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The Legal Counsel presents his compliments to the Permanent Representatives of the United Nations in New York and has the honour to refer to the Secretary-General's invitation to Member States to participate in the Treaty Event, Focus 2004: Treaties on the Protection of Civilians, which was held at United Nations Headquarters from 21 to 24 September 2004.

Thirty-five States participated in the above Treaty Event. Of that number, 7 States participated at the level of Head of State or Government and 24 States participated at the level of Minister for Foreign Affairs. 102 treaty actions relating to 45 treaties (19 signatures, 45 ratifications, and 38 accessions) were undertaken.

It is noted that the Republic of Liberia undertook 18 treaty actions, Paraguay 7, Lesotho 6 and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Cambodia and Sri Lanka undertook 4 actions each.

During the event, the following treaties attracted actions:

Penal matters/terrorism

-Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, 1998 (3 ratifications). The Statute, which entered into force on 1 July 2002, currently has 139 signatories and 97 parties;

-Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court, 2002 (1 accession and 1 ratification). The Agreement, which entered into force on 22 July 2004, currently has 62 signatories and 16 parties;

-United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000 (3 ratifications and 1 accession). The Convention, which entered into force on 29 September 2003, currently has 147 signatories and 92 parties;

- United Nations Convention against Corruption, 2003 (2 signatures and 1 ratification). The Convention, which has not yet entered into force, currently has 113 signatories and 8 parties;

-Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000 (3 ratifications and 1 accession). The Protocol, which entered into force on 25 December 2003, currently has 117 signatories and 73 parties;

-Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000 (3 ratifications and 1 accession). The Protocol currently has 112 signatories and 64 parties. It entered into force on 28 January 2004;

Attention: Treaty Services of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of international organizations concerned.

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- Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2001 (1 ratification and 1 accession). The Protocol currently has 52 signatories and 29 parties. It has not yet entered into force;
- Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, 1994 (2 accessions). The Convention, which entered into force on 15 January 1999, currently has 43 signatories and 76 parties;
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, 1973 (2 accessions). The Convention, which entered into force on 20 February 1977, currently has 25 signatories and 152 Parties;
- International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages, 1979 (2 accessions). The Convention, which entered into force on 3 June 1983, currently has 39 signatories and 143 parties;
- International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, 1997 (3 accessions). The Convention, which entered into force on 23 May 2001, currently has 58 signatories and 131 parties;
- International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, 1999 (2 ratifications and 2 accessions). The Convention, which entered into force on 10 April 2002, currently has 132 signatories and 127 parties; and
- International Convention Against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries, 1989 (1 accession). The Convention, which entered into force on 20 October 2001, currently has 16 signatories and 26 Parties.

Disarmament

- Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects (with Protocols I, II and III), 1980 (2 accessions). The Convention, which entered into force on 2 December 1983, currently has 50 signatories and 96 parties;
- Amendment to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects, 2001 (2 accessions). The Amendment entered into force on 18 May 2003 and has currently 34 parties;
- Additional Protocol to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects (Protocol IV, entitled Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons), 1995 (3 consents to be bound). The Protocol, which entered into force on 30 July 1998, has currently 78 parties;
- Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices as amended on 3 May 1996 (Protocol II as amended on 3 May 1996) annexed to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects, 1996 (3 consents to be bound). The Protocol, which entered into force on 3 December 1998, currently has 79 parties;

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-Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, 1996 (2 ratifications). It currently has 172 signatories and 117 Parties and has not entered into force yet; and

-Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, 1992 (1 accession). The Convention, which entered into force on 29 April 1997, now has 165 signatories and 165 parties.

Diplomatic Relations

-Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961(1 accession). The Convention, which entered into force on 24 April 1964, currently has 60 signatories and 182 parties.

Human Rights

-International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966 (1 ratification). The Covenant, which entered into force on 3 January 1976, currently has 65 signatories and 150 parties;

-International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966 (1 ratification). The Covenant, which entered into force on 23 March 1976, currently has 67 signatories and 153 parties;

-Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966 (2 signatures). The Protocol, which entered into force on 23 March 1976, currently has 33 signatories and 104 parties;

-Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948 (1 accession). The Convention, which entered into force on 12 January 1951, currently has 41 signatories and 136 parties;

-International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1966 (1 accession). The Convention, which entered into force on 4 January 1969, currently has 84 signatories and 170 parties;

-International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, 1990 (5 signatures). The Convention, which entered into force on 1 July 2003, currently has 23 signatories and 26 parties;

-Amendment to article 43 (2) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1995 (1 acceptance). The Amendment entered into force on 18 November 2002, and now has 139 parties;

-Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, 2000 (1 signature and 4 ratifications/accessions). The Optional Protocol, which entered into force on 12 February 2002, currently has 116 signatories and 82 parties;

-Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, 2000 (1 signature and 4 ratifications/accessions). The Optional Protocol, which entered into force on 18 January 2002, currently has 109 signatories and 83 parties;

-Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1999 (1 signature and 3 ratifications/accessions). The Protocol, which entered into force on 22 December 2000, currently has 76 signatories and 66 parties;

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-Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1984 (1 accession). The Convention currently has 74 signatories and 138 parties. It has entered into force on 26 June 1987; and

-Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 2002 (2 signatures and 1 accession). The Protocol currently has 29 signatories and 5 parties. It has not yet entered into force.

Statelessness

-Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, 1961 (2 accessions). The Convention, which entered into force on 13 December 1975, currently has 5 signatories and 29 parties.

Traffic in Persons

-Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, 1950 (1 ratification and 2 signatures). The Convention, which entered into force on 25 July 1951, currently has 23 signatories and 78 parties; and

-Final Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, 1950 (1 ratification and 2 signatures). The Final Protocol, which entered into force on 25 July 1951, currently has 25 signatories and 37 parties.

Environment

-Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, 1989 (1 accession). The Convention, which entered into force on 5 May 1992, currently has 53 signatories and 163 parties;

-Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1997 (1 accession). The Protocol, which is not yet in force, currently has 84 signatories and 125 parties;

-Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (PIC), 1998 (1 ratification and 2 accessions). The Convention, which entered into force on 24 February 2004, currently has 73 signatories and 77 parties;

-Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, 1992 (1 accession). The Amendment, which entered into force on 14 June 1994, currently has 164 Parties;

-Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, 1999 (1 ratification). The amendment entered into force on 25 February 2002 and currently has 81 parties; and

-Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, 2001 (2 ratifications). The Convention entered into force on 17 May 2004, and currently has 151 signatories and 79 parties.

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Health

-WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, 2003 (1 ratification). The Convention currently has 168 signatories and 32 parties and has not entered into force yet.

Transport

-Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, 2003 (1 signature and 1 ratification). The Treaty, which has not yet entered into force, has currently 24 signatories and 6 parties; and

-European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR), 1970 (1 accession). The Agreement, which entered into force on 5 January 1976, currently has 13 signatories and 43 parties.

Commodities

-International Cocoa Agreement, 2001 (1 ratification). The agreement has entered into force provisionally on 1 October 2003. It currently has 11 signatories and 14 parties.

The Legal Counsel takes this opportunity to renew, to the Permanent Representatives of the United Nations in New York, the assurances of his highest consideration.

29 September 2004 *nn*

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