



TREATY EVENT 2013

Towards Universal
Participation and
Implementation

PRESS RELEASE

COUNTRIES ENCOURAGED TO JOIN MULTILATERAL TREATIES AT 2013 TREATY EVENT

UNITED NATIONS, New York, 19 September 2013—In a continuing effort to encourage wider participation in the multilateral treaty framework, the United Nations is hosting the annual Treaty Event at its Headquarters in New York from 24 to 26 September and 30 September to 1 October 2013. During the event, Member States are invited to sign or become parties to multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, in his letter of invitation to Member States, stated that this year's Treaty Event "provides a distinct opportunity for States to fulfil their pledges, made in national and international forums, to sign on to, and particularly to ratify and adhere to, multilateral treaties."

More than 550 multilateral treaties are deposited with the Secretary-General. A number of them are close to achieving universal participation. Others require just a few more instruments of ratification or accession to trigger their entry into force. The Secretary-General's letter of invitation called on States "to join efforts to advance the universal application of the framework of internationally agreed upon norms and standards."

Rights of the child in the spotlight

This year's Treaty Event puts special emphasis on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. While the Convention is the most widely and rapidly ratified human rights treaty in history, with 193 States parties, the two Optional Protocols have not yet reached universal ratification, with 152 and 163 States parties respectively. UN Member States are invited to join efforts to make the world a safer place for children by becoming parties to these treaties and effectively implementing them.

Member States are also encouraged to ratify or adhere to the new third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on a communications procedure, which has been ratified and acceded to by six States parties so far, and requires four more ratifications or accessions to enter into force. The Optional Protocol will allow children to submit communications to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. With this new instrument, children, just like adults, will have access to international human rights bodies.



UNITED NATIONS

Background

In September 2000, the United Nations invited world leaders attending the landmark Millennium Summit to take advantage of their presence at UN Headquarters to sign a wide range of major international treaties. That year, the Treaty Event titled “An Invitation to Universal Participation” offered a platform for Governments to showcase their commitment to strengthening the rule of law at home and in the global arena. Since then, the Treaty Event has been held annually, usually coinciding with the General Debate of the General Assembly in September. Since 2000, the Treaty Events have resulted in 1,765 treaty-related actions, including signatures, ratifications and accessions.

***For more information on the
2013 Treaty Event, please see:***

<http://treaties.un.org>

For media queries, please contact:

Martina Donlon
Department of Public Information
e-mail: donlon@un.org
tel: +1 212 963 6816



UNITED NATIONS