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

With a view to assisting States in becoming party to the international treaty
framework, the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs, which discharges the
functions of the Secretary-General in his capacity as depositary of multilateral treaties,
has prepared the attached Guidelines. These Guidelines address the Secretary-General’s
requirements, consistent with the law and his practice, applicable to instruments of full
powers.

Additional information regarding full powers may be obtained from the
Summary of Practice of the Secretary-General as Depositary of Multilateral Treaties
(ST/LEG/7/Rev.1) and the Treaty Handbook published by the Treaty Section. Both
publications are also available in the United Nations Treaty Collection on the Internet at
the following address: http://untreaty.un.org. Please refer to the Treaty Handbook for a
model instrument of full powers.

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.

23 February 2005
FULL POWERS GUIDELINES

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 or a person acting, *ad interim*, in one of the above positions.

Secretary-General’s requirements applicable to full powers:

1. **Signature** by the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs;

2. **Title of the treaty** to be signed;

3. **Full name and title of the person** duly authorized to sign the treaty concerned;

4. **Date and place of signature**: and

5. **Official seal.** This is optional and cannot replace the signature of one of the three authorities of State.

*Please note:*

- Where general full powers have been issued to a named person and have been deposited with the Secretariat in advance, specific full powers are not required.

- It is highly desirable that full powers be submitted for verification to the Treaty Section of the United Nations in advance of the intended date of signature.