

United Nations Nations Unies

HEADQUARTERS • SIEGE NEW YORK, NY 10017

TEL.: 1 (212) 963.1234 • FAX: 1 (212) 963.4879

REFERENCE:

21 May 2012

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the Secretary-General's letter of invitation addressed to Heads of State and Government to participate in this year's treaty event entitled "2012 Treaty Event: Strengthening the Rule of Law" which will be held from 24 to 26 September and on 1 to 2 October 2012 in the Treaty Signing area in the General Assembly Building at the United Nations Headquarters in New York during the general debate of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

States are encouraged to utilize the occasion of the 2012 Treaty Event to demonstrate their continuing commitment to the central role of the rule of law in international relations. It is emphasized that the Event may be used to sign and ratify or accede to any treaty for which the Secretary-General acts as depositary. You will be receiving a booklet with information on treaties which are close to attaining universal participation; treaties which have not yet entered into force; as well as treaties which remain open for signature; and the complete list of multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General for your review and reference.

It is noted that, consistent with the rules of international law and the practice of the Secretary-General as depositary of multilateral treaties, a Head of State or Government or a Minister of Foreign Affairs does not require full powers to execute a treaty action in person. Furthermore, full powers are not required in cases where an instrument conferring general full powers has been issued to a designated person and has been deposited with the Secretary-General in advance.

However, where an action, such as a signature, relating to a treaty deposited with the Secretary-General is to be undertaken by a person other than the Head of State or Government or the Minister of Foreign Affairs, duly executed full powers are necessary.

The Secretary-General's requirements for a valid instrument of full powers must include the following:

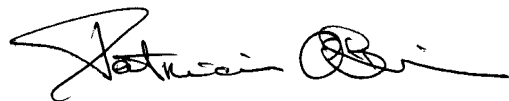
- Title of the treaty;
- Full name and title of the person duly authorized to sign the treaty concerned;
- Date and place of signature; and
- Signature of the Head of State, Head of Government or Foreign Minister.

Instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession must also be issued and signed by one of the above three authorities, and should include all declarations and reservations related thereto. Full powers and instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession should be submitted for verification to the Treaty Section well in advance of the intended date of the relevant treaty action. Further information on full powers and instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession can be obtained from the *Treaty Handbook*. This document and other publications of the Treaty Section are available in the United Nations Treaty Collection at the website at <http://treaties.un.org>.

Advice before **6 September 2012** on your Government's intention to sign, ratify or accede to any of the multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General would assist us in making the necessary arrangements, including appropriate media coverage. United Nations Treaty Collection website mentioned above provides updated information on the status of all treaties deposited with the Secretary-General. It is requested that appointments be made by contacting the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs (telephone: (+1-212) 963-5047; fax: (+1-212) 963-3693).

We look forward to your Government's participation in the 2012 Treaty Event.

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



Patricia O'Brien
Under-Secretary-General
for Legal Affairs
The Legal Counsel