



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

31 March 2009

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the annual treaty event of the United Nations “2009 Treaty Event: Towards Universal Participation and Implementation” which will be held from 23 to 25 and 28 to 29 September 2009 in the Treaty Signing area in the General Assembly Building in New York. The event will coincide with the General Debate of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly. As in previous years, this occasion provides a distinct opportunity for States to demonstrate their continuing commitment to the central role of the rule of law at the international and national levels.

I wish to extend this invitation to you to make use of the event by signing and ratifying or acceding to those treaties deposited with me to which your country is not party already.

As I have noted previously, one of my priorities as Secretary-General is to promote global goods and remedies to challenges that do not respect borders. To this end, the treaties highlighted this year cover areas of global reach such as climate change, terrorism and the use of nuclear and other weapons that adversely affect civilians. The General Assembly, in a number of resolutions adopted during its sixty-third session, has urged States that have not yet signed and/or ratified these treaties to do so with a view to achieving the widest possible adherence to these instruments so as to ultimately achieve their universality.

In addition to these areas, I have once again chosen to highlight certain treaties in the area of human rights. Capping off last year’s worldwide celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the landmark Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the General Assembly adopted the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (New York, 10 December 2008), which shall open for signature in New York on 24 September 2009 during this year’s event. This Optional Protocol creates a communication procedure similar to the one that presently exists for civil and political rights.

Another newly-adopted treaty, the Convention on Contracts for the International Carriage of Goods Wholly or Partly by Sea (New York, 11 December 2008) will also open for signature in Rotterdam on 23 September 2009, and thereafter in New York.

The event will additionally highlight treaties that address privileges and immunities and the safety of United Nations and associated personnel. These treaties are of increasing importance for the Organization to be able to effectively carry out its mandates around the world.

Attached for your consideration is the list of highlighted treaties. The Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs will be publishing a booklet entitled *2009 Treaty Event: Towards Universal Participation and Implementation*, summarizing the objectives and key provisions of these treaties. I emphasize, of course, that the event may be used to sign and ratify or accede to any other treaty of which I am the depositary.

I would like to request that you inform me by 4 September 2009 of your intention to sign, ratify or accede to any of the treaties of which I am the depositary during the 2009 treaty event so that the necessary arrangements can be made by the Secretariat. There will be facilities to accommodate the media.

As I mentioned in my statement to the East-West Institute in October 2008, as the world faces crises in the economic and environmental arenas, there is growing awareness of the fragility of our planet and the need for global solutions to global challenges. Please join us in September at the Treaty Event to move towards universal participation in and implementation of the global treaty framework.

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



BAN Ki-moon