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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

TO: Carlos Lopes, Director
Political, Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Affairs
Executive Office of the Secretary-General
DATE: 18 January 2006
REFERENCE: TS/Focus2006/PK/sh

FROM: Palitha Kohona, Chief
Treaty Section
Office of Legal Affairs
Palitha Kohona

SUBJECT: **Focus 2006 Treaty Event: "Crossing Borders" - Proposed Theme and Treaties to be Highlighted**

Purpose

1. This memorandum proposes to bring to your attention the theme "Focus 2006: Crossing Borders" and the attached provisional list of highlighted treaties for the Focus 2006 Treaty Event to be held in September 2006.

Background

2. Following the successful treaty signature/ratification/accession event held in parallel with the Millennium Summit in September 2000, it was decided by the Secretary-General to hold a similar event each year. Annual Treaty Events provide a high profile opportunity for States to demonstrate their commitment to the international rule of law by undertaking actions relating to the treaties deposited with the Secretary-General. Each year a topical theme is selected for these Treaty Events.
3. Treaty Events also help in raising awareness of the extensive web of multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General and result in clear legal outcomes, including, for example, triggering the entry into force of a convention – as happened for the Corruption Convention during the Focus 2005 Treaty Event.
4. Seven successful Treaty Events have been organized to date, resulting in an impressive total of 1192 treaty actions.
5. In its resolution 58/208 of 23 December 2003, the General Assembly decided to devote a high-level dialogue to international migration and development during its sixty-first session. Pursuant to the Report of the Secretary-General on

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International Migration and Development (A/60/205), organizational details of the high-level dialogue were set forth and the 14 and 15 September 2006 chosen. It is planned to hold the Focus 2006 Treaty Event from 13-15 September 2006, to coincide with the high-level dialogue.

6. As described in detail in the Report of the Global Commission on International Migration "Migration in an interconnected world: New directions for action", migration is connected to human rights, development, labour, state sovereignty and human security.
7. As the Secretary-General noted in his message on International Migrants Day, the "report of the Global Commission on International Migration provides important recommendations to guide the way forward. It links effective migration policy to sound policies on a range of subjects – not simply human rights, but development, trade, aid and security. Next year's High-Level Dialogue on International Migration in the United Nations General Assembly is an opportunity for Member States to Begin forging closer cooperation on these important issues."
8. The theme "Focus 2006: Crossing Borders" seeks to encompass the obvious issues related to international migration (protection of migrant workers, human rights, trafficking of persons, refugees, etc.), as well as pulls in sustainable development and the environment and the combined effects of the arms trade, organized crime and corruption on the ability of governments to provide basic services to their citizens and encourage sustainable economic, social and political development.
9. Attached for your information is a list of proposed treaties deposited with the Secretary-General to be highlighted during "Focus 2006: Crossing Borders". This office has consulted with UNHCR, UNHCHR, DDA, DAW, OCHA, UNODC and IOM on the theme and list of treaties.
10. A list of all multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General, as well as information on the previous Treaty Events, may be found at untreaty.un.org.
11. It is the intention of this office to inform Member States of the Focus 2006 treaty list by the end of January.

Proposed list of Treaties to be Highlighted in Focus 2006 Treaty Event

Refugees and Stateless Persons

1. Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (Geneva, 28 July 1951)
2. Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees (New York, 31 January 1967)
3. Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (New York, 28 September 1954)
4. Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (New York, 30 August 1961)

Migrant Workers and Human Rights

5. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (New York, 18 December 1990)
6. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (New York, 7 March 1966)
7. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (New York, 16 December 1966)
8. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (New York, 16 December 1966)
9. Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (New York, 16 December 1966)
10. Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, (New York, 15 December 1989)
11. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (New York, 18 December 1979)
12. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (New York, 18 December 1979) (New York, 6 October 1999)
13. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (New York, 10 December 1984)
14. Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (New York, 18 December 2002)
15. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (New York, 25 May 2000)
16. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (New York, 25 May 2000)

Sustainable Development and the Environment

17. Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (New York, 4 August 1995)
18. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (New York, 9 May 1992)
19. Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Kyoto, 11 December 1997)

20. Convention on biological diversity (Rio de Janeiro, 5 June 1992)
21. Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Montreal, 29 January 2000)
22. Lusaka Agreement on Co-operative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora (Lusaka, 8 September 1994)
23. Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus, Denmark, 25 June 1998)

Security and Trafficking in Persons and Firearms

24. United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (New York, 15 November 2000)
25. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (New York, 15 November 2000)
26. Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (New York, 15 November 2000)
27. 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 (New York, 31 May 2001)
28. United Nations Convention against Corruption (New York, 31 October 2003)
29. Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (Lake Success, New York, 21 March 1950)
30. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel (New York, 8 December 2005)

Disarmament

31. 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) (Geneva, 10 October 1980); plus amendment to Protocol II and to the Convention
 - a. Protocol IV, entitled Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Vienna, 13 October 1995)
 - b. 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) (Geneva, 28 November 2003)
32. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (Geneva, 3 September 1992)
33. Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (Oslo, 18 September 1997)