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**OLA/UNITAR SEMINAR ON DEPOSIT OF TREATY ACTIONS  
WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND REGISTRATION OF TREATIES**  
*Organized jointly with the Treaty Section of the UN Office of Legal Affairs*

**Monday, 6 and Tuesday, 7 May 2002**  
**United Nations Headquarters, New York**

**INFORMATION NOTE**

**BACKGROUND**

Tremendous changes have occurred in international law during the last decades. The United Nations has played a significant role in both the development and the codification of public international law and has provided an effective forum for the negotiation of international treaties and conventions. A good knowledge of international law and the multilateral treaty framework is an integral part of the management of international relations today. The *Millennium Declaration*, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at the level of Heads of State and Government on 8 September 2000, identified certain key objectives essential to international relations in the twenty-first century, including ensuring the implementation by States parties of treaties in areas such as arms control, disarmament, international humanitarian law and human rights law. With the growth of the multilateral treaty framework, many developments have also occurred 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 order to participate in multilateral treaties, particularly in the area of signature, ratification, accession and domestic implementation of treaty obligations.

As the Secretary-General noted in the 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 is committed to giving effect to the objectives espoused by the Secretary-General and those proclaimed in the *Millennium Declaration* in particular, by providing training to facilitate more effective participation by countries in multilateral treaties and in the registration of bilateral treaties with the Secretariat pursuant to Article 102 of the charter of the United Nations.

**OBJECTIVE**

The objective of the two-day seminar is to provide an overview/training on the *deposit of treaty actions with the Secretary-General and the registration of treaties*. ***The special focus of this seminar will be treaties on sustainable development in view of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in August/September 2002.*** The seminar is designed to meet the needs of legal counsellors and legal advisers involved with the preparation of treaty actions to multilateral treaties and on the registration of treaties pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter. It will be based on “The Treaty Handbook” that was developed and published by the Treaty Section of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs.

The Treaty Handbook is a practical guide to the depositary practice of the Secretary-General and the registration requirements of the Secretariat. It is designed to serve as a tool for Member States, secretariats of international organizations and legal practitioners.

### **ORGANIZATION**

The seminar will provide participants with practical hands-on training 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 participants in undertaking multilateral treaty actions more effectively.

### **PARTICIPANTS**

The seminar is designed for members of permanent missions *and members of ministries from capitals*, in particular legal counsellors and legal advisers dealing with matters of public international law or specifically treaty law. The selected candidates are requested to regard their participation as a firm commitment. Upon successful completion of the seminar by participation in all the meetings, participants will receive a certificate.

### **RESOURCE PERSONS**

The seminar will be conducted by a team of lawyers from the Treaty Section of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs.

### **WORKING LANGUAGE**

The seminar will be conducted in English.

### **DATES AND VENUE**

The seminar will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on Monday, 6 and Tuesday, 7 May, from 9.45 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m. The venue will be communicated to the participants in due course.

### **REGISTRATION**

Members of the permanent missions accredited to the United Nations in New York and government officials from capitals who wish to participate in this seminar are requested to complete the attached nomination form and return it to the following address:

**UNITAR (Attn.: Ms. Cecelia Coleman)**  
1 United Nations Plaza, Suite DC1-603  
New York, NY 10017-3515  
Phone: (212) 963-9684 or 9196  
Fax: (212) 963-9686 or 0995

**Registration deadline: Friday, 26 April 2002**

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**NOMINATION FORM**  
**(Please type or use block letters)**

The Permanent Mission of \_\_\_\_\_  
nominates the following person to participate in the above-mentioned seminar.

( ) Ms. ( ) Mr. \_\_\_\_\_  
*First Name Last Name*

Functional title: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of the Head of the Mission)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form, by **Friday, 26 April 2002**, to:  
UNITAR (Attn: Ms. Cecelia Coleman)  
1 United Nations Plaza, Suite DC1-603  
New York, NY 10017-3515  
Phone: 212-963-9684 or 9196 Fax: 963-9686 or 0995

Reserved for UNITAR - Please do not write below this line TR/16/02

**CONFIRMATION**

The above-mentioned person is invited to participate in the OLA/UNITAR seminar on deposit of treaty actions with the Secretary-General and registration of treaties. This confirmation should be considered a firm commitment. In case of the candidate's inability to attend, kindly inform us in advance to enable us to offer the seat to another delegate.

The workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day, with registration starting at 9:45 a.m.

The workshop will be held in conference room \_\_\_\_\_ at United Nations Headquarters.

The final programme ( ) is ( ) is not included with this confirmation.

We look forward to welcoming you at the seminar.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jean Gazarian  
Coordinator, Training Programme  
for Permanent Missions

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**Monday, 6 May**

- 9:45 – 10:00 a.m.      Workshop registration
- 10:00 – 10:15 a.m.      **Welcoming remarks**  
*Ms. Cecelia Coleman, Programme Officer, UNITAR New York Office*
- 10:15 – 10:45 a.m.      **Presentation**  
*Mr. Hans Corell, Under Secretary-General, The Legal Counsel, Office of Legal Affairs*
- 10:45 – 11:30 a.m.      **Overview**  
*Mr. Palitha T.B. Kohona, Chief, Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs*
- 11:30 – 11:45 a.m.      *Coffee/tea break*
- 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.      **Registration process**  
*Ms. Lynne Moorhouse, Legal Officer, Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs*
- 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.      *Lunch break*
- 3:00 – 3.45 p.m.      **Workshop on Registration practice**
- 3:45 – 5:30 p.m.  
(including coffee/tea break)      **Publication issues**  
*Ms. Barbara Masciangelo, Publication Officer, Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs*  
**Demonstrations of the UN Treaty Collection website**  
*Mr. Andrey Kolomoyets, Legal Officer, Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs*

*Please note that each meeting will include time for questions and answers.*

**Tuesday, 7 May**

- 9:45 – 10:00 a.m. Workshop registration
- 10:00 – 10:45 a.m. **The challenge posed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development**  
*Ms. Joanne DiSano, Director, Division for Sustainable Development, DESA*
- 10:45 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. **Depositary process**  
*Mr. Bradford Smith, Legal Officer, Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs*
- 12:00 – 12:15 p.m. *Coffee/tea break*
- 12:15 p.m.– 1:00 p.m. **Workshop on depositary practice**
- 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. *Lunch break*
- 3:00 – 3:45 p.m. **Reservations and declarations**  
*Mr. Palitha T.B. Kohona, Chief, Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs*
- 3:45 – 4:30 p.m. **Demonstrations of the Department of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea website and the Codification Division website**  
*Mr. Vladimir Jares, Law of the Sea/Ocean Affairs Officer, Department of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea*  
*Mr. Arnold Pronto, Associate Legal Officer, Codification Division, Office of Legal Affairs*
- 4:30 – 5:00 p.m. **Workshop wrap-up and evaluation**  
*Mr. Palitha T.B. Kohona, Chief, Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs*  
*Ms. Cecelia Coleman, Programme Officer, UNITAR New York Office*

***Please note that each meeting will include time for questions and answers.***