



**OLA/UNITAR SEMINAR ON DEPOSIT OF TREATY ACTIONS
WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE REGISTRATION OF TREATIES**
Organized jointly with the Treaty Section of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs
United Nations Headquarters, New York
In English language: 18-19 April 2007- In French language: 23-24 April 2007

INFORMATION NOTE

BACKGROUND

The United Nations has played a significant role in both the development and the codification of public international law and provided an effective global forum for the negotiation of numerous multilateral treaties. The Secretary-General has, with the endorsement of the Member States, committed the organization to consolidating and advancing the international rule of law which increasingly is becoming a key goal for the United Nations. The appreciation of international law and the multilateral treaty framework is an integral part of the management of international relations today. Treaties have an increasing significance to the lives and livelihood of individuals and communities and in the business activities of corporations, underlining the ever-expanding interconnectivity between international agreements and domestic law.

Member States in the 2005 World Summit outcome document recognized the “need for universal adherence to and implementation of the rule of law at both the national and international levels” and called attention to the importance of States becoming parties to and implementing conventions deposited with the Secretary-General in areas such as terrorism, organized crime and corruption, protection of the environmental and human rights. The Secretary-General stated in his report “In Larger Freedom” (A/59/2005), “[s]upport for the rule of law must be strengthened by universal participation in multilateral conventions”.

The continuous expansion of the multilateral treaty framework and the growth of the international community have resulted in many developments in the practice of the Secretary-General, as depositary of multilateral treaties, and in the registration function of the Secretariat.

Against this background, countries face new challenges in participating in multilateral treaties, particularly in the area of signature, ratification, accession and domestic implementation of treaty rights and obligations. As the Secretary-General noted in his Millennium Report (A/54/2000), many countries “lack the necessary expertise and resources, especially when national legislation is needed to give force to international instruments”.

The United Nations Secretariat is committed to giving effect to the objectives advanced by the Member States in the 2005 World Summit outcome document, the Secretary-General in his Millennium Report and those endorsed in the Millennium Declaration, in particular by providing training and capacity-building assistance such as this seminar to facilitate more effective participation by countries in multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General, increased registration of bilateral and multilateral treaties with the Secretariat pursuant to Article 102 of the United Nations Charter, and increased awareness in the area of the domestic implementation of treaty rights and obligations.

OBJECTIVE

The principal objective of the seminar is to provide an overview of and practical hands-on experience in the deposit of treaty actions with the Secretary-General and the registration of treaties pursuant to Article 102 of the United Nations Charter. The seminar is designed primarily to meet the needs of legal advisers and legal officers involved with the preparation of treaty actions to multilateral treaties and the registration of treaties. Practitioners who are interested in these aspects of treaty law are also welcome. Assistance and guidance will also be provided in the drafting of final clauses of treaties and the domestic aspects of participation in multilateral treaties. The seminars are based on the “Summary of Practice of the Secretary-General as Depositary of Multilateral Treaties, the “Treaty Handbook” and the “Handbook of Final Clauses of Multilateral Treaties” that have been developed and published by the Treaty Section of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (<http://untreaty.un.org>).

The Treaty Handbook is a practical guide to the depositary practice of the Secretary-General and the registration requirements of the Secretariat. The Handbook of Final Clauses provides examples of matters normally included in the final clauses of multilateral treaties. They are designed to serve as a tool for Member States, secretariats of international organizations and legal practitioners.

These publications, the training seminars, and the annual treaty event organized by the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs meet the call for strengthening “United Nations activities to promote the rule of law, including through technical assistance and capacity-building” highlighted in the 2005 World Summit outcome document. This year, the annual treaty event, entitled “Focus 2007: Towards Universal Participation and Implementation - A Comprehensive Legal Framework for Peace, Development and Human Rights”, will be held at UN Headquarters from 25-27 September and 1-2 October 2007 and will coincide with the General Debate of the sixty-second General Assembly. More information on the treaty event will be shared during the seminar.

ORGANIZATION

The seminar, to be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York in English on Wednesday, 18 April 2007 and Thursday, 19 April 2007 and to be conducted in French on Monday, 23 April 2007 and Tuesday, 24 April 2007, will provide participants with practical hands-on experience on the basic aspects of international treaty law and practice as well as the technical aspects of undertaking treaty actions such as signatures, ratifications, accessions, etc. It will consist of core lectures, case studies and practical exercises to assist the participant States in undertaking multilateral treaty actions more effectively and registering treaties with the Secretariat. The seminar will be conducted by a team of lawyers from the Treaty Section of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs. It will be conducted in English in Conference Room 7 on Wednesday, 18 April and on Thursday, 19 April (from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.). It will be held in French in Conference Room 7 on Monday, 23 April and on Tuesday, 24 April (from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.)

REGISTRATION

Members of the Permanent Missions accredited to the United Nations in New York, members of the Secretariat, UN agencies and treaty-based institutions who wish to participate in either of the seminars are requested to complete the attached nomination form and return it to the following address:

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Registration deadline: Friday, 13 April 2007

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