



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

30 June 2016

Excellency,

It is my honor to invite you to participate in an event entitled, “**Leading the United Nations: A Global Townhall with UN Secretary-General candidates**” on Tuesday, 12 July from 6.00p.m.– 9.00p.m.

Taking place in the margins of my High Level Thematic Debate on Human Rights (12-13 July), this event seeks to enhance public interest in the work of the United Nations and its next Secretary-General. It will be broadcast live internationally and is distinct from the UN General Assembly mandated informal dialogues with candidates that have taken place over the past few months.

An information note containing all relevant logistical details, including on the submission of questions for candidates, is attached.

In order to assist my Office in managing the high-level of interest in this event, I ask all delegates/observers who wish to attend to register online at [www.un.org/pga/70/registration-form-un-global-townhall-with-unsg-candidates](http://www.un.org/pga/70/registration-form-un-global-townhall-with-unsg-candidates) by Sunday, 10 July 2016.

My office stands ready to provide additional details as necessary.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mogens Lykketoft', written in a cursive style.

Mogens Lykketoft

To all Permanent Representatives  
And Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York



Office of the  
President of the  
United Nations  
General Assembly  
70<sup>TH</sup> SESSION

## INVITATION

*“Leading the United Nations – A Global Townhall  
with UN Secretary-General candidates”*

Tuesday, 12 July 2016

6.00p.m. – 9.00p.m.

General Assembly Hall, UN Headquarters, New York

**Organized and hosted by the President of the UN General Assembly,  
His Excellency Mogens Lykketoft, in partnership with Al Jazeera  
Media Network**

Register online by Sunday, 10 July at:  
[www.un.org/pga/70/registration-form-un-global-townhall-with-unsg-candidates](http://www.un.org/pga/70/registration-form-un-global-townhall-with-unsg-candidates)

Questions for candidates from member State and observers to be sent by Friday, 8  
July to: [opga70@un.org](mailto:opga70@un.org)

## INFORMATION NOTE

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### **Event description:**

In the margins of his High Level Thematic Debate on Human Rights, the President of the General Assembly will organize and host an event, in partnership with Al Jazeera Media Network, entitled: **“Leading the United Nations: A Global Townhall with UN Secretary-General candidates” on Tuesday, 12 July 2016, from 6.00p.m – 9.00p.m.**

This event seeks to enhance public interest in the work of the United Nations and its next Secretary-General. It is distinct from the UN General Assembly mandated informal dialogues with candidates that have taken place over the past few months and that will continue to be held if further candidates are presented.

Attending candidates will be engaged in an open discussion about the challenges and opportunities facing the next Secretary-General. The event will begin with an initial focus on Human Rights but will proceed to address a broad range of relevant topics.

### **Format:**

The event will be broadcast live across the world by Al Jazeera media network, made available free of charge to all broadcast media and simultaneously streamed live on UN-WebTV.

From 6.00p.m, a moderator will engage invited guests and participants in setting the stage for the live segment of the event.

From 6.30pm, the live segment will begin. It will consist of two debates with professional moderators and a number of candidates. Each debate will run for a total of 1 hour and 15 minutes.

All candidates presented so far have been invited to participate. The President of the General Assembly will draw lots to determine which attending candidates will participate in each debate. The moderators will ensure that candidates are given equal time.

### **Participation:**

Participation in this event will be open to member States, observers, civil society and UN staff. The **deadline for registration is Sunday, 10 July.**

For member States and observers, any person with a delegate/observer ground pass will be able to enter the GA Hall for this event. In order to assist OPGA in managing the high level of interest in this event, delegates/observers are kindly asked to register online at [www.un.org/pga/70/registration-form-un-global-townhall-with-unsg-candidates](http://www.un.org/pga/70/registration-form-un-global-townhall-with-unsg-candidates). Please note that while there will be free seating at this event (i.e. no member State name plates), a block of seats will be reserved for member States and observers.

UN staff who wish to attend should also register on the same webpage (bearing in mind the limited number of seats available).

For civil society and the general public, an application process to attend has been set up online at [www.un.org/pga/70/registration-form-un-global-townhall-with-unsg-candidates/](http://www.un.org/pga/70/registration-form-un-global-townhall-with-unsg-candidates/). Only those who have registered online will be allowed to enter the event (bearing in mind the limited seats available).

### **A call for questions:**

#### A. Member states and observers

Individual member States and observers are kindly requested to **submit one question each in writing to [opga70@un.org](mailto:opga70@un.org) by Friday, 8 July 2016**; identifying the delegation submitting the question.

Questions must be sufficiently short to be delivered in 30 seconds or less.

10 of the questions submitted by member States and observers will be used during the event – 5 in each debate. This will amount to 2 questions from members of each of the five regional groups. These 10 will be randomly selected by OPGA through a drawing of lots.

Those whose question has been chosen through this process will be informed before the day of the event and will be asked to be present at the event at PR level to pose their question during the live debates.

#### B. Global public

In addition, the global public is invited to submit questions for the UN SG candidates online at <http://unngls.org/UNSGcandidates>. These will take the form of 30 second video submissions.

#### C. Moderator

The moderator will be free to ask the candidates follow-up questions and time permitting, may also take additional questions from the floor.

### **Timing:**

The GA Hall will be accessible from 5.30pm.

A pre-event which will set the scene for the live debates will begin at 6.00p.m.

The live broadcast will begin at 6.30p.m.

**In light of this, all participants are required to be in their seats by 6.10p.m. at the very latest.** Those who arrive after 6.10p.m. will not be able to enter until there is an intermission in the event.

### **Contact:**

For further information, please contact:

Meena Syed – [syedm@un.org](mailto:syedm@un.org)

Steen Malthe Hansen – [hansens@un.org](mailto:hansens@un.org)

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Dan Thomas (for press and broadcast matters) – [daniel.thomas@un.org](mailto:daniel.thomas@un.org)