



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

10 February 2009

Excellency,

I have the honour to inform you that the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime will jointly organize a special treaty event on 20 April 2009 for the promotion of the universal counter-terrorism and crime conventions as well as the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and its Optional Protocol. It will be held at the Vienna International Centre, Austria, during the 18th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice that takes place from 16 to 24 April 2009.

I wish to extend this invitation to you to take advantage of the event by ratifying or acceding to those highlighted treaties deposited with me to which your country is not already a party. Please find attached the list of the treaties to be featured at the special treaty event.

This special treaty event will also be an excellent opportunity for States already party to these treaties to deposit relevant notifications relating to extradition, mutual legal assistance and prevention that are required by some of the treaties. These important notifications facilitate the relations of States Parties to the treaties and information exchange; yet many States Parties have so far failed to provide them.

The entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols as well as the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which were all negotiated in Vienna under the auspices of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, has strengthened the rule of law. The prevention and suppression of international terrorism is the aim of the universal legal instruments relating to terrorism. Five of the 16 universal legal instruments were negotiated in New York under the auspices of the United Nations and are highlighted in the special treaty event.

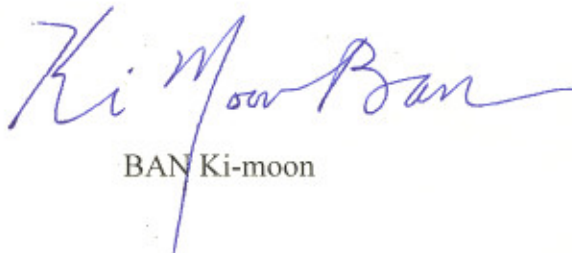
As we saw in Baghdad in 2003 and in Algiers in 2007, United Nations personnel have also become the target of terrorist attacks. The Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and its Optional Protocol play an important role in providing a framework of internationally accepted rules for the protection of United Nations and associated personnel.

In connection with this event, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in consultation with the Office of Legal Affairs, will produce a document summarizing the objectives and key provisions of the highlighted treaties. This document will be made available to your Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Vienna and New York.

In addition to undertaking actions to participate in the international treaty framework, States need to take adequate measures to implement the relevant treaty obligations within their domestic jurisdictions. To deliver results for a more just world, we will continue to work with them to build capacity in the rule of law, and offer expertise and technical assistance within our mandates.

I would like to request that you inform the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs by 1 April 2009 of your intention to ratify, accede to or provide notifications for any of the featured treaties during the special treaty event so that the necessary arrangements can be made by the Secretariat. There will be facilities to accommodate the media.

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



BAN Ki-moon

ANNEX

LIST OF TREATIES FEATURED AT THE SPECIAL TREATY EVENT

- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents (1973)
- International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages (1979)
- International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (1997)
- International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999)
- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000)
- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000)
- Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000)
- Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2001)
- United Nations Convention against Corruption (2003)
- International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005)
- Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel (1994)
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel (2005)