



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

12 April 2010

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the annual treaty event of the United Nations “2010 Treaty Event: Towards Universal Participation and Implementation” which will be held from 21 to 23 and 27 to 28 September 2010 in the Treaty Signing area in the General Assembly Building in New York. The event will coincide with the General Debate of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly which opens on Tuesday, 21 September 2010. As in preceding 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 depositing instruments of ratification, acceptance or accession to those treaties deposited with me to which your country is not party already.

This year we are highlighting a theme which celebrates and safeguards life on earth, biodiversity. 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.

I would like to encourage States which have not already done so to withdraw reservations made to jurisdictional clauses contained in multilateral treaties to which they are already a party, providing for the submission to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) of disputes in relation to the interpretation or application of those treaties. States becoming party to such instruments are also encouraged to accede to the jurisdictional clauses contained therein.

Furthermore, the event will also encourage States which have not already done so to deposit declarations recognizing as compulsory the jurisdiction of the ICJ under Article 36, paragraph 2 of the Statute of the Court with me during this year's treaty event.

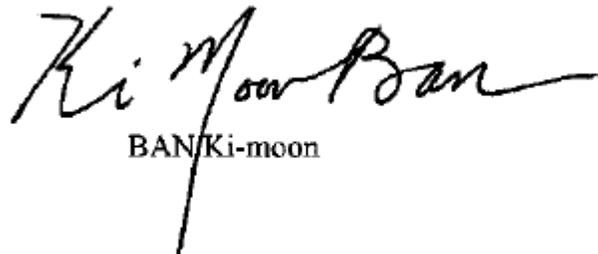
The event will also highlight treaties that address privileges and immunities and the safety of United Nations and associated personnel. These treaties are of increasing importance for the Organization to be able to effectively carry out its mandates around the world.

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 *2010 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 3 September 2010 of your intention to sign, ratify or accede to any of the treaties of which I am the depositary during the 2010 Treaty Event so that the necessary arrangements can be made by the Secretariat. There will be facilities to accommodate the media.

Please join us in September at the 2010 Treaty Event to move towards universal participation in and implementation of the global treaty framework, and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

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



BAN/Ki-moon