



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

19 April 2013

Excellency,

As the depositary of more than 550 multilateral treaties, I have the honour to refer to the United Nations Treaty Event. The 2013 Treaty Event will be held from 24 to 26 September and from 30 September to 1 October 2013 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

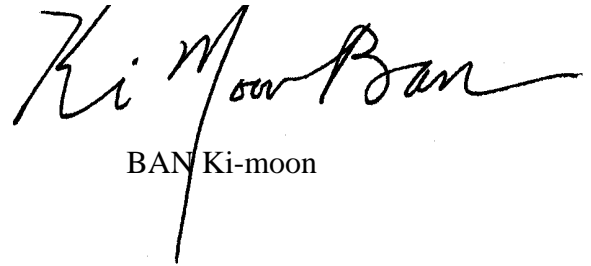
The opening of the Treaty Event will coincide with the General Debate of the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly, which opens on 24 September 2013. The Treaty Event has proven to be an effective means for promoting wider participation of States in the multilateral treaty framework and thereby fostering the rule of law at the international level. Since 2000, annual Treaty Events have attracted a total of 1,765 treaty actions. Today, many treaties enjoy broad participation, but most 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 remains an ambitious yet important goal, requiring the combined efforts of all States.

The Treaty Event provides a distinct opportunity for States to fulfil their pledges, made in national and international forums, to sign on to, and particularly to ratify and adhere to, multilateral treaties deposited with me.

I wish to extend this invitation to you to make use of the 2013 Treaty Event by signing treaties and 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. Treaties covering the areas of human rights, rights of the child, refugees and stateless persons, international trade, terrorism, criminal matters, law of the sea, outer space, disarmament and privileges and immunities and the safety of United Nations personnel will be highlighted at this year's Event. A list of the highlighted treaties is enclosed with this letter; a general list of the treaties deposited with me is available on the website of the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs (<http://treaties.un.org>).

If you wish to join me at the 2013 Treaty Event, kindly inform me by 6 September 2013 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ki Moon Ban". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long vertical stroke extending downwards from the end of the name.

BAN Ki-moon