

**Summary Report of the Capacity-Building Workshop on Treaty Law and Practice and the  
Domestic Implementation of Treaty Obligations  
Monrovia, Liberia  
10 July, and 12 to 14 July 2006**

1. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Liberia hosted the above capacity-building workshop with the collaboration and support of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the World Bank. This capacity-building workshop was convened between 10 and 14 July 2006 in order to support the Liberian Government in its implementation of the wide range of obligations resulting from the record number of treaty actions undertaken by Liberia in September 2005 during the Focus 2005 Treaty Event organized by the Treaty Section.
2. The workshop included presentations on various aspects of international treaty law, the depositary practice of the Secretary-General, registration of treaties under Article 102 of the Charter, human rights, trade, transportation, international humanitarian law, transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism. The objectives included raising awareness relating to the range of multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations to which Liberia is party; encouraging compliance at the domestic level with the standards that these treaties establish; contributing in a concrete manner to the advancement of the international rule of law, the development of good governance practices, and consequently, the advancement of social, economic and political goals; and creating networks and strengthening communication among Government officials in Liberia.
3. The Treaty Section/OLA was represented by Mr. Bradford Smith (Legal Officer) and Ms. Sherry Holbrook (Legal Officer). Trainers were also present from the International Trade Law Division of OLA (UNCITRAL Secretariat) (Mr. Luca Castellani, Legal Officer), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Ms. Mercedes Morales, Human Rights Officer and Secretary CAT and UNVFVT), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Mr. Amado Philip de Andrés, Officer-in-Charge and Deputy Representative, Regional Office for West and Central Africa), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (Mr. Robert Young, Regional Legal Advisor, ICRC, Abidjan). The World Bank was represented by Mr. Luigi Giovine, Country Representative. UNDP was represented by Mr. Steven Ursino, Country Director, and Mr. Satya Tripathi, International Policy and Aid Coordination Advisor. The representatives of UNMIL included Mr. Alfred Fofie, Chief of Legal and Judicial Support Services Division. The representatives of the Government of Liberia included Mr. George Wallace, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Eugene Shannon, Minister for Land, Mines and Energy, and Ms. Krubo Kollie, Deputy Minister for Legal Affairs, Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Over 130 participants attended the workshop representing all of the major ministries (including the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Commerce, and Ministry of Gender), members of the Legislature, national law enforcement agencies and members of civil society.
4. The Capacity-Building Workshop on Treaty Law and Practice and the Domestic Implementation of Treaty Obligations was officially opened on 10 July 2006 by Mr. George Wallace, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liberia. In addition to Mr. George Wallace, opening remarks were made by Ms. Krubo Kollie, Deputy Minister for Legal Affairs, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the UNDP Country Director, Mr. Steven Ursino and Mr. Bradford Smith, representing the Office of Legal Affairs. The welcoming remarks by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and addresses by Ms. Kollie, Mr. Ursino and Mr. Smith highlighted the initiative by the Government of Liberia in its implementation of a wide range of treaty obligations resulting from treaty actions undertaken by Liberia in September 2005, and the Secretary-General's emphasis on the rule of law as reflected in the *Millennium Report* and *In Larger Freedom* as well as the The speakers also highlighted the need for capacity-building and assistance by the international

community to enable Liberia to achieve its objectives of establishing a society built on the rule of law. 2005 World Summit Outcome Document. Presentations were made during the opening session by Mr. Smith and Ms. Holbrook on international treaty law, the depositary practice of the Secretary-General and registration of treaties under Article 102 of the Charter.

5. During the following two days, participants were broken-up into five thematic groupings dealing with international treaty law; human rights; trade law; international humanitarian law; and transnational organized crime, terrorism and corruption. Speakers from the Treaty Section and the International Trade Law Division of the Office of Legal Affairs, the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Committee on the Red Cross met with government officials, lawmakers, national law enforcement personnel, and members of civil society to discuss the international legal obligations arising from the various treaties to which Liberia is party and the challenges in confronting the prospect of participating in the vast multilateral treaty framework, particularly with respect to participation in such treaties, reporting requirements, and the domestic implementation of treaty rights and obligations. The benefits of participation in the international treaty framework were also underscored. Detailed plans of action addressing challenges and concrete steps to be taken to implement treaty obligations were created by the Liberian participants of each thematic group, which were presented by Liberian officials from the relevant ministries during the closing plenary session. The action plans will be put into practice in cooperation with the expert trainers, UNDP and UNMIL.

6. The trainers from the Treaty Section and International Trade Law Division of the Office of Legal Affairs, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNMIL, and UNDP met with Mr. George Wallace, Minister for Foreign Affairs on 14 July, who thanked the representatives for their support. Mr. Bradford Smith, on behalf of the Office of Legal Affairs, thanked the Minister for hosting the workshop and briefed him on the accomplishments achieved.

7. Representatives from the Treaty Section, OLA, the International Trade Law Division, OLA and UNDP then met with Mr. Luiz Carlos da Costa, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Operation and Rule of Law, UNMIL. Mr. da Costa was briefed on the outcome of the workshop, and was keen on following-up the initiative to ensure proper coordination among the various substantive participants from the United Nations and the implementation of the national action plans. Due to the Treaty Section's role in organizing the workshop, and its extensive contacts with all of the relevant substantive offices and treaty bodies, he suggested that a legal officer from the Treaty Section be based in Monrovia to perform this function on a short-term basis funded by UNMIL. Mr. da Costa was informed that the Legal Counsel would be advised on the matter.