

23 April 2026

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the Secretary-General's letter dated 15 April 2026 inviting Governments to participate in this year's Treaty Event, which will be held from 22 to 25 September 2026 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, in conjunction with the general debate of the eighty-first session of the General Assembly.

The theme of the 2026 Treaty Event will be "Promoting multilateral treaties – safeguarding humanity" and will highlight multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General. These cover a wide range of areas of global concern, including human rights, disarmament, penal matters, law of the sea, and the environment. The Treaty Event may also 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 for Foreign Affairs does not require full powers to execute a treaty action in person.

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 for Foreign Affairs, duly executed full powers are necessary.

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.

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.

In order to participate, kindly advise before **4 September 2026** on your Government's intention to sign, ratify or accede to any of the multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General, which would assist the Treaty Section in making the necessary arrangements. It is requested that appointments be made by contacting the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs (telephone: (212) 963-5047; e-mail: treatysection@un.org).

We look forward to your Government's participation in the 2026 Treaty Event.

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



Elinor Hammarskjöld
Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs
and United Nations Legal Counsel