Indigenous Peoples’ rights; the role of the NHRIs in the protection of women rights; follow up on the Durban Review Conference and NHRIs; Human Rights Education; Business and Human Rights. Please find attached the draft agenda.

Please note that it is the responsibility of participants to apply for a visa in time to enter Switzerland. If you need a visa, kindly send an email to zlugon@ohchr.org, copied to bpesut@ohchr.org. You will receive a letter addressed to the Swiss authorities to facilitate the visa issuance. Please also note that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is not in a position to provide financial support associated with this meeting.

In order to ensure proper logistical arrangements, we would appreciate it if the attached registration form could be returned at the latest by 22 April 2011 to Ms. Biba Pesut (bpesut@ohchr.org), copied to Ms. Zenaida Lugon (zlugon@ohchr.org). Should you have any queries please address them to myself (vstefanov@ohchr.org) and Ms. Vivian Lozano (vlozano@ohchr.org).

Yours sincerely,

Vladlen Stefanov
Chief of the National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section