

## ***2008 Treaty Event: Towards Universal Participation and Implementation***

### ***Final Report***

**New York, 1 October 2008:** **44 States** participated in the *2008 Treaty Event: Towards Universal Participation and Implementation – Dignity and Justice for All of Us* held at United Nations Headquarters from 23 to 26 September, on 29 September and on 1 October 2008. **Six States** participated at the level of **Head of State or Government** and **21 States** participated at the level of **Minister for Foreign Affairs**. A total of **84 treaty actions** relating to 37 treaties (32 signatures; 47 ratifications, accessions and consents to be bound; and five other formalities) were undertaken.

In total, six States signed the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006**, and four States ratified it. Seven States signed the **Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006** and three States ratified it. The **International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, 2006** received five signatures and one ratification. In addition, the **International Tropical Timber Agreement, 2006** attracted four signatures and one ratification.

Jamaica acceded to the **Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects, 1980** and to the **Amendment to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects, 2001**. It also consented to be bound by **Protocols I and III** to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects, 1980; the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices as amended on 3 May 1996 (**Protocol II as amended on 3 May 1996**) annexed to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects, 1996; the Additional Protocol to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects (**Protocol IV, Entitled Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons**), 1995; and the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects (**Protocol V**), 2003.

During the treaty event, the following core group of treaties attracted actions:

### **Human Rights**

- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966 (Signature by Comoros).
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966 (Signature by Comoros and Notification by Peru).
- Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, 1989 (Ratification by Chile).
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1999 (Signatures by Congo and Zambia; Ratification by Switzerland; and Accession by Tunisia).
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 2002 (Objection by Sweden to an interpretative declaration).
- Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 2002 (Signature by Congo).
- Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 (Withdrawal of a declaration and reservations by Tunisia).
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, 2000 (Signature by Zambia and Ratification by the Russian Federation).
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, 2000 (Signature by Zambia and Ratification by Monaco).
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, 1990 (Signature by Congo; Signature and Ratification by Jamaica; and Ratification by Paraguay).
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006 (Signatures by Cameroon, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Solomon Islands, Togo and Ukraine; Ratifications by Austria, Costa Rica, New Zealand and Uganda; and Objection to a reservation by Austria).
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006 (Signatures by Cameroon, France, Romania, Togo, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia; Ratifications by Austria, Costa Rica and Uganda; and Objection to a reservation by Austria).
- International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, 2006 (Signatures by Bulgaria, Greece, Iceland, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and the United Republic of Tanzania; and Ratification by France).

### **Protecting Planet Earth: the Environment, Sustainable Development, Water, Sanitation and the Polar Regions**

- International Tropical Timber Agreement, 2006 (Signatures by the Czech Republic, the Philippines, Romania and Spain; and Ratification by Australia).
- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 (Ratification by Liberia).
- Agreement for the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 September 1982, 1994 (Accession by Guyana and Consent to be Bound by Liberia).
- Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, 1998 (Accession by Bosnia and Herzegovina).

### **Transit, Customs and Trade Agreements of Concern to Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries**

- Convention on Road Sign and Signals, 1968 (Accession by Guyana).
- International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Control of Goods, 1982 (Accession by Lao People's Democratic Republic).

### **Disarmament and Penal Matters**

- Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects (with Protocols I, II and III), 1980 (Accession and Consent to be Bound by Protocols I and III by Jamaica).
- Amendment to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects, 2001 (Accession by Jamaica).
- Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices as amended on 3 May 1996 (Protocol II as amended on 3 May 1996) annexed to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects, 1996 (Consent to be Bound by Jamaica).
- Additional Protocol to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects (Protocol IV, Entitled Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons), 1995 (Consent to be Bound by Jamaica).
- Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects (Protocol V), 2003 (Consent to be Bound by Belarus and Jamaica).
- Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, 1996 (Signature by Timor-Leste and Ratification by Burundi).
- United Nations Convention against Corruption, 2003 (Ratifications by Belgium, Malaysia and Tunisia).

### **Privileges and Immunities and the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel**

- Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, 1994 (Accession by Guatemala).
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, 2005 (Ratification by the Czech Republic).
- United Nations Convention on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and Their Property, 2004 (Ratification by the Islamic Republic of Iran).

### **Other Treaties**

- International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, 1999 (Accession by Lao People's Democratic Republic).
- International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, 2005 (Ratifications by Burundi and Kiribati).
- Vienna Convention on the Representation of States in their Relations with International Organizations of a Universal Character, 1975 (Accession by Paraguay).
- Convention on the Non-applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity, 1973 (Accession by Paraguay).
- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000 (Ratification by the Bahamas).
- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000 (Ratification by the Bahamas).
- Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000 (Ratification by the Bahamas, and Accession by Paraguay).
- Protocol against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2001 (Accession by the Bahamas).

Finally, States undertook the following number of actions during past treaty events, which total 1444 actions undertaken during these events to date:

- *Millennium Summit 2000* - **273** actions by 84 States;
- *Focus 2001: Rights of Women and Children* - **135** actions by 61 States;
- *2001 Special Treaty Event: Multilateral Treaties on Terrorism* - **180** actions by 79 States;
- *Focus 2002: Sustainable Development* - **83** actions by 41 States;

- *Focus 2003: Treaties Against Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism* - **155** actions by 56 States;
- *Focus 2004: Treaties on the Protection of Civilians* - **102** actions by 35 States;
- *Focus 2005: Responding to Global Challenges* - **265** actions by 99 States and the European Community;
- *Focus 2006: Crossing Borders* – **86** actions by 46 States; and
- *Focus 2007: Towards Universal Participation and Implementation* – **81** actions by 48 States.