

Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context
Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents
Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Communication by the Conventions' secretariats
Geneva, 3 March 2003

**SUBMISSION OF FULL POWERS FOR THE SIGNING
OF THE THREE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTOCOLS DURING THE
KIEV MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**

The following three protocols:

- (a) the **Protocol on strategic environmental assessment** to the 1991 Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context,
- (b) the **Protocol on civil liability and compensation for damage caused by the transboundary effects of industrial accidents on transboundary waters** to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the 1992 Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, and
- (c) the **Protocol on pollutant release and transfer registers** to the 1998 Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

will be open for signature **from 21 May 2003 to 23 May 2003 in Kiev**. Thereafter, the Protocols will remain open for signature at the United Nations Headquarters in New York until 31 December 2003. The signature ceremony will commence at **18.00 hours on 21 May 2003**.

Consistent with the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties and the established practice of the Secretary-General, as depositary, only Heads of State, Heads of Government or Ministers for Foreign Affairs are empowered, by virtue of their functions, to sign a treaty on behalf of a State without having to produce full powers to that effect. **Other representatives wishing to sign a treaty must be in possession of appropriate full powers, which expressly authorize signature of a specified treaty by a named representative issued and signed by one of the three above authorities.** It is further noted that full powers are distinct from credentials. Credentials alone are not adequate for the purpose of signing a treaty.

States wishing to sign the above Protocols shall, as necessary, provide duly signed original instruments or copies of the required full powers by **12 May 2003** for the purpose of verification to:

United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG),
Legal Liaison Office
Mr. Ulrich von Blumenthal
Palais des Nations
Avenue de la Paix, 8-14, CH-1211 Geneva 10

Office 176
Facsimile: +41 22 917 00 01

States which submit copies of full powers in advance for verification are required to provide the original instruments of full powers at the signature ceremony in Kiev.

Delegations are urged to respect the 12 May 2003 deadline for the submission of full powers to ensure sufficient time for States to clarify any questions regarding their full powers which may be raised during the verification process or to resubmit their full powers in cases where the original instruments are invalid. Late submissions of instruments may lead to non-acceptance.

States which have not submitted original instruments or copies of the required full powers by 12 May 2003 for the purpose of verification may submit original instruments of full powers, on an exceptional basis, to the representative of the Secretary-General, as depositary, in Kiev on 20 May 2003 from 13.00 to 18.00 hours. Delegations will be informed about the precise venue for this once arrangements have been finalized with the host country of the Ministerial Conference.

Model instruments of full powers in English, French and Russian as published in the United Nations Treaty Handbook are attached. They can also be downloaded from the web site at <http://untreaty.un.org/English/TreatyHandbook/annex3.htm>, <http://untreaty.un.org/French/TreatyHandbook/annex3.htm> and <http://untreaty.un.org/English/TreatyHandbookRus>.