

United Nations Nations Unies

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REFERENCE:

12 June 2013

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the Secretary-General's letter of invitation addressed to Heads of State and Government to participate in this year's Treaty Event which will be held from 24 to 26 September and 30 September to 1 October on the ground floor of the North Lawn Building at the United Nations Headquarters in New York during the general debate of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

The Treaty Event will highlight treaties deposited with the Secretary-General that cover areas of global concern, including 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. The Event may be used to sign and ratify or accede to any treaty for which the Secretary-General acts as depositary. The Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs will be publishing a booklet entitled *2013 Treaty Event: Towards Universal Participation and Implementation* which will include lists of the treaties which are (i) highlighted by the Secretary-General for the Event; (ii) close to achieving universal participation; (iii) remain open for signature; as well as (iv) the complete list of multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General.

It is noted that, consistent with the rules of international law and the practice of the Secretary-General as depositary of multilateral treaties, a Head of State or Government or a Minister of Foreign Affairs does not require full powers to execute a treaty action in person. Furthermore, full powers are not required in cases where an instrument conferring general full powers has been issued to a designated person and has been deposited with the Secretary-General in advance.

However, where an action, such as a signature, relating to a treaty deposited with the Secretary-General is to be undertaken by a person other than the Head of State or Government or the Minister of Foreign Affairs, duly executed full powers are necessary.



The Secretary-General's requirements for a valid instrument of full powers must include the following:

- Title of the treaty;
- Full name and title of the person duly authorized to sign the treaty concerned;
- Date and place of signature; and
- Signature of the Head of State, Head of Government or Foreign Minister.

Instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession must also be issued and signed by one of the above three authorities, and should include all declarations and reservations related thereto. Full powers and instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession should be submitted for verification to the Treaty Section well in advance of the intended date of the relevant treaty action. Further information on full powers and instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession can be obtained from the *Treaty Handbook*. This document and other publications of the Treaty Section are available in the United Nations Treaty Collection on the website at <http://treaties.un.org>.

Advice before **6 September 2013** on your Government's intention to sign, ratify or accede to any of the multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General would assist us in making the necessary arrangements, including appropriate media coverage. The United Nations Treaty Collection website mentioned above provides updated information on the status of all treaties deposited with the Secretary-General. It is requested that appointments be made by contacting the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs (telephone: (+1-212) 963-5047; fax: (+1-212) 963-3693).

We look forward to your Government's participation in the 2013 Treaty Event.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patricia O'Brien'.

Patricia O'Brien
Under-Secretary-General
for Legal Affairs
The Legal Counsel