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**Item-in-KAA: DGACM - General Assembly (59th Session) 2003 (Jan. - 9 Sept.)**

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Notes

*Date Published*

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*Signature of Person Submit*

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59<sup>th</sup> GA

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

3 March 2004

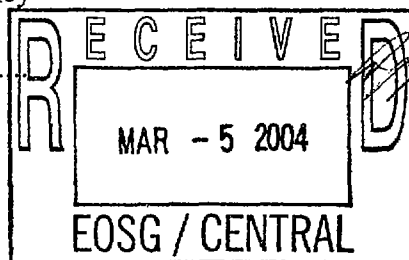
Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the forthcoming General Debate of the 59<sup>th</sup> General Assembly which commences at United Nations Headquarters on 21 September 2004. The General Debate will provide a distinct opportunity for States to demonstrate their continuing commitment to the central role of the rule of law in international relations by participating in the annual treaty event of the United Nations entitled *Focus 2004: Treaties on the Protection of Civilians* to be held from 21 to 24 September 2004.

Civilians have increasingly become the primary victims in violent conflicts. Consistent with the pledge made by Member States in the Millennium Declaration to "expand and strengthen the protection of civilians in complex emergencies", the treaty event will highlight this tragic situation. As I have also stated in my 2003 report on the Implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, "...since the Millennium Summit, the international community has had to deal with both new and old threats to international peace and security... Civilians inevitably bear the cost of the complex and intractable conflicts that have led to the death or forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of people and which can only be addressed by a more integrated collective approach to their deepening protection needs".

His/Her Excellency  
Mr./Ms. ....  
.....

Correspondence Unit



Approved for circulation.  
*[Signature]*  
3/4/04

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

I wish to extend this invitation to you to make use of this occasion to reaffirm your State's commitment to the rule of law in international relations and, in particular, treaties on the protection of civilians by signing and ratifying or acceding to those treaties deposited with me to which your country is not party already. Of course, this opportunity could be used to sign and ratify or accede to any other treaty deposited with me. In addition, I would also encourage you to become party to the range of treaties deposited with other depositaries, which are designed to protect civilians, particularly those pertaining to international humanitarian law.

In addition to undertaking actions to participate in the international treaty framework, countries 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 in need of assistance in this respect to advise me of their needs.

I note in this regard that the Secretariat has collated the legal technical assistance programmes available within the United Nations system and placed this information on an easily accessible website. Additionally, the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs continues to offer training programmes, both at Headquarters and at the regional level, to familiarize government officials on the technical aspects of undertaking treaty actions.

In connection with this event, the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs has published *Focus 2004: Treaties on the Protection of Civilians*, which summarizes the objectives and key provisions of the selected treaties.

I would like to request that you inform me by 1 September 2004 of your intention to sign, ratify or accede to any of the treaties deposited with me during Focus 2004, so that the necessary arrangements can be made by the Secretariat. I am also attaching a list of all multilateral treaties deposited with me to enable a more comprehensive review of your country's participation in these multilateral treaties.

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

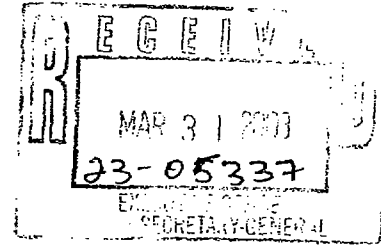
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Annan', with a stylized, cursive script.

Kofi A. Annan

LA; 58<sup>th</sup> GA  
OEA

LS

(last year's letter for ease of reference)

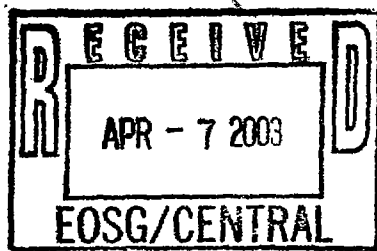


Note to Mr. Riza

Following the successful treaty signature/ratification/accession event held in parallel with the Millennium Summit in September 2000, it was decided to hold a similar event each year. These treaty events provide states with a high profile opportunity to express their commitment to the rule of law in international relations by undertaking actions relating to multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General, of which they are not party already. Four successful treaty events have been held so far.

This year it is proposed to hold a treaty event at Headquarters in conjunction with the General Debate of the 58<sup>th</sup> General Assembly entitled Focus 2003: Treaties Against Transnational Organised Crime and Terrorism. It would be appropriate for the Secretary-General to extend the customary invitation to Heads of State and Government, encouraging their states to participate in this treaty event.

Accordingly, please find attached, a draft letter for the Secretary-General's approval. It has been cleared by the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention.



Hans Corell

31 March 2003

Correspondence Unit  
Approved for circulation  
Lin J. Dix  
2.14.03

X x 3-5047  
Nicole  
Treaty Sect.

Call when done



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

2 April 2003

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the forthcoming General Debate of the 58<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, scheduled to commence at United Nations Headquarters on 23 September 2003. The General Debate will provide a distinct opportunity for attending Heads of State and Government to demonstrate their continuing commitment to the central role of the rule of law in international relations by participating in the annual treaty event of the United Nations, which will be held in parallel. This year, consistent with the sentiments reflected in General Assembly resolution 57/173, the treaty event will highlight the persistent problems of transnational organised crime and terrorism, with a view to further encouraging international cooperation in combating these evils. It will be entitled *Focus 2003: Treaties Against Transnational Organised Crime and Terrorism*.

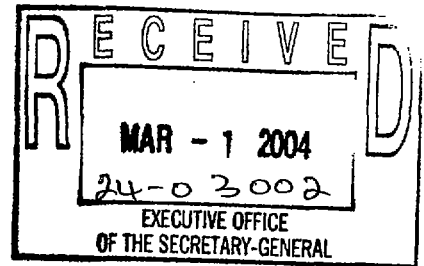
It is with great satisfaction that I recall the success of previous treaty events organized by the United Nations, beginning with the *Millennium Summit Multilateral Treaty Framework – An Invitation to Universal Participation*. This was followed by *Focus 2001: Rights of Women and Children* and, as a response to the terrorist attacks on the United States, by a treaty event in November 2001: *Multilateral Treaties Against Terrorism*. Last year's event, *Focus 2002: Sustainable Development*, was held in parallel with the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

*Focus 2003: Treaties Against Transnational Organised Crime and Terrorism* will also be held in a specially designated location in the Secretariat building, with facilities to accommodate the media.

H. E. Mr. ....

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LS



Note to Mr. Riza

Following the successful treaty signature/ratification/accession event held in parallel with the Millennium Summit in September 2000, it was decided to hold a similar event each year. These treaty events provide states with a high profile opportunity to express their commitment to the rule of law in international relations by undertaking actions relating to multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General, of which they are not party already. Five successful treaty events have been organized to date.

This year it is proposed to hold a treaty event at Headquarters in conjunction with the General Debate of the 59<sup>th</sup> General Assembly entitled *Focus 2004: Treaties on the Protection of Civilians*. This event is being held in collaboration with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. It would be appropriate for the Secretary-General to extend the customary invitation to Heads of State and Government, encouraging their states to participate in this treaty event.

Accordingly, please find attached a draft letter for the Secretary-General's approval. It has been cleared by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hans Corell".

Hans Corell  
1 March 2004