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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2005

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Annun Sets Course for Responding to Global Challenges, U.S. Falls Behind

U.S. Not Participating in Most Treaties Prioritized by Annun

Minneapolis – United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annun today prioritized 31 international treaties critical to responding to global challenges as part of an overarching report on UN reform. The U.S. government has ratified only a small fraction of the treaties and has actually taken steps to reverse its involvement in several, according to an analysis by the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP).

The United States has ratified only eight of 31 treaties prioritized by Annun. Treaties the U.S. has not ratified include: Prevention of Trafficking Women and Children, the Protocol Against Torture, the Law of the Sea, the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, and the Convention Against Organized Crime. In the last five years the U.S. has backed out of a number of commitments by ending its involvement in several treaties it had previously supported including: the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change, the International Criminal Court, and the Prohibition of Landmines.

Additionally, the Bush administration has taken steps to undermine the global treaty system by withdrawing from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in 2002 and, just this month, withdrawing from a protocol part of the Vienna Convention of the Law of Treaties.

“We are falling behind as a global leader by not participating in a system of international law that protects children, refugees, and the environment,” said Patricia Jurewicz, Director of IATP’s Global Cooperation Project. “In a sense, Annun’s report is a challenge to the U.S. to join with other countries to make the world a better and safer place through rules that we can all live by. By participating in global treaties, we are demonstrating to the world that we are in this together and want to solve the world’s problems together.”

While emphasizing the need for implementation and enforcement of the “rule of law” based on six decades of UN treaty-making, Annun also proposed a number of reforms for the UN itself. Among them, Annun suggests creating a small elected Human Rights Council to “take the cause of human rights as seriously as those of security and development” and give “primacy” to human rights as mandated by the UN Charter. Annun would also upgrade the Economic and Social Council to “build bridges” with the trade and financial institutions, “provide direction” in this decentralized area of work and “assert leadership in driving a global development agenda.”

IATP’s recent report, *The Treaty Database: U.S. Compliance with Global Treaties*, documents U.S. history of joining or ignoring multilateral treaties, and includes a summary of the government’s treaty actions broken down by presidential administration dating back to 1893.

The Treaty Database and the U.S. government’s record of the 31 treaties prioritized by Annun can be viewed at: iatp.org.

The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy works globally to promote resilient family farms, communities and ecosystems through research and education, science and technology, and advocacy.

U.S. participation in treaties as prioritized by Kofi Annan

Page in IATP Treaty Database	Treaty name	U.S. signed	U.S. ratified	GWB took action
55	International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)*	5 Oct. 1977		
57	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)*	5 Oct. 1977	8 June 1992	
59	Optional Protocol to the ICCPR*			
	Prevention and Punishment of Genocide*	11 Dec. 1948	25 Nov. 1998	
65	Convention Against Torture*	18 April 1988	21 Oct. 1994	
	Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture*			
75	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families*			
69	Optional Protocol: Convention on the Rights of the Child: Children in Armed Conflict*	5 July 2000	23 Dec. 02	Ratified
71	Optional Protocol: Convention on the Rights of the Child: Prostitution, Pornography and Sale of Children*	5 July 2000	23 Dec. 02	Ratified
	Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*			
	Protocol: Status of Refugees*	N/A	1 Nov. 1968	
121	International Criminal Court (ICC), Rome Statute*	Nullified 6 May 2002		Nullified signature
	Privileges and Immunities of the ICC*			
	Safety of UN Personnel*	19 Dec. 1994		
	Suppression of Bombings by Terrorists	12 Jan. 1998	26 June 2002	Ratified
123	Suppression of Financing of Terrorism	10 Jan. 2000	26 June 2002	Ratified
	Against Transnational Organized Crime*	13 Dec. 2000		
	Prevent Trafficking of Women and Children*	13 Dec. 2000		
	Against Smuggling of Migrants*	13 Dec. 2000		
	Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking of Firearms*			
	Convention Against Corruption	9 Dec. 2003		Signed
93	Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change	12 Nov. 1998		Ended negotiation involvement
101	Rotterdam Convention: Prior Informed Consent for Hazardous Chemicals in International Trade	11 Sept. 1998		
103	Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants	23 May 2001		Signed
97	Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biodiversity			
85	UN Convention on the Law of the Sea			
	Conservation and Management of Straddling and Migrant Fish	4 Dec. 1995	21 Aug. 1996	
111	CTBT (Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty)	24 Sept. 1996		
113	Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines			Reversed commitment to ratify
	Tobacco Control	10-May-04		Signed
31	Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, 1969	24 April 1970		Withdraw from protocol to this treaty
Totals		16 signed	8 ratified	

*Considered by the United Nations treaties that protect civilians. Of these 18 treaties, the United States has ratified six.