

Knowledge to lead

## OLA/UNITAR Seminar on International Treaty Law and Practice

United Nations Headquarters, New York  
Conference Room B (NLB)  
12-13 April 2011

### INFORMATION NOTE

#### Background

Proper understanding and appreciation of international law and the multilateral treaty framework is integral to an effective management of international relations today. The continuous growth of global challenges and concomitant expansion of collective responses have resulted in many developments in the practice of the Secretary-General (as the depositary of multilateral treaties) and in the registration function of the Secretariat under Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations. Particularly at the 2005 World Summit, Member States recognized the “need for universal adherence to and implementation of the rule of law at both the national and international levels”. The Summit outcome document also drew attention to the importance of States becoming parties to and implementing conventions deposited with the Secretary-General in areas such as terrorism, organized crime and corruption, protection of the environment and human rights.

Against this backdrop, countries face new challenges in participating in multilateral treaties, particularly in the area of signature, ratification, accession and domestic implementation of treaty rights and obligations. However, as former Secretary-General noted in his Millennium Report (A/54/2000), many countries “lack the necessary expertise and resources, especially when national legislation is needed to give force to international instruments”. This seminar is intended to bridge the gap between the growing need for global cooperation and the lack of expertise in providing legal effect to such cooperation.

#### Learning Objectives

This seminar is part of the Secretariat’s training and capacity-building assistance, aimed at facilitating more effective participation by countries in multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General, helping to increase the registration of bilateral and multilateral treaties with the Secretariat as required by Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations, and raising awareness in the area of the domestic implementation of treaty rights and obligations.

More specifically, by the end of this seminar, participants will be able to:

- Describe the depositary process for treaties deposited with the Secretary-General;
- Explain the registration of treaties pursuant to Article 102 of the United Nations Charter;
- Contrast different treaty actions, including reservations, declarations, etc.

## Content and Structure

Conducted in English, this seminar takes place over two full days, from 10:00am to 1:00pm and 3:00pm to 5:30pm, and discusses the following topics: multilateral treaties deposited with the UN Secretary-General; final clauses of multilateral treaties; reservations, declarations and registration of treaties; a case study on the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and an overview of online resources.

All participants who successfully complete the seminar will receive a UNITAR Certificate of Completion.

## Methodology

The seminar is facilitated by UNITAR with a team of experts and lawyers from the Treaty Section of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs. The seminar consists of core lectures, case studies and practical exercises to assist countries in undertaking multilateral treaty actions and registering treaties with the Secretariat more effectively.

## Target Audience

The seminar is designed primarily for legal advisers and officers in the permanent missions to the United Nations in New York involved with the preparation of treaty actions to multilateral treaties and the registration of treaties. Representatives of governments, international organizations, the United Nations system or civil society with academic or professional interest on the topic are also encouraged to participate.

## Contact and Registration

The course participation fee is 450 USD. Diplomats from least developed countries and developing countries can participate free-of-charge.

Participants may pay individually per course attended, or their government may wish to cover the costs of an annual subscription. More information about UNITAR's core diplomacy training (CDT) pricing policy is available at <http://www.unitar.org/mdp/cdt>.

Important: Upon completion of online registration, all applicants will receive an automated invoice, which will allow them to make full payment for their UNITAR course(s), unless you are a diplomat from a least developed countries and developing countries. Participants with a fee are required to make payment by wire transfer or check. UNITAR reserves the right to rescind an applicant's enrolment at any time in case of non-receipt of payment. Participation will be confirmed by e-mail.

For queries regarding registration, **please contact** Ms. Soukeyna Fall, UNITAR, (212) 963- 9196, [info@unitaryn.org](mailto:info@unitaryn.org) .

For queries regarding the seminar, please contact M. François Richard, UNITAR, (212) 963 3021, [francois.richard@unitar.org](mailto:francois.richard@unitar.org).

**Registration deadline: Thursday, 7 April 2011**