

Treaty Event – Focus 2006: Crossing Borders Final Report

New York, 22 September 2006: **46 States** participated in the above *Treaty Event – Focus 2006: Crossing Borders* held at United Nations Headquarters this month. **6 States** participated at the level of **Head of State or Government** and **18 States** participated at the level of **Minister for Foreign Affairs**. A total of **86 treaty actions** relating to 40 treaties (30 signatures, 50 ratifications, acceptances, approvals, and consents to be bound, accessions, 2 declarations and 4 other treaty actions) were undertaken.

In total, **20 States** signed the **Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel**, which was adopted on 8 December 2005.

During the event, the following core group of treaties attracted actions:

Refugees and Stateless Persons

- *Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, 1954* (Accession by Belize).
- *Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, 1961* (Accession by New Zealand).

Migrant Workers and Human Rights

- *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1966* (Ratification by Andorra with a Declaration).
- *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966* (Accession by Maldives).
- *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966* (Ratification by Andorra/Accessions by Bahrain and Maldives).
- *Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966* (Ratification by Andorra/Accession by Maldives).
- *Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, 1989* (Signature by the Philippines/Ratification by Andorra/Accession by the Republic of Moldova).
- *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979* (Ratification by Bulgaria/Partial Withdrawal of a Reservation by Austria).
- *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1999* (Accession by Armenia).
- *Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1984* (Ratification by Andorra with a Declaration).

- *Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 2002* (Signatures by Germany and South Africa/Ratifications by Benin and Ukraine/Accessions by Armenia and Peru).
- *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, 2000* (Accession by Lao People's Democratic Republic).
- *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, 2000* (Ratifications by Sri Lanka and Switzerland/Accession by Lao People's Democratic Republic).

Human Security and Trafficking in Persons and Firearms

- *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000* (Ratifications by Mozambique and Sri Lanka).
- *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000* (Ratification by Mozambique).
- *Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000* (Ratification by Mozambique/Accession by Belize).
- *Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2001* (Accession by Mozambique).
- *United Nations Convention against Corruption, 2003* (Ratifications by Bulgaria, Chile, Indonesia and Poland/Notification by Norway).

Sustainable Development, Food Security and Ecological Migration

- *Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, 1995* (Accession by Trinidad and Tobago).

Disarmament and State Security

- *Amendment of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects, 2001* (Ratification by Poland).
- *Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects, (Protocol V), 2003* (Consent to be bound by Malta).

Recently Adopted Agreements

- *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, 2005* (Signatures by Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Liberia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, Ukraine and Uruguay).

In addition, the following treaty actions were undertaken with respect to other treaties deposited with the Secretary-General:

Privileges and Immunities

- *United Nations Convention on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and Their Property, 2004* (Signatures by Denmark, Sierra Leone and Switzerland/Ratifications by Austria and Portugal).

Human Rights

- *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948* (Accession by Andorra).

Health

- *WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, 2003* (Ratification by Poland).

International Trade and Development

- *Agreement establishing the African Development Bank done in Khartoum on 4 August 1963, as amended by resolution 05-79 adopted by the Board of Governors on 17 May 1979, 1982* (Withdrawal of a Declaration by Norway).
- *United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts, 2005* (Signatures by Madagascar and Sierra Leone).

Transport

- *Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR), 1956* (Accession by Azerbaijan).

Navigation

- *Amendments to the Convention of the International Maritime Organization of 1948 relating to the Institutionalization of the Facilitation Committee, 1991* (Acceptance by Colombia).

Penal Matters

- *International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, 1997* (Communication by Canada).
- *International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, 2005* (Ratification by Austria).

Commodities

- *International Tropical Timber Agreement, 2005* (Signatures by Madagascar and Norway).
- *Food Aid Convention, 1999* (Accession by Poland).
- *International Coffee Agreement, 2001* (Accession by Poland).

Maintenance Obligations

- *Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Maintenance, 1956* (Accession by Ukraine).

Disarmament

- *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, 1992* (Ratification by Central African Republic).

Environment

- *Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, 1999* (Accession by Colombia).
- *Amendment to the 1991 Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, 2001* (Ratification by Austria).
- *Amendment to the 1991 Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, 2004* (Ratification by Austria).
- *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, 2001* (Ratification by Algeria).

Finally, States undertook the following number of actions during past treaty events:

- *Millennium Summit 2000* - **273** actions by 84 States;

- *Focus 2001: Rights of Women and Children* - **135** actions by 61 States;
- *2001 Special Treaty Event: Multilateral Treaties on Terrorism* - **180** actions by 79 States;
- *Focus 2002: Sustainable Development* - **83** actions by 41 States;
- *Focus 2003: Treaties Against Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism* - **155** actions by 56 States;
- *Focus 2004: Treaties on the Protection of Civilians* - **102** actions by 35 States; and
- *Focus 2005: Responding to Global Challenges* - **265** actions by 99 States and the European Community