

UNITED NATIONS



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9 February 2016

Excellency,

Further to the joint letter of the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council dated 15 December 2015 (A70/623-S/2015/988), and in line with General Assembly resolution 69/321, we have the honour to forward a communication received from the Permanent Mission of Slovenia presenting Dr. Danilo Türk as a candidate for the position of Secretary-General.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mogens Lykketoft'.

H.E Mr. Mogens Lykketoft  
President of the General Assembly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rafael Darío Ramírez Carreño'.

H.E. Mr. Rafael Darío Ramírez Carreño  
President of the Security Council

To all Permanent Representatives  
to the United Nations  
New York



STALNO PREDSTAVNIŠTVO RS PRI OZN V NEW YORKU  
**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA**  
**TO THE UNITED NATIONS - NEW YORK**

630 Third Avenue, 20th Floor  
New York 10017, New York

T: 00 1 212 370 3007  
F: 00 1 212 370 1824  
E: [mny@gov.si](mailto:mny@gov.si)  
[www.newyork.mission.si](http://www.newyork.mission.si)

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New York, 8 February 2016

*Excellencies,*

*In accordance with Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the joint letter of the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council dated 15 December 2015, based on the General Assembly Resolution 69/321, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, I have the honour to present the candidature of H.E. Dr. Danilo Turk, former President of the Republic of Slovenia, for the position of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.*

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

  
Andrej Logar  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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

*H.E. Mr. Rafael Dario Ramirez Carreño  
President of the Security Council  
United Nations*

KARL ERJAVEC  
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

Ljubljana, 3 February 2016

Excellencies,

Following the joint letter by the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council of 15 December 2015, I have the honour to present the candidature of Dr Danilo Türk, former President of the Republic of Slovenia, for the post of United Nations Secretary-General.

Dr Danilo Türk (1952) is an internationally renowned political figure, a diplomat and professor of international law with immense political and international experience. His work testifies to his strong, decades-long commitment to the UN: throughout the years, he has served in the organisation's major bodies and devoted considerable attention to multilateral affairs during his term as President of the Republic of Slovenia (2007–12).

He was Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs (2000–05), appointed by the then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Before that, he served eight years as Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the UN in New York and was twice President of the UN Security Council during Slovenia's non-permanent membership (1998–99).

**H.E. Mr Mogens Lykketoft**  
**President of the General Assembly**

**H.E. Mr Rafael Darío Ramírez Carreño**  
**President of the Security Council**

**United Nations**

**NEW YORK**

Throughout his UN career, he was closely involved in the efforts for the organisation's reforms, such as the creation of the UN Human Rights Council in 2005–06. He was also a member of several UN expert bodies in the field of human rights.

At present, Dr Türk is an active member of the Club de Madrid, the organisation of former, democratically-elected presidents and prime ministers. He is Chairman of the Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Global Fairness Initiative, a Washington-based NGO dedicated to economic and social development projects in developing countries. He is also a visiting professor at the Columbia University School of Law, New York.

Further details about Dr Türk's career are available in the enclosed biography.

I am convinced that Dr Türk is an eminently qualified candidate for the post of UN Secretary-General. Given his professional background and vast experience, he would significantly contribute to the work of the United Nations in these challenging times, which require comprehensive dedication to all elements of the UN's global mission.

I thank you, Excellencies, for all your endeavours to set in motion the selection and appointment process for the next UN Secretary-General in accordance with the provisions of Article 97 of the UN Charter, guided by the principles of transparency and inclusivity and steered by the goal to appoint the best possible candidate for this position of great importance.

I should be grateful if this candidature would be brought to the attention of all UN Member States.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'C' followed by several vertical, wavy lines that suggest the letters 'M' and 'W'.

**BIOGRAPHY  
OF  
DR DANILO TÜRK  
FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA**



Photo: Rok Tržan

**Education and academic career**

Danilo Türk was born on 19 February 1952 in Maribor, Slovenia, where he completed primary and secondary education. Having graduated from the Faculty of Law of the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, in 1975, he entered the University of Belgrade, Serbia, where he received his Master's Degree in Law in 1978. He then returned to Ljubljana and began teaching international law at the Faculty of Law. During this time, his work was primarily focused on the issues of national minorities. In 1982, he received a PhD from the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana for his doctoral thesis entitled 'The Principle of Non-Intervention in International Relations and in International Law'.

Dr Türk pursued his academic career at the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, becoming assistant professor in 1982, then associate professor in 1987, and finally full professor of international law in 1995. From 1983 to 1992, he headed the University's Institute of International Law and International Relations. During this period, he focused on research work and teaching, as well as on the efforts to promote human rights protection.

**Human rights activities**

Drawing on his research work and experience, in 1987, Dr Türk put forward the initiative to create a Council for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Slovenia, an independent body that laid the foundations for the subsequent legislative work and advocacy for human rights in Slovenia. The Council was established in early 1988, and Dr Türk was appointed its Vice-President. In 1991, he drafted the chapter on human rights for the constitution of the newly-independent Republic of Slovenia.

The beginnings of his international engagement in the field of human rights can be traced back to his student days in the mid-1970s. Since 1975, he worked closely with Amnesty International and advised in cases involving human rights violations in the former Yugoslavia.

In 1982, he became member of the UN Working Group of Experts on the Right to Development. In 1985, he drafted the text of the Declaration on the Right to Development, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1986.

From 1984 to 1992, he served as an independent expert on the United Nations Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. In this framework, he prepared a report on the right to freedom of opinion and expression and a series of reports on the realisation of economic, social and cultural rights. In 1990, he was Chairman of the Subcommission.

Several years later, he was elected to the UN Human Rights Committee, established under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and served as a member from 1996 to 1998.

### **Diplomatic career**

After Slovenia's declaration of independence in June 1991, Dr Türk took on an active role in the country's diplomatic activities. In July and August 1991, Slovenia's then Foreign Minister authorised him to represent the country, which at that time had not yet achieved worldwide recognition, in contacts with representatives of the UN, the CSCE and the Council of Europe in Geneva. From September 1991 to August 1992, he was a member of the Slovenian delegation at the Conference on Yugoslavia. On behalf of Slovenia, he drafted a number of memoranda for the Conference's Arbitration Commission, known as the Badinter Commission, whose advisory opinions defined the legal framework for state succession to former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

In August 1992, Dr Türk was appointed Slovenia's first ambassador to the United Nations in New York. He set up the Slovenian Permanent Mission to the UN and developed a system of activities within the UN General Assembly, with particular emphasis on political and security issues as well as human rights and humanitarian assistance.

From 1996 to 1997, he successfully led Slovenia's campaign for non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council. Subsequently, he served as the country's representative on the Security Council (1998–1999). During that period, he dealt with the issues of Kosovo, Iraq, Libya, East Timor, Angola, Sierra Leone and Congo among others. He also chaired the Security Council's Sanctions Committee on Libya (Lockerbie). Furthermore, he presided over the UN Security Council in August 1998 and November 1999. At that time, the crises in Iraq, Kosovo, Sierra Leone and East Timor were particularly intense.

### **Assistant UN Secretary-General**

Following the successful conclusion of Slovenia's term as non-permanent member of the Security Council, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed Dr Türk Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

For over five years, his tasks at the UN headquarters focused on analytical and advisory activities concerning crisis situations around the world, including the Balkans, particularly Kosovo and Macedonia, Palestine, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Iraq, Myanmar, North Korea, East Timor, Colombia, Haiti and Venezuela.

As Assistant Secretary-General, he was also involved in a number of Organisation's projects, with particular focus on the strengthening of the UN activities for the prevention of armed conflicts, the UN's participation in the activities of newly-emerged and restored democracies, cooperation with the Community of Democracies, and the preparation of reports on the Responsibility to Protect.

He was also actively engaged in reform activities, particularly those leading to the creation of the UN Human Rights Council in 2006.

### **President of the Republic of Slovenia**

Having spent 13 years in New York, Dr Türk returned to Slovenia in the summer of 2005. He resumed teaching international law and related subjects at the Faculty of Law of the University of Ljubljana. From May 2006 to December 2007, he served as the Faculty's Vice-Dean.

Dr Türk has published over 100 articles in various law journals and three books. His latest work, entitled 'The Foundations in International Law', was published in 2007 (in Slovene) and has been translated into Hungarian, Czech and Russian. The second, expanded edition was published in 2015.

On 11 November 2007, he was elected the third President of the Republic of Slovenia and was inaugurated on 22 December 2007. He concluded his five-year term of office on 22 December 2012.

### **Post-presidential career**

Currently, Dr Danilo Türk enjoys the status of Former President of the Republic of Slovenia. He is member of the Club de Madrid, a non-governmental organisation of former, democratically-elected heads of state and government.

Since 2014, he has been Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Global Fairness Initiative, a Washington-based NGO devoted to innovative projects fostering greater fairness in development and overcoming poverty.

On 16 November 2015, he was appointed Chairman of the newly-established Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace.

Dr Türk is also emeritus professor of law at the University of Ljubljana, visiting professor of law at Columbia Law School in New York and non-resident senior fellow of Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China in Beijing.

### **Languages**

In addition to Slovene, his mother tongue, Dr Danilo Türk speaks English, French and Serbo-Croatian.

## **Family**

Danilo Türk has been married to Barbara Miklič Türk since 1976. They have one daughter and one granddaughter.

## **Orders and decorations**

- Knight Grand Cross, Most Honourable Order of the Bath, United Kingdom (2008)
- Grand Cross with Diamonds, Order of the Sun of Peru (2008)
- Commander, First Class, Order of the White Rose of Finland, Finland (2010)
- Knight Grand Cross, Order of Saint-Charles, Monaco (2011)
- Knight Grand Cross with Cordon, Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, Italy (2011)
- Grand Star, Decoration of Honour for Services to the Republic of Austria, (2011)
- Grand Cross, Royal Norwegian Order of St Olav, Norway (2011)
- Kt Grand Cross, Order of the Falcon, Iceland (2011)

## **Awards and prizes**

- Gold medal, Széchenyi Scientific Society, Hungary (2008)
- Arthur J. Goldberg Award, Touro Law College, USA (2008)
- Honorary Professor of the Academy of Public Administration, Astana, Kazakhstan (2009)
- Ilyas Afandiyev International Prize, Azerbaijan (2010)
- Honorary Doctorate, University of Szeged, Hungary (2010)
- Honorary Doctorate, V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Ukraine (2011)
- Honorary Doctorate, Moscow State Institute for International Relations, Russian Federation (2013)
- Honorary Doctorate, Corvinus University, Budapest, Hungary (2015)

## **Initiatives and projects**

In 2009, Dr Danilo Türk launched a project aimed at providing rehabilitation for child victims of armed conflict in the Gaza Strip. In this context, he has funded and organised rehabilitation for 120 children from the Gaza Strip. Furthermore, in 2010, he founded Let Them Dream – Danilo Türk Foundation, which is devoted to providing assistance to children who have been victims of violence.