



**UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

January 24, 2012

HC-15-12

The United States Mission to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations and has the honor to refer to the identification card services provided to diplomatic officials.

Starting January 2012, the United States Mission to the United Nations will begin using the services of the United States Government Printing Office ("GPO"), located in Washington, D.C., to issue newly-designed Department of State Diplomatic and Official Identification Cards. The newly-designed cards will provide eligible members of the United Nations community with credentials that incorporate numerous state-of-the-art security features which enhance security and vastly reduce the risk of counterfeiting or fraud.

The Permanent Observer is informed that, beginning January 30, 2012, all personnel who currently possess a valid diplomatic identification card as well as personnel who are applying for new, renewal or replacements cards, will receive the Department of State's newly-designed credentials.

The application process for the Department of State's credentials will remain the same: New cards will be issued to eligible personnel by the United States Mission after official notification of appointment from the United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service. Renewals and replacements of credentials will be issued by the United States Mission upon the Observer

Mission's written request, accompanied by a current color photograph of passport quality with white background.

Beginning mid-February 2012, except as noted below, all officials who hold the State Department of State's current credential will receive a "swap out" newly-designed card (though the expiration date will remain the same) from the United States Mission. Details of the swap out will be forthcoming.

In addition, please be advised that officials who hold a current-style identification card which will expire **before May 1, 2012, will *not* automatically receive the Department of States's newly-designed credential.** Instead, it will be incumbent upon those personnel to apply for their renewal or replacement identification cards in the manner previously described.

The United States Mission to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.