

United Nations Nations Unies

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1 June 2016

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the Secretary-General's letter dated 23 May 2016 inviting Heads of State and Government to participate in this year's Treaty Event which will be held from 19 to 23 September 2016 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, in conjunction with the high-level plenary meeting on addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, taking place on 19 September, and with the general debate of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly.

The Treaty Event will highlight treaties deposited with the Secretary-General that cover areas of global concern, including human rights, refugees and stateless persons, health, trade, transport, terrorism, criminal matters, disarmament, environment and the safety of United Nations personnel and associated personnel. The Treaty Event may be used to sign and ratify or accede to any treaty for which the Secretary-General acts as depositary.

It is noted that, consistent with the rules of international law and the practice of the Secretary-General as depositary of multilateral treaties, a Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs does not require full powers to execute a treaty action in person. Furthermore, full powers are not required in cases where an instrument conferring general full powers has been issued to a designated person and has been deposited with the Secretary-General in advance.

Where a signature of a treaty deposited with the Secretary-General is to be undertaken by a person other than the Head of State, the Head of Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs, duly executed full powers are necessary.

The Secretary-General's requirements for a valid instrument of full powers include the following:

- Title of the treaty;
- Full name and title of the person duly authorized to sign the treaty concerned;
- Date and place of signature; and
- Signature of the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs.


Instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession must also be issued and signed by one of the above three authorities, and should include all declarations and reservations related thereto.

Full powers and instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession should be submitted for verification to the Treaty Section well in advance of the intended date of the relevant treaty action. Further information on full powers and instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession can be obtained from the *Treaty Handbook*. This document and other publications of the Treaty Section are available online at <https://treaties.un.org>. The website also provides updated information on the status of all treaties deposited with the Secretary-General.

Advice before **2 September 2016** on your Government's intention to sign, ratify or accede to any of the multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General would assist us in making the necessary arrangements, including appropriate media coverage. It is requested that appointments be made by contacting the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs (telephone: (212) 963-5047; fax: (212) 963-3693).

We look forward to your Government's participation in the 2016 Treaty Event.

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



Miguel de Serpa Soares
Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs
and United Nations Legal Counsel