



Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator

PRESS RELEASE

United Nations improve country's capacities for reporting on civil and political rights

Skopje, 28 November, 2011 – The Office of the United Nations' Resident Coordinator and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva, from 29 November to 1 December 2011 in Struga, are providing training for state officials on preparing periodic reports to the UN's Human Rights Committee which outline state measures to uphold the rights under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

The state officials will have the opportunity to strengthen their reporting skills and knowledge of the international human rights instrument. Also, the training will be used to agree on the steps for the preparation of the State report to be compiled under the leadership of the Ministry of Justice, due in April 2012.

The training will bring together some 30 state officials who will be directly involved in the preparation of the next ICCPR periodic report. Participants come from the Ministries of Justice, Interior, Labour and Social policy, Education, Health, Foreign Affairs, Secretariat for European Affairs, Secretariat for the Implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, State Statistical Office, Broadcasting Council, Agency for Minority Rights, Agency for Protection of Personal Data, Ombudsman Office, judiciary and public prosecution.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)** is a multilateral treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1966, and in force from 23 March 1976. It commits its parties to respect the civil and political rights of individuals, including the right to life, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, electoral rights and rights to due process and a fair trial. Currently, the Covenant has 74 signatories and 167 parties. Our country acceded to the Covenant in January 1994.

The ICCPR makes part of the International Bill of Human Rights, along with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Human Rights Committee is the body of 18 independent experts that monitors the implementation of the ICCPR. All States parties are obliged to submit regular reports to the Committee on how the rights of the Covenant are being implemented. States must report initially one year after acceding to the Covenant and then whenever the Committee requests (usually every four years). The Committee examines each report and addresses its concerns and recommendations to the State party in the form of "concluding observations". The Country has so far reported twice – for the initial report in 1998 and the Second periodic report in 2006, considered in 2000 and 2008.