



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

15 July 2016

Excellencies,

I am addressing you in your capacities as co-chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) on the Revitalisation of the work of the General Assembly and have the honour to forward herewith two letters dated, respectively, 18 May 2016 from H.E. Mr. Jürg Lauber, Ambassador of Switzerland, on behalf of Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group members, and 29 June 2016 from H.E. Mr. Sabri Boukadoum, Ambassador of Algeria, on behalf of Non-Aligned Movement, addressed to me concerning the selection and appointment process of the next Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Bearing in mind article 97 of the Charter as well as General Assembly resolution 69/321 and in light of the expectations of Member States as reflected in these letters, I hereby invite you to explore and take stock of Member States' views with regard to the questions raised in the above mentioned letters and to convey to me before the end of this session any elements that may emerge from these discussions.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mogens Lykketoft

To:

H.E. Mr. Vladimir Drobnyak, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Croatia

H.E. Mr. Wilfried I. Emvula, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Namibia

CC: All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations

CC: H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, PGA-elect

الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية

PERMANENT MISSION OF ALGERIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

البعثة الجزائرية الدائمة لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

Excellency,

Dear President

In my capacity as Coordinator of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) on the question of the revitalization of the General Assembly, I address you on the issue of the ongoing process of selecting and appointing the next Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The Non-Aligned Movement appreciates your work and your leadership on this matter and looks forward to a continued transparent, inclusive and structured process in selecting the best Secretary-General in accordance with the provisions of the Charter and UN relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 69/321.

The NAM believes that significant efforts have been made so far and should continue to be undertaken to enhance the legitimacy of the next Secretary-General and reassert the role and authority of the General Assembly.

In this regard, the NAM reiterates its requests that the process of the appointment of the new Secretary-General by the General Assembly should be carried out in full compliance with the General Assembly mandate.

This includes the tabling of a draft resolution on the appointment of the Secretary-General, preceded by wide and extensive consultations with all UN Member States, and ensuring the action of the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council by secret ballot, in conformity with rule 141 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

In this context, the NAM recommends that Your Excellency initiates consultations with Member States to expedite the process of drafting the appointment resolution including, if appropriate, by appointment of two co-facilitators to coordinate this process, well ahead of the recommendation by the Security Council to the General Assembly, so as to ensure that the process is not linked to any candidate in particular.

We encourage you and your team to work closely with the PGA Elect to guarantee a swift transition on this relevant matter.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

New York, 29 June 2016

with my best regards
Sabri Boukadoum

H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft
President of the General Assembly
United Nations
New York

Sabri Boukadoum

On behalf of NAM Member States

Sabri Boukadoum
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Copy: H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, President elect of the General Assembly.



H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft
President of the General Assembly
United Nations
New York

New York, 18.05.2016

Selection and Appointment of the next Secretary-General of the United Nations

Excellency,

I am writing on behalf of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group (ACT) regarding the ongoing process of selecting and appointing the next Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The ACT group, comprising 25 Member States* from all regional groups, values highly the transparency and inclusivity you as the President of the General Assembly have brought to this process, in particular in launching it by the joint letter with the President of the Security Council last December, and in organising successful informal dialogues with the candidates in the General Assembly.

ACT emphasized in its position paper from 22 February 2016 (attached to this letter), and in the General Assembly revitalization discussions, that it is the prerogative of the General Assembly to draft the final resolution for the appointment of the Secretary-General.

Therefore, we would like to suggest, in accordance with the General Assembly resolution 69/321, that you initiate a facilitation process for the appointment resolution. We would encourage you to appoint facilitators as soon as possible in order to allow sufficient time to discuss the substance of the appointment resolution well ahead of the recommendation by the Security Council to the General Assembly, and by doing so ensure the process is not linked to any individual candidate.

We highly value your dedication on this matter and are looking forward to a continued transparent, inclusive and structured process in selecting the best Secretary-General to lead this organization.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

On behalf of ACT members



Jürg Lauber
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Encl.

*ACT Group members: Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Gabon, Ghana, Hungary, Ireland, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Maldives, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Portugal, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and Uruguay.

22 February 2016

ACT¹ position paper on outstanding issues regarding selection and appointment of the next Secretary-General of the United Nations in 2016

UN Member States, the President of the General Assembly, civil society, the wider international community and media have been engaged in advocating for increased transparency in the process for selecting the next UN Secretary-General, as a way of finding the best possible person to lead this organization. The aim is to create a more inclusive process with wider ownership and to strengthen the institution of the Secretary-General by making it more representative. While it is important to change perceptions regarding the selection process, it is even more important to make actual changes to bring the process into line with present day expectations.

The main objectives outlined in the initial ACT position paper from March 2015 – which called for increased transparency, inclusiveness and a more rigorous process in selecting the next chief of the Organization – became closer to reality as a result of the General Assembly revitalization resolution 69/321. The remaining months until the appointment of the next Secretary-General should be used for constructive discussions among Member States as well as close cooperation between the Presidents of the General Assembly and of the Security Council for full implementation of resolution 69/321. We should also make sure any further outstanding issues are dealt with without delay.

ACT – with the purpose to enhance the selection process – makes the following proposals and draws attention to the outstanding issues for the remainder of the appointment process in 2016:

Candidates:

- ACT hopes that the joint letter of 15 December 2015 by the Presidents of the General Assembly and of the Security Council generates positive results and that **many qualified candidates** will be put forward at the earliest, ideally allowing the informal dialogues and meetings to be wrapped up by July. In this context ACT also strongly encourages Member States to nominate **female candidates**.
- ACT welcomes the value added by various stakeholders, including civil society, in **searching for** suitable candidates at their own initiative as an input for Member States' consideration.
- ACT calls on all candidates to **participate in all elements** of the selection process, as this will strongly increase their legitimacy.

Selection Process, Informal Meetings with the candidates:

- The **General Assembly** should play an **active role** in the selection process, in accordance with the UN Charter, resolution 69/321, and other relevant decisions.

¹ Accountability, Coherence and Transparency – a cross-regional group of 25 States: Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Gabon, Ghana, Hungary, Ireland, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Maldives, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Portugal, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay

- For ACT the **informal dialogues and meetings** with the candidates are a **key part** of the selection process. We expect all candidates to take part in these meetings. Both the General Assembly and the Security Council have an important role to play in making sure these meetings serve **their purpose**. Subject to the format decided, ACT and its members will engage actively in the meetings, put forward **questions** to the candidates and would like to hear their **vision** for the position of the Secretary-General. ACT encourages candidates to circulate a document outlining her or his **policy priorities in advance**.
- ACT calls for ensuring that **civil society** can participate in the informal dialogues and meetings with the candidates and also encourages **candidates themselves to interact** with civil society organizations.
- ACT encourages regular **public briefings by the Security Council** to update the wider membership on developments in the nomination process.
- ACT calls for ensuring sufficient time **between the nomination** by the Security Council and **the decision on appointment** by the General Assembly.
- The selection process should be finalized as early as possible, preferably **three months** prior to the assumption of the office by the next Secretary-General.

Identification and Appointment:

- In identifying the **best candidate** for appointment, due regard should be given to **fair geographical distribution** through rotation, and to **gender balance**.
- ACT recalls the **prerogative of the General Assembly** to draft the **final resolution** for the appointment of the Secretary-General. ACT also encourages the General Assembly to look into substantiating the appointment resolution, including on the term of office of the Secretary-General.
- In line with the Charter provisions and the **oath** taken by the Secretary-General, ACT believes that the Secretary-General should exercise **independence** in the selection of **senior officials**.

Term in Office

- ACT would appreciate a thorough discussion on **the term of office** of the Secretary-General and **the case to be made for a longer, single non-renewable term** in appointing Secretaries-General.