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Reference: C.N.171.2009.TREATIES-1 (Depositary Notification)

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON CONTRACTS FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL CARRIAGE OF GOODS WHOLLY OR PARTLY BY SEA
NEW YORK, 11 DECEMBER 2008

OPENING FOR SIGNATURE

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicates the following:

The above Convention was adopted on 11 December 2008 during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly by resolution A/RES/63/122. In accordance with its article 88 (1), the Convention shall be open for signature by all States at Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on 23 September 2009, and thereafter at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York.

Certified true copies of the Convention, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, will be prepared and will be transmitted to all States as soon as possible.

The Secretary-General takes this opportunity to recall that, under established international practice, only Heads of State, Heads of Government or Ministers for Foreign Affairs are empowered by virtue of their functions, to sign a treaty on behalf of a State without having to produce full powers to that effect. Other representatives wishing to sign a treaty must be in possession of appropriate full powers, which expressly authorize signature of a specific treaty by a name representative issued and signed by one of these authorities. Full powers are distinct from credentials. Credentials alone are not adequate for the purpose of signing a treaty.

The Secretary-General would be obliged if States wishing to sign the Convention could notify, and provide copies of the required full powers in advance to the Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs at United Nations Headquarters in New York (Telephone: (212) 963-5047, Facsimile: (212) 963-3693, e-mail: depositarycn@un.org).

Attention: Treaty Services of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of international organizations concerned. Depositary notifications are currently issued in both hard copy and electronic format. Depositary notifications are made available to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations at the following e-mail address: missions@un.int. Such notifications are also available in the United Nations Treaty Collection on the Internet at <http://treaties.un.org>, where interested individuals can subscribe to directly receive depositary notifications by e-mail through a new automated subscription service. Depositary notifications are available for pick-up by the Permanent Missions in Room NL-300.

For more information on full powers, please refer to the *Treaty Handbook* on the United Nations Treaty Collection website, which can be accessed at the following address:
<http://treaties.un.org>.

..... For the sake of convenience, a model instrument of full powers is attached.

18 March 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'R' or similar character.

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Model of Full Powers
(to be signed by the Head of State or Government,
or Minister for Foreign Affairs)

FULL POWERS

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

HEREBY AUTHORIZE, [name and title], to sign the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Carriage of Goods Wholly or Partly by Sea, done at New York, 11 December 2008, on behalf of the Government of [name of State].

Done at [place] on [date]

[Signature]