Dear Colleague,

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to participate in the 10th International Conference for National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in Edinburgh, Scotland, UK from 8 to 10 October 2010. The Conference will be hosted by the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC), and co-organised with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (ICC). It will take place in the building of the Scottish Parliament.

The overall theme of the Conference is “Business and Human Rights: the Role of National Human Rights Institutions.” NHRIs will have an opportunity to share experiences regarding priorities and strategies to enhance the application of human rights norms in the context of the corporate sector and discuss strategies to strengthen the cooperation between NHRIs and the UN Special Representative to the Secretary-General on Business and Human Rights; OHCHR and civil society. The expected outcome of the Conference is to develop guidance for NHRIs on human rights and business with the aim of adopting a final Declaration and Plan of Action.

A number of substantive sessions and working groups will be held according to the attached draft agenda. We expect NHRIs to share lessons learned and best practices of their respective national experiences. The main conclusions of the Conference will be reflected and incorporated into the Declaration of Edinburgh to be considered and adopted by the participants at the Conference.

The working languages of the Conference are: English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

A concept paper including a provisional programme and a practical information note are attached and will be updated at a later stage, and posted on the National Institutions official website (www.nhri.net).

To: All National Human Rights Institutions
Please note that OHCHR will provide financial support for NHRIs with "A" accreditation status from Least Developed Countries. NHRIs that would not be in a position to attend the conference without funding may seek support from OHCHR, and their requests could be considered depending on the availability of funding. Please refer to the attached information note for more details.

We look forward to your participation in this important event.

Yours sincerely,

Navanathem Pillay  
High Commissioner for Human Rights

Rosslyn Noonan  
ICC Chair

Alan Miller  
Chairperson, Scottish Human Rights Commission

Attachments:
1. Concept paper and provisional programme
2. Information note and registration form
3. List of the ICC Bureau Members