

**Note verbale to the Permanent Mission of a Member State to the United Nations,
concerning visa applications for United Nations officials traveling for official purposes**

CONVENTION ON THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, 1946—THE ORGANIZATION CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO REQUEST VISAS FOR OFFICIAL TRAVEL THROUGH COMMERCIAL ENTITIES

The Secretariat of the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of [Member State] to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the Mission's note verbale of 28 December 2009 concerning the difficulties faced by the United Nations in relation to the processing of visa applications for its officials travelling to [Member State] for official purposes.

The United Nations notes the Mission's request for "documents received from the Consulate-General of [Member State] in New York referring to the use of the [...] website or any other correspondence related to this subject, in order to take appropriate actions on the difficulties faced by the Secretariat and to avoid encountering any difficulties in the future". Unfortunately, the United Nations is unable to provide any documents received from the Consulate-General of [Member State] in New York as the need to apply for visas through the above-referenced website was only communicated orally to the United Nations.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, and given the Government's obligations under the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations* and the Agreement between the United Nations Development Programme and [Member State], the United Nations cannot be expected to request official visas for the official travel of United Nations officials through a commercial entity.

The United Nations recognizes the competence of the Consulate-General over visa matters and, with a view to reaching a mutually acceptable procedure for the processing of official United Nations visa requests, the United Nations would like to suggest that the relevant personnel of the Office of the Legal Counsel of the United Nations and the Permanent Mission and the Consulate-General of [Member State] meet to discuss the matter.

The Secretariat of the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Mission of [Member State] to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

17 February 2010

* United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1, p. 15 and vol. 90, p. 327 (corrigendum to vol. 1).