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## PRESS RELEASE

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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 to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

“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](http://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<br>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           |                   |                               |
| <b>Totals</b>                |  | <b>16 signed</b>        | <b>8 ratified</b> |                               |

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