



2010 Treaty Event Towards Universal Participation and Implementation

Background Press Release

Countries Invited to Sign, Ratify or Accede to Multilateral Treaties during the 2010 Treaty Event

Treaty Event highlights biodiversity, desertification and dispute resolution

In a continuing effort to bolster international law and strengthen the rule of law, the United Nations will host the eleventh Treaty Event at UN Headquarters on 21 to 23 and 27 to 28 September 2010.

During the event, Member States are invited to sign, ratify or accede to multilateral treaties in areas including human rights, the environment, terrorism, organized crime and disarmament.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, in his letter of invitation to Member States, stated that this year's Treaty Event "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."

In particular, this year's Event highlights the theme of biodiversity, which "celebrates and safeguards life on earth," said the Secretary-General. "The year 2010 marks the International Year of Biodiversity; it also marks the start of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification, another global issue requiring a global response."

The Convention on Biological Diversity — nearing universal ratification with 193 States Parties — focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, with over 190 States Parties, seeks to address this critical environmental problem, which directly affects over 250 million people.

The Event also provides an opportunity for Member States to deposit declarations recognizing as compulsory the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice under Article 36, paragraph 2 of the Statute of the Court.

The Event will furthermore focus on treaties that address the privileges and immunities and safety of United Nations and associated personnel. These treaties are of increasing importance for the Organization to be able to effectively carry out its mandate around the world.

The more than 40 treaties highlighted this year cover human rights (11), the environment and climate change (12), terrorism and penal matters (11), disarmament (3) and privileges, immunities and safety of United Nations personnel (5).

During the Treaty Event, the more than 500 treaties deposited with the Secretary-General are all open for ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, in accordance with their respective provisions.



United Nations

Background

In September 2000, the United Nations invited world leaders attending the landmark Millennium Summit to take advantage of their presence at United Nations Headquarters to sign a wide range of major international treaties. That year, a successful side event called “An Invitation to Universal Participation” offered a platform for Governments to showcase their commitment to strengthening the rule of law at home and in the global arena. Since then, the Treaty Event has been held annually, usually coinciding with the General Debate of the General Assembly in September. Since 2000, the Treaty Events have resulted in 1549 new signatures, ratifications, acceptances, accessions and other treaty-related actions.

For more information on the 2010 Treaty Event, see: **<http://treaties.un.org>**

For media queries, please contact: Renata Sivacolundhu, Department of Public Information
E-mail: sivacolundhu@un.org, Tel: +1 212 963 2932.