



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

23 September 2016

Excellency,

One of the most significant tasks before this 71st session of the General Assembly, will be the finalization of the on-going process to select and appoint the next Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Bearing in mind article 97 of the Charter as well as General Assembly resolution 69/321 of 11 September 2015 and 70/305 of 13 September 2016, and guided by the transparency and inclusivity that have characterized this process so far, I intend to make every effort to contribute to a smooth and timely appointment of the next Secretary-General upon the General Assembly receiving the recommendation from the Security Council.

I have been briefed by the President of the 70th session of the General Assembly on the views of Member States expressed at the meeting on 29 August 2016 in the Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) on the Revitalisation of the Work of the General Assembly. As you know, the President of the 70th session also conveyed to me some key considerations on this matter in his hand-over letter of 13 September 2016.

In light of this and of my own deliberations, I have decided to task two Special Advisers from my Office, Ambassador Ioannis Vrailas and Ambassador Sofia Borges, to engage in consultations with Member States and all interested groups with a view to advising me in the best way forward towards a judicious and consensual outcome in the General Assembly in line with GA resolution 70/305 – one that, in the best interests of the Organization, will also allow the new Secretary-General sufficient time to prepare before taking up office.

As I announced in my opening statement of the General Debate of the 71st session of the UN General Assembly on Tuesday 20 September, I will also ensure that there will be ample opportunities for early interaction between the new Secretary-General and Member States so as to build a solid working relationship with the Assembly. Hence, it is my intention to convene as soon as possible a General Assembly meeting during which delegations will be provided with the opportunity to engage in substantive dialogue with the Secretary-General-designate.

Ambassadors Vrailas and Borges will be reaching out to interested delegations in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, please be assured that my door and theirs are always open to Member States who wish to express views on this very important issue.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Thomson'.

Peter Thomson

All Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York