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The Legal Counsel presents his compliments to the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in New York and has the honour to communicate the following in relation to full powers for the signing of treaties deposited with the Secretary-General:

It has been noted recently that some national representatives have sought to sign treaties deposited with the Secretary General without full powers which meet the requirements under treaty law and practice. It is reminded that the Secretary-General's consistent practice relating to full powers has been as follows:

- Proper full powers are required by all persons seeking to sign a treaty deposited with the Secretary-General or to make a reservation upon signature, except Heads of State or Government or Foreign Ministers.
- Full powers should:
 - Bear the signature of the Head of State or Government or the Foreign Minister;
 - Specify clearly the title of the instrument to be signed;
 - State the full name of the person authorized to sign the instrument concerned.

As stated above, full powers are not required where the Head of State or Government or the Foreign Minister signs in person. Furthermore, where general full powers have been issued to a person and have been deposited with the Secretariat in advance, specific full powers are not required.

It is advised that whenever possible full powers should be submitted for verification to the Treaty Section of the United Nations in advance of the intended date of signature.

Further information on full powers could be obtained from the publication "*Summary of Practice of the Secretary General as Depositary of Multilateral Treaties*" (ST/LEG/8).

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A copy of a model instrument of full powers is attached for your information.

30 September 1998

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be the initials 'A.C.' with a flourish.

MODEL INSTRUMENT OF FULL POWERS

(To be signed by the Head of State, Head of Government
or Minister for Foreign Affairs)

FULL POWERS

I, [name and title of the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for
Foreign Affairs],

HEREBY AUTHORISE [name and title] to [sign *, ratify, denounce, effect the
following declaration in respect of, etc.] the [title and date of treaty, convention,
agreement, etc.] on behalf of the Government of [name of State].

Done at [place] on [date].

[Signature]

* Subject to the provisions of the treaty, one of the following alternatives is to be
chosen: [subject to ratification] or [without reservation as to ratification].
Reservations made upon signature must be authorised by the full powers granted to
the signatory.

**MODEL INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION, ACCEPTANCE OR
APPROVAL**

**(To be signed by the Head of State, Head of Government
or Minister for Foreign Affairs)**

RATIFICATION / ACCEPTANCE / APPROVAL

WHEREAS the [title of treaty, convention, agreement, etc.] was [concluded, adopted, opened for signature, etc.] at [place] on [date],

AND WHEREAS the said [treaty, convention, agreement, etc.] has been signed on behalf of the Government of [name of State] on [date],

NOW THEREFORE I, [name and title of the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs] declare that the Government of [name of State], having considered the above mentioned [treaty, convention, agreement, etc.], [ratifies, accepts, approves] the same and undertakes faithfully to perform and carry out the stipulations therein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have signed this instrument of [ratification, acceptance, approval] at [place] on [date].

[Signature]

MODEL INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION

(To be signed by the Head of State, Head of Government
or Minister for Foreign Affairs)

ACCESSION

WHEREAS the [title of treaty, convention, agreement, etc.] was [concluded, adopted, opened for signature, etc.] at [place] on [date],

NOW THEREFORE I, [name and title of the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs] declare that the Government of [name of State], having considered the above mentioned [treaty, convention, agreement, etc.], accedes to the same and undertakes faithfully to perform and carry out the stipulations therein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have signed this instrument of accession at [place] on [date].

[Signature]

MODEL INSTRUMENTS OF RESERVATION/DECLARATION

**(To be signed by the Head of State, Head of Government
or Minister for Foreign Affairs)**

[RESERVATION / DECLARATION]

I, [name and title of the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs],

HEREBY DECLARE that the Government of [name of State] makes the following [reservation / declaration] in relation to article(s) [---] of the [title and date of adoption of the treaty, convention, agreement, etc.]:

[Substance of reservation / declaration]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal.

Done at [place] on [date].

[Signature and title]

**(To be signed by the Head of State, Head of Government
or Minister for Foreign Affairs)**

MODIFICATION OF RESERVATION

WHEREAS the Government of [name of State] [ratified, approved, accepted, acceded to] the [title and date of adoption of the treaty, convention, agreement, etc.] on [date],

AND WHEREAS, upon [ratification, approval, acceptance of / accession to] the [treaty, convention, agreement, etc.], the Government of [name of State] made (a) reservation(s) to article(s) [----] of the [treaty, convention, agreement, etc.],

NOW THEREFORE I, [name and title of the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs], declare that the Government of [name of State], having reviewed the said reservation(s), hereby modifies the same as follows:

[Substance of modification]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal.

Done at [place] on [date].

[Signature and title]

**(To be signed by the Head of State, Head of Government
or Minister for Foreign Affairs)**

WITHDRAWAL OF RESERVATION (S)

WHEREAS the Government of [name of State] [ratified, approved, accepted, acceded to] the [title and date of adoption of the treaty, convention, agreement, etc.] on [date],

AND WHEREAS, upon [ratification, approval, acceptance of / accession to] the [treaty, convention, agreement, etc.], the Government of [name of State] made (a) reservation(s) to article(s) [----] of the [treaty, convention, agreement, etc.],

NOW THEREFORE I, [name and title of the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs], declare that the Government of [name of State], having reviewed the said reservation(s), hereby withdraws the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal.

Done at [place] on [date].

[Signature and title]