

UNITED NATIONS



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REFERENCE: LA41TR/221/Full Powers Guidelines/2006

The Legal Counsel presents his compliments to the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations and has the honour to communicate the following in relation to full powers for the signing of treaties deposited with the Secretary-General as depositary of multilateral treaties:

With a view to assisting States in becoming party to the international treaty framework, the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs, which discharges the functions of the Secretary-General in his capacity as depositary of multilateral treaties, has prepared the attached *Guidelines*. These *Guidelines* address the Secretary-General's requirements, consistent with treaty law and his practice, applicable to instruments of full powers.

Additional information regarding full powers may be obtained from the *Summary of Practice of the Secretary-General as Depositary of Multilateral Treaties* (ST/LEG/7/Rev.1) and the *Treaty Handbook* published by the Treaty Section. Both publications are available in the United Nations Treaty Collection on the Internet at the following address: <http://untreaty.un.org>. Please also refer to the *Treaty Handbook* for a model instrument of full powers.

The Legal Counsel of the United Nations avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations the assurances of his highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Richard'.

9 February 2006

FULL POWERS GUIDELINES

Proper full powers are required by all persons seeking to sign a treaty deposited with the Secretary-General or to make a reservation upon signature, except Heads of State or Government, or Foreign Ministers or a person acting, *ad interim*, in one of the above positions.

Secretary-General's requirements applicable to full powers:

1. Signature by the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs or a person acting, *ad interim*, in one of the above positions;
2. Title of the treaty;
3. Express authorization to sign the treaty concerned;
4. Full name and title of the person duly authorized to sign;
5. Date and place of signature; and
6. Official seal. This is optional and cannot replace the signature of one of the three authorities of State.

Please note:

- Where general full powers have been issued to a named person and have been deposited with the Secretariat in advance, specific full powers are not required.
- Full powers must be submitted for verification to the Treaty Section of the United Nations in advance of the intended date of signature.