



I have the honour to refer to the Circular State Letter dispatched via the Members Gateway on 12 February 2025, providing advance notice to the Members of the Organization for Food and Agriculture (FAO) of the inaugural FAO Treaty Ceremony that will be held during the 44th Session of the FAO Conference (Rome, 28 June-4 July 2025).

At the outset, allow me to recall that this important event, which will be an opportunity for Members to reaffirm their commitment to FAO's mandate and normative work and will serve the purpose of reinforcing multilateral collaboration in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the *four betters*, is taking place in the broader context of FAO's 80th Anniversary. I take the opportunity to also advise that arrangements will be made to ensure appropriate publicity, including through the dissemination of news stories and photographs through the FAO website and other communication channels. Ministers and other Heads of Delegation are therefore particularly encouraged to participate.

The focus of the Treaty Ceremony will be on all the multilateral treaties approved under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution ("Article XIV Treaties").

To enable the necessary preparations, Members are kindly requested to advise as soon as this will be possible, if they intend to take steps to ratify, accede, accept, approve or adhere to any of the Article XIV treaties, with a view to deposit the related instruments with the Director-General, who acts as Depositary for all Article XIV Treaties, at the Treaty Ceremony, by writing to my Office (at treaties@fao.org).

Information on the relevant treaties and their status, including by Contracting Party, along with model instruments and certified true copies of the treaties are available at my Office's website: <https://www.fao.org/treaties/en/>.

To enable a review for conformity under the general principles of treaty law, prior to the Treaty Ceremony, Members are also kindly requested to send an informal advance copy of the instruments, together with any reservations and declarations made thereto, along with a courtesy translation in English if the document is not in an FAO official language. Copies of instruments of full powers, where required (see further below), should also be provided. **These documents would need to be received well in advance of the opening of the Conference session on 28 June 2025. The documents should be sent by email to treaties@fao.org.**

I observe that the Ceremony will be for the **deposit** of signed instruments, not the signature of instruments. Thus, instruments of full powers will not be required at the Ceremony. In this regard, it is recalled that, pursuant to Rule XXI.4 of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO),

[t]he full powers given to a government representative to sign a convention, agreement, supplementary convention or agreement should be issued by the authority endowed with the inherent power to bind the state, such as the government, the head of the state, the head of the government, the minister for foreign affairs or the minister of the department concerned. Instruments of accession or of acceptance should likewise be issued by one of these authorities.

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An instrument of full powers is not, therefore, required when one of the four above-mentioned authorities signs the instrument of ratification, accession, acceptance, approval or adherence. However, if the instrument is to be signed by another senior official, a copy of the full powers should be provided. There is no specific form for an instrument of full powers, but it should meet the following requirements:

- a) It must be signed by one of the four above-mentioned authorities and unambiguously empower someone to sign a treaty or instrument of ratification, accession, acceptance, approval or adherence. Full powers may also be issued by a person exercising the power of one of the above-mentioned authorities on an ad interim basis. This should be stated in the instrument.
- b) Full powers are usually limited to one specific treaty and must indicate the title of the treaty.
- c) The full name and title of the person authorised to sign must be indicated.
- d) The date and place of signature must be indicated on the instrument.
- e) The apposition of an official seal is not required and, in any event, does not replace the need for the signature of one of the above-mentioned four authorities.

I sincerely hope that you will take the opportunity to participate in this inaugural FAO Treaty Ceremony. My Office remains at your disposal to provide any additional information and support. We may be contacted at treaties@fao.org.

I would be most grateful if you would draw the content of this letter to the attention of officials concerned with these matters in your capital.

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Assistant Director-General/Legal Counsel

