



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

9 May 2012

Excellency,

As the depositary of more than 550 multilateral treaties, I have the honour to refer to the annual treaty event of the United Nations. The Treaty Event will be held from 24 to 26 September and on 1 and 2 October 2012 in the Treaty Signing area in the General Assembly Building at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

In line with the decision of the General Assembly to convene, at its sixty-seventh session, a high-level meeting on the rule of law at the national and international levels, it is my pleasure to highlight the rule of law as the focus of the 2012 Treaty Event. The opening of the Treaty Event will coincide with the high-level meeting on 24 September 2012. The ensuing days of the annual treaty event will also coincide with the general debate of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, which opens on Tuesday, 25 September 2012.

Treaties are a critical foundation for the rule of law. The Charter of the United Nations and other multilateral treaties developed under the auspices of the United Nations and deposited with me form a comprehensive legal framework of norms and standards regulating the conduct of nations, and also, indirectly, the conduct of people. They are one of the major successes of the United Nations since its founding.

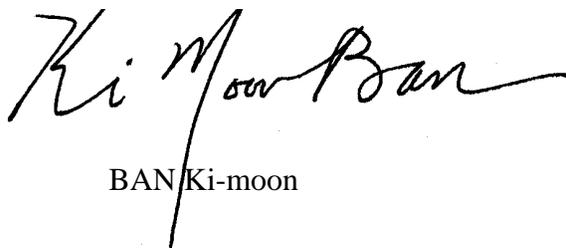
The Treaty Event provides a distinct opportunity for States to reaffirm their continuing commitment to strengthen the rule of law at the international level. Since 2000, the annual event has proven to be an effective means for promoting wider participation of States in the multilateral treaty framework and thereby fostering the rule of law at the international level. Over the past eleven years, treaty events have attracted a total of 1,679 treaty actions (including signatures, ratifications and accessions).

Only two treaties have thus far achieved one hundred per cent participation among the community of nations. Others have a broad participation but fall short of the goal of universal participation. I therefore ask you to join efforts to advance the universal application of the framework of internationally agreed upon norms and standards. Universal participation and implementation of treaties is an ambitious and yet important goal which requires the combined efforts of all States to be realized.

I wish to extend this invitation to you to make use of the 2012 Treaty Event by signing treaties and in particular by depositing instruments of ratification or accession to those treaties for which I act as the depositary thus contributing to the goal of universal participation. As indicated in the enclosed lists of treaties, only a few additional instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession are required to reach the goal of universal participation with respect to several treaties deposited with me (see attachment A), and to trigger the entry into force of a number of treaties (see attachment B). A general list of the treaties deposited with me is available at the website of the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs (<http://treaties.un.org>).

If you would like to join me at the 2012 Treaty Event, kindly inform me by 6 September 2012 of your intention to sign, ratify or accede to any of the treaties of which I am the depositary, so that the necessary arrangements can be made.

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



BAN/Ki-moon