



*Mandate of the Secretary-General's Special Representative
for Business & Human Rights*

**Announcement: Survey of State Corporate Social Responsibility policies
April 2009**

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) on Business and Human Rights recognizes that a growing number of States have been developing or updating corporate social responsibility (CSR) policies/action plans. They vary in content and form, but generally encourage responsible business practices, including fostering business understanding of and respect for human rights.

In light of his work in elaborating on the “protect, respect, remedy” framework, the SRSG is seeking to learn more about these policies, including whether and how they incorporate human rights considerations, with a view to compiling a compendium that would be useful to all actors. He has therefore asked the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to distribute the attached survey to all UN Member States. The survey presents questions for States both with and without a CSR policy. States are also encouraged to append additional information where they feel it would be useful. The SRSG is grateful to the OHCHR for facilitating this process.

In 2006, 29 States responded to a survey from the SRSG asking them to more broadly identify current practices of regulating, adjudicating, and otherwise influencing the role of corporations with respect to human rights. A summary of those responses, which the SRSG considered an important contribution to his mandate, was included in his 2007 report to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/4/35/Add. 3). The present survey is a follow up to the 2006 survey, taking into account the evolution in the field of corporate social responsibility. The SRSG urges all governments to respond.

A summary report on the main trends from the survey will be posted on the SRSG's website later this year.

For more information, please contact Lene Wendland (lwendland@ohchr.org).