



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

28 March 2008

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the forthcoming annual treaty event of the United Nations that will be held from 23 to 25 and on 29 and 30 September 2008 in the treaty signing area in the General Assembly Building in New York.

The “2008 Treaty Event: Towards Universal Participation and Implementation – Dignity and Justice for All of Us” will coincide with the general debate of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly. This occasion provides a distinct opportunity for States to demonstrate their continuing commitment to the central role of the rule of law in international relations.

I wish to extend this invitation to you to make use of the event by signing and ratifying or acceding to those treaties deposited with me to which your country is not party already.

This year’s event will highlight treaties associated with the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Year of Planet Earth, the International Year of Sanitation and the International Polar Year.

Earlier this year I drew your attention to the importance I give to delivering results, both within the United Nations itself and among the Member States. The treaty event will give you the opportunity to reach the goal of universal participation in a number of treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and work towards “dignity and justice for all of us”.

In line with the International Year of Planet Earth, the International Year of Sanitation and the International Polar Year, we emphasize in the highlighted treaties the reinforcement of the relationship between climate goals and development goals. Safe drinking water and basic sanitation will help us to reach the goal of global health.

By highlighting certain transport and trade treaties, the 2008 Treaty Event will also provide an opportunity to draw attention to the special needs of landlocked developing countries recognized in the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries.

This event will additionally highlight treaties that address disarmament, non-proliferation and penal matters as well as privileges and immunities and the safety of United Nations and associated personnel.

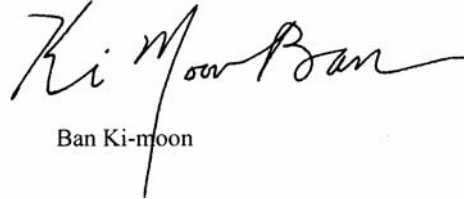
Attached for your consideration is the list of highlighted treaties. The Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs will be publishing a booklet entitled *2008 Treaty Event: Towards Universal Participation and Implementation – Dignity and Justice for All of Us*, summarizing the objectives and key provisions of these treaties. I emphasize, of course, that the event may be used to sign and ratify or accede to any other treaty of which I am the depositary.

In addition to undertaking actions to participate in the international treaty framework, States may also need to take adequate measures to implement the relevant treaty obligations within their domestic jurisdictions. To deliver results for a more just world, we will continue to work with Member States to build capacity in the rule of law, and offer expertise and technical assistance where needed.

I would like to request that you inform me by 1 September 2008 of your intention to sign, ratify or accede to any of the treaties of which I am the depositary during the 2008 Treaty Event so that the necessary arrangements can be made by the Secretariat. There will be facilities to accommodate the media.

As I mentioned in my statement to regional groups of Member States in January 2008, “[g]lobal threats in the twenty-first century spare no one. They require us to advance the global common good by securing global public goods”. Please join us in September at the treaty event to move towards universal participation in and implementation of the multilateral treaty framework.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Ban Ki-moon