



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

23 May 2016

Excellency,

In my capacity as the depositary of more than 560 multilateral treaties, I have the honour to invite you to participate in the 2016 Treaty Event. This year, the Treaty Event will be held from 19 to 23 September 2016 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The first day of the 2016 Treaty Event will coincide with the high-level plenary meeting on addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, taking place on 19 September. The Event is also designed to take place in conjunction with the General Debate of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, which opens on 20 September 2016.

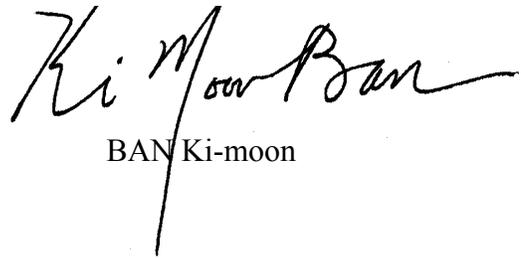
The Treaty Event will focus on the theme of human mobility, to underline the commitment of the United Nations to the rights of refugees and migrants at a crucial time. This body of treaty law protects the rights of people on the move, addresses irregular migration, and promotes non-discrimination. It includes treaties relating to refugees, stateless persons, human rights, economic and social rights, and justice and the environment, as well as instruments aimed at combatting trafficking in humans and smuggling of migrants. It is noted that many States maintain reservations on the social and economic rights accorded to refugees, stateless persons and international migrants in various treaties. Lifting these reservations will contribute toward implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Treaty Event will provide a distinct opportunity for States to sign, ratify or accede to multilateral treaties deposited with me, or withdraw reservations to treaties to which they are already party.

I wish to extend this invitation to you to make use of the 2016 Treaty Event by signing treaties for which I act as depositary and by depositing instruments of ratification or accession to those treaties. The treaties which will be highlighted this year cover the areas of human rights, refugees and stateless persons, health, trade and transport, terrorism and criminal matters, disarmament, climate change and other environmental issues, as well as the safety of United Nations personnel. The Paris Agreement, which opened for signature on 22 April 2016 and garnered a historic record of 175 signatories on its opening, also deals with climate change-related displacement, and is among the highlighted treaties. I urge you to use the Treaty Event to ratify this important Agreement.

A list of the highlighted treaties is enclosed with this letter. I emphasize that the Event may be used to sign and ratify or accede to any other treaty of which I am the depositary. A general list of the treaties deposited with me is available on the website of the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs (<https://treaties.un.org>).

Should you wish to participate in the 2016 Treaty Event, kindly inform the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs, **by 2 September 2016**, of your intention to sign, ratify or accede to any of the treaties of which I am the depositary, so that the necessary arrangements may be made.

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



BAN Ki-moon