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71st session of the General Assembly

Remarks by H.E. Peter Thomson, Adoption of General Assembly Resolution A/71/L.4: Appointment of the UN Secretary-General

In connection with the recommendation of the Security Council, the General Assembly has before it a draft resolution submitted as document A/71/L.4.

This draft was prepared following extensive consultations by myself, and by special advisors on my behalf, with the UN membership.

Throughout these consultations a number of consistent priorities for Member States emerged, and in this context, I want to thank all of you for your inputs, which were fundamental to the preparation of this text.

In drafting this resolution, I was conscious of the need to reflect the historic advances that were made in the selection and appointment process of the UN Secretary General, in line with General Assembly resolutions 69/321 and 70/305.

This included acknowledgement of the transparent and inclusive process that was undertaken, from the informal dialogues that were conducted between the General Assembly and each of the candidates, to the unprecedented level of cooperation between the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

The main task was to reflect the committed support for the process that was undertaken, and the expectations of Member States, within the framework of this appointment resolution.

With the reaffirmation of the role of the General Assembly, with the reference to Chapter XV of the Charter, and with the recognition of General Assembly resolutions 69/321 and 70/305 as the cornerstones of this process, I am confident that the text which is before you fully reflects the views of Member States.

After extensive consultations held with the membership, it is my understanding that the General Assembly wishes to proceed with the adoption of the resolution by acclamation.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt by acclamation draft resolution A/71/L.4?

It is so decided.