



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

14 March 2005

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the forthcoming High-Level Plenary meeting of the 60th General Assembly commencing at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 14 September 2005. The High-Level Plenary meeting will provide a distinct opportunity for States to demonstrate their continuing commitment to the central role of the rule of law in international relations by participating in the annual treaty event of the United Nations. This year, consistent with the focus of the report of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, the treaty event will highlight treaties reflecting a broad range of interconnected concerns: ranging from terrorism to organized crime and corruption, from human rights to those addressing environmental and disarmament issues. The treaty event, entitled *Focus 2005: Responding to Global Challenges*, will be held from 14 to 16 September 2005.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations. In addition, in September, Member States will review progress made in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals. I hope that the international community will use this opportunity to take further action to make the world safer and more equitable and the United Nations a more effective organization, including strengthening the multilateral framework of treaties of which I am the depositary.

Ours is an age of unprecedented interconnectedness. The destinies of peoples around the world and the threats they face are interwoven; and, as the High-Level Panel noted, “[w]e all share responsibility for each other’s security”. Consistent with the focus of the report, the treaties chosen for Focus 2005 reflect that “the central challenge for the twenty-first century is to fashion a new and broader understanding, bringing together all these strands, of what collective security means – and of all the responsibilities, commitments, strategies and institutions that come with it if a collective security system is to be effective,

efficient and equitable". The treaties also reflect the international community's efforts over sixty years to build a multilateral framework of agreed rules not only to govern inter-state relations but also to strengthen the legal environment in which individuals live and businesses operate.

Continuing the tradition established during the Millennium Summit, the Treaty Event will be held in a specially designated location in the Secretariat building with facilities to accommodate the media.

I wish to extend this invitation to you to make use of this occasion to reaffirm your State's commitment to the rule of law in international relations and, in particular, to the treaties featured in Focus 2005, by signing and ratifying or acceding to those treaties of which I am the depositary to which your country is not party already. Of course, this opportunity could be used to sign and ratify or accede to any other treaty of which I am the depositary.

In connection with this event, the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs will be publishing a document entitled *Focus 2005: Responding to Global Challenges*, summarizing the objectives and key provisions of the highlighted treaties.

In addition to undertaking actions to participate in the international treaty framework, States may also need to take adequate measures to implement the relevant treaty obligations within their domestic jurisdictions. I wish to underline the call made in my Millennium Report, and repeated subsequently, to those States which might need assistance in this respect to advise me of their needs.

I would like to request that you inform me by 1 September 2005 of your intention to sign, ratify or accede to any of the treaties of which I am the depositary during Focus 2005 so that the necessary arrangements can be made by the Secretariat. I am also attaching a list of all multilateral treaties of which I am the depositary to enable a more comprehensive review of your country's participation in these multilateral treaties.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Kofi A. Annan