

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

POSTAL ADDRESS—ADRESSE POSTALE: UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. 10017
CABLE ADDRESS—ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE: UNATIONS NEWYORK

REFERENCE: LA41TR/221/1

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 the distribution of depositary notifications by the Secretary-General, as depositary of multilateral treaties:

- The Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs discharges the functions of the Secretary-General in his capacity as depositary of multilateral treaties. Consistent with its legal obligations, the Treaty Section advises Member States on the status of the multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General through depositary notifications (CNs). These notifications are circulated to all Permanent Missions in hard copy and by electronic mail. To further extend and expedite access to the latest CNs issued by the depositary, the Treaty Section has been continuously placing these documents on its website at <http://untreaty.un.org> since January 2001.
- The current e-mail system, known as Mailing List Service (MLS), by which the depositary notifications are made available to the Permanent Missions, has been developed and is maintained by the Information Technology Services Division (ITSD) of the Office of Central Support Services. This service is offered to all Permanent Missions on a subscription basis and requires the opening of an account with ITSD. After the account is opened, it is the responsibility of the Missions to maintain their respective accounts. This includes the following: the regular checking of incoming electronic mail; the deletion of outdated mail (to free up space for new incoming electronic mail); promptly informing ITSD of any changes in e-mail address; and attending informatics meetings organized monthly by ITSD to brief the IT coordinators from the Permanent Missions on any technological and logistical developments that may have an impact on the service. If such accounts are not maintained in the above manner, disruptions to the service may occur. As a last resort, ITSD deletes documents to prevent the system from overloading and malfunctioning.
- The Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs is not in a position to advise the Permanent Missions on the technical aspects of MLS functionality or conduct *ad hoc* investigations on behalf of Member States on the delivery of their documents unless such intervention is fully justified or is clearly related to the responsibilities of the Treaty Section. In cases of technical difficulty in receiving documents by e-mail, the Permanent

Missions are advised to contact the ITSD Mission Support Help Desk at (212) 963-0610/(212) 963-6439 for technical assistance and guidance.

- Hard copy versions of the depositary notifications are distributed along with all other parliamentary documents on a daily basis. Such documents are then packaged and labelled with the relevant names of each Permanent Mission for pick up by the Permanent Missions in Room NL-300. Questions relating to the distribution of the depositary notifications in hard copy format should be addressed to the Distribution Section of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.

The Legal Counsel of the United Nations avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations the assurances of his highest consideration.



7 February 2003