June 2015

Dear National Institutions,

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to participate in the 12th International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) to be held at the Hyatt Hotel in Merida, Mexico from 8 to 9 October 2015. The Conference is organized by the Mexican National Human Rights Commission in collaboration with the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

The ICC Bureau Meeting will be held in the afternoon of 6th October and morning of 7th October and Regional meetings will convene in the afternoon of 7th October.

The overall theme of the Conference is “The Sustainable Development Goals: What Role for National Human Rights Institutions?” The Conference will be a platform for NHRIs and other participants to identify ways through which NHRIs can effectively follow-up on and monitor the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

The Conference will provide NHRIs with the opportunity to focus on specific areas from their own perspectives and national experiences. The main conclusions of the Conference will be reflected and incorporated into the Merida Declaration to be considered and adopted by the participants at the Conference.

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

The Concept Note, Draft Programme and Practical Information Note will be sent to you at a later stage and will be posted on the ICC webpage (http://nhri.ohchr.org).

NHRIs are expected to use their own funds to ensure their participation in the Conference, or to consider raising the necessary resources. If there is a need for fundraising support letters from the ICC or OHCHR, please contact: Ms. Vivian John-Langaa (vlangaa@sahrc.org.za) or Ms. Biljana Pesut (bpesut@ohchr.org) at the latest by 26 July 2015.

Should you have further queries about the 12th International Conference, please address them to Ms. Biljana Pesut (bpesut@ohchr.org), Ms Beatriz Tames (betames@cndh.org.mx) and Ms. Maria Teresa Moreno (mimoreno@cndh.org.mx).

We look forward to welcoming you at this important event.

Yours sincerely,

Adv. Mabedle Lourence Mushwana
ICC Chairperson