



POSTAL ADDRESS—ADRESSE POSTALE: UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. 10017  
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Reference: C.N.106.2009.TREATIES-2 (Depositary Notification)

OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON  
ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

NEW YORK, 10 DECEMBER 2008

OPENING FOR SIGNATURE

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicates the following:

The above Optional Protocol was adopted on 10 December 2008 during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly by resolution A/RES/63/117. In accordance with article 17, the Optional Protocol shall be open for signature by any State that has signed, ratified or acceded to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The signing ceremony will be held on 24 September 2009 during the 2009 Treaty Event at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Information regarding the signing ceremony will be provided at a later date.

Certified true copies of the Optional Protocol of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, were established on 31 December 2008 and were transmitted to all States by depositary notification C.N.2.2009.TREATIES-1 of 20 January 2009.

The Secretary-General takes this opportunity to recall that, under established international practice, only Heads of State, Heads of Government or Ministers for Foreign Affairs are empowered, by virtue of their functions, to sign a treaty on behalf of a State without having to produce full powers to that effect. Other representatives wishing to sign a treaty must be in possession of appropriate full powers, which expressly authorize signature of a specified treaty by a named representative issued by one of these authorities.

The Secretary-General would be obliged if States wishing to sign the Optional Protocol could notify, and provide copies of the required full powers in advance to the Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs, at United Nations Headquarters in New York (Telephone: (212) 963 5047, Facsimile: (212) 963 3693, e-mail: depositaryCN@un.org).

Attention: Treaty Services of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of international organizations concerned. Depositary notifications are currently issued in both hard copy and electronic format. Depositary notifications are made available to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations at the following e-mail address: missions@un.int. Such notifications are also available in the United Nations Treaty Collection on the Internet at <http://treaties.un.org>, where interested individuals can subscribe to directly receive depositary notifications by e-mail through a new automated subscription service. Depositary notifications are available for pick-up by the Permanent Missions in Room NL-300.

For more information on full powers, please refer to the Treaty Handbook on the United Nations Treaty Collection website, which can be accessed at the following address:  
<http://treaties.un.org>.

..... For the sake of convenience a model instrument of full powers is attached.

19 February 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'R' followed by a flourish.

Attention: Treaty Services of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of international organizations concerned. Depository notifications are currently issued in both hard copy and electronic format. Depository notifications are made available to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations at the following e-mail address: [missions@un.int](mailto:missions@un.int). Such notifications are also available in the United Nations Treaty Collection on the Internet at <http://treaties.un.org>, where interested individuals can subscribe to directly receive depository notifications by e-mail through a new automated subscription service. Depository notifications are available for pick-up by the Permanent Missions in Room NL-300.

**Model of Full Powers**  
**(to be signed by the Head of State or Government,**  
**or Minister for Foreign Affairs)**

**FULL POWERS**

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I, [ name and title of Minister for Foreign Affairs, Head of Government or Head of State ],

**HEREBY AUTHORIZE**, [ name and title ], to [ sign \* / ratify / denounce / effect the following declaration in respect of, etc. ] the [ title and date of treaty, convention, agreement, etc. ] on behalf of the Government of [ name of State ].

Done at [ place ] on [ date ].

[ Signature ]

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\* Subject to the provisions of the treaty, one of the following alternative is to be chosen: [subject to ratification] or [without reservation as to ratification]. Reservations made upon signature must be authorized by the full powers granted to the signatory.