



2011 Treaty Event

Towards Universal Participation and Implementation

Background Press Release

Countries Invited to Sign, Ratify or Accede to Multilateral Treaties during the 2011 Treaty Event

Treaty Event highlights multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General addressing human rights, organized crime, disarmament and environmental protection

In a continuing effort to bolster international law and strengthen the rule of law, the United Nations will host the twelfth Treaty Event at UN Headquarters from 20 to 22 and 26 to 27 September 2011. During the Event, Member States are invited to sign, ratify or accede to the 550 multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, in his letter of invitation to Member States, stated that this year's Treaty Event "provides a distinct opportunity for States to demonstrate their continuing commitment to the central role of the rule of law at the international and national levels."

Sixty-four treaties have been specifically highlighted for the 2011 Treaty Event. In particular, as this year marks the 50th anniversary of the 1961 *Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness* and the 60th anniversary of the 1951 *Convention relating to the Status of Refugees*, this Treaty Event is 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 are similarly highlighted.

The September event will also focus on treaties that address strategic priorities of the UN, 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.

The highlighted treaties for the 2011 Treaty Event include five new agreements that were adopted in 2010:

- *The Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries* (New York, 24 September 2010)
- *The International Cocoa Agreement, 2010* (Geneva, 25 June 2010)
- *The Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and all Parts and Components that can be used for their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly* (Kinshasa, 30 April 2010)
- *The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity* (Nagoya, 29 October 2010)
- *The Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety* (Nagoya, 15 October 2010).

The Event also provides an opportunity for Member States to deposit declarations recognizing as compulsory the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice under Article 36, paragraph 2 of the Statute of the Court.



United Nations

The Event will furthermore focus on treaties that address the safety of United Nations and associated personnel. These treaties are of increasing importance for the Organization to be able to effectively carry out its mandate around the world.

Background

In September 2000, the United Nations invited world leaders attending the landmark Millennium Summit to take advantage of their presence at United Nations Headquarters to sign a wide range of major international treaties. That year, the treaty event called “An Invitation to Universal Participation” offered a platform for Governments to showcase their commitment to strengthening the rule of law at home and in the global arena. Since then, the Treaty Event has been held annually, usually coinciding with the General Debate of the General Assembly in September. Since 2000, the Treaty Events have resulted in 1591 new signatures, ratifications, acceptances, accessions and other treaty-related actions.

For more information on the 2011 Treaty Event, see: [**http://treaties.un.org**](http://treaties.un.org)

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