

United Nations  Nations Unies

HEADQUARTERS • SIEGE NEW YORK, NY 10017

TEL.: 1 (212) 963.1234 • FAX: 1 (212) 963.4879

REFERENCE:

12 May 2015

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the Secretary-General's dated 6 May 2015 inviting Heads of State and Government to participate in this year's Treaty Event which will be held from 28 September to 1 October 2015 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in conjunction with the general debate of the seventieth 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, international trade, terrorism, law of the sea, disarmament, the environment, privileges and immunities and the safety of United Nations personnel. The Treaty Event may be used to sign and ratify or accede to any treaty for which the Secretary-General acts as depositary.

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, Head of Government or 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.

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

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The Secretary-General's requirements for a valid instrument of full powers 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 Minister for Foreign Affairs.

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 online at <https://treaties.un.org>. The website also provides updated information on the status of all treaties deposited with the Secretary-General.

Advice before **4 September 2015** 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. It is requested that appointments be made by contacting the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs (telephone: (212) 963-5047; fax: (212) 963-3693).

We look forward to your Government's participation in the 2015 Treaty Event.

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



Miguel de Serpa Soares  
Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs  
and United Nations Legal Counsel