



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

29 April 2011

Excellency,

As the depositary of more than 550 multilateral treaties, I have the honour to refer to the annual treaty event of the United Nations “2011 Treaty Event: Towards Universal Participation and Implementation”, which will be held from 20 to 22 and on 26 and 27 September 2011 in the Treaty Signing area in the General Assembly Building in New York. The event will coincide with the General Debate of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, which opens on Tuesday, 20 September 2011.

This occasion provides a distinct opportunity for States to reaffirm their continuing commitment to the central role of the rule of law at the international and national levels. The annual treaty event has proven to be an effective means for promoting the wider participation of States in the multilateral treaty framework and thereby fostering the rule of law at the international level. Since 2000, ten treaty events have attracted 1,591 treaty actions.

I wish to extend this invitation to you to make use of the event by signing and depositing instruments of ratification or accession to those treaties deposited with me to which your country is not yet a party.

The 2011 Treaty Event will focus, as it has in recent years, on the encouragement of wider participation in multilateral treaties in order to achieve their speedy entry into force or their universal participation if they are already in force.

As this year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the sixtieth anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, we are highlighting the challenges of forced displacement and statelessness. The year 2011 also marks the launch of UN Women, and treaties relating to the empowerment and protection of women will similarly be highlighted.

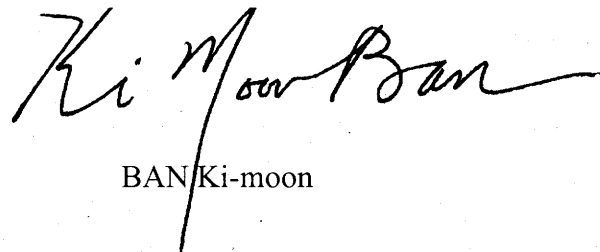
The September event will also focus on treaties that address strategic priorities, including human rights, disarmament and non-proliferation, the prevention and suppression of acts of terrorism and organized crime, as well as sustainable development and the protection of the environment in preparation for the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

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 *2011 Treaty Event: Towards Universal Participation and Implementation* which will include a summary of the objectives and key provisions of highlighted treaties. The event may be used, however, to sign, ratify or accede to any other treaty of which I am the depositary.

I would like to request that you inform me by 6 September 2011 of your intention to sign, ratify or accede to any of the treaties of which I am the depositary during the 2011 Treaty Event so that the necessary arrangements can be made by the Secretariat. There will be facilities to accommodate the media.

Please join us in September at the 2011 Treaty Event to move towards universal participation in and implementation of the global treaty framework.

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



BAN/Ki-moon