



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

16 March 2006

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the forthcoming annual treaty event of the United Nations that will be held on 13 to 15 September 2006 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The treaty event, entitled *Focus 2006: Crossing Borders*, will coincide with the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development of the sixty-first General Assembly. The event will provide a distinct opportunity for States to demonstrate their continuing commitment to the central role of the rule of law in international relations and I wish to extend this invitation to you to make use of this occasion by signing and ratifying or acceding to those treaties deposited with me to which your country is not party already.

Consistent with the report of the Global Commission on International Migration entitled *Migration in an Interconnected World: New directions for action*, this year's treaty event will highlight treaties associated with international migration and development: ranging from human rights, trafficking, refugees and stateless persons to organized crime, corruption and those addressing environmental and disarmament issues.

All countries – whether countries of origin, transit or destination – are affected by international migration. Managing this migration for the benefit of all has become one of the great challenges of our age. The High-Level Dialogue is an opportunity for Member States to explore the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development and to forge closer cooperation on a range of migration-related issues, many of which are addressed in treaties deposited with me.

I note in this regard that participation in this event will additionally highlight treaties that address the combined effects of the arms trade, organized crime and corruption on the ability of governments to provide basic services to their citizens and encourage sustainable economic, social and political development.

Attached for your consideration is a list of treaties deposited with me that will be highlighted during the 2006 treaty event. The Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs will be publishing a document entitled *Focus 2006: Crossing Borders*, summarizing the objectives and key provisions of the highlighted treaties.

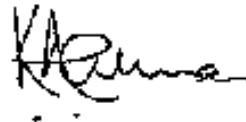
Continuing the tradition established during the Millennium Summit, the Treaty Event will be held in a specially designated location in the General Assembly Building with facilities to accommodate the media.

Of course, this opportunity could be used to sign and ratify or accede to any other treaty of which I am the depositary. I would additionally encourage you to become party to migration-related treaties deposited with other depositaries, particularly those related to migrant workers.

In addition to undertaking actions to participate in the international treaty framework, States may also need to take adequate measures to implement the relevant treaty obligations within their domestic jurisdictions. I wish to underline the call made in my Millennium Report, and repeated subsequently, to those States which might need assistance in this respect to advise me of their needs.

I would like to request that you inform me by 1 September 2006 of your intention to sign, ratify or accede to any of the treaties of which I am the depositary during Focus 2006 so that the necessary arrangements can be made by the Secretariat.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Annan', with a small mark below it.

Kofi A. Annan