

Knowledge to lead

OLA/UNITAR Seminar on International Treaty Law and Practice

Tuesday and Wednesday, 13-14 April 2010
United Nations Headquarters, New York
Conference Room B (TNLB)

INFORMATION NOTE

Background

Proper understanding and appreciation of international law and the multilateral treaty framework is integral to an effective management of international relations today. The continuous growth of global challenges and concomitant expansion of collective responses have resulted in many developments in the practice of the Secretary-General (as the depositary of multilateral treaties) and in the registration function of the Secretariat under Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations. Particularly at the 2005 World Summit, Member States recognized the “need for universal adherence to and implementation of the rule of law at both the national and international levels”. The Summit outcome document also drew 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 environment and human rights.

Against this backdrop, 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. However, as former 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”. This seminar is intended to bridge the gap between the growing need for global cooperation and the lack of expertise in providing legal effect to such cooperation.

Learning Objectives

The United Nations Secretariat is committed to giving effect to the objectives advanced by the Member States in the 2005 World Summit outcome document and by the Secretary-General. This seminar is part of the Secretariat’s training and capacity-building assistance, aimed at facilitating more effective participation by countries in multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General, helping to increase the registration of bilateral and multilateral treaties with the Secretariat as required by Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations, and raising awareness in the area of the domestic implementation of treaty rights and obligations.

By the end of this seminar, participants will be able to:

- Describe the depository process for treaties deposited with the Secretary-General;
- Explain the registration of treaties pursuant to Article 102 of the United Nations Charter;
- Contrast different treaty actions, including reservations, declarations, etc.

Content and Structure

Conducted in English, this seminar takes place over two full days, from 10:00am to 1:00pm and 3:00pm to 5:30pm, and discusses the following topics:

- Multilateral treaties and their depository process;
- Final clauses of multilateral treaties;
- Reservations, declarations and registration of treaties;
- A case study on a select treaty; and
- Overview of online resources.

All participants who successfully complete the seminar will receive a UNITAR Certificate of Completion.

Methodology

The seminar is facilitated by UNITAR with a team of experts and lawyers from the Treaty Section of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs. The seminar consists of core lectures, case studies and practical exercises to assist countries in undertaking multilateral treaty actions and registering treaties with the Secretariat more effectively.

Target Audience

The seminar is designed primarily for legal advisers and officers in the permanent missions to the United Nations in New York involved with the preparation of treaty actions to multilateral treaties and the registration of treaties. Representatives of governments, international organizations, the United Nations system or civil society with academic or professional interest on the topic are also encouraged to participate.

Contact and Registration

Interested delegates are requested to register online at <http://www.unitar.org/ny/or>, alternatively, complete the attached nomination form and return it by Friday, 8 April 2010, to:

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