



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11 January 2021

Excellency,

In 2015, in its resolution 69/321, the General Assembly agreed a new transparent, open and inclusive process to select and appoint the Secretary-General. As we enter 2021 and the final year of the Secretary-General's term, the General Assembly must once again consider the selection process.

On Friday 8 January 2021, I wrote to the Secretary-General to express my intention to start the selection process of the next Secretary-General and to seek an early indication as to whether he would seek a second term. I stressed to him the strong interest from Member States in ensuring that the important reforms to the Secretary-General selection process agreed in resolution 69/321 and implemented in 2015-2016 were consolidated and the selection process remained guided by the principles of transparency and inclusivity.

Today, Monday 11 January 2021, I received a response from the Secretary-General, in which he conveyed his availability to serve a second term. He also expressed his willingness to submit a vision statement and to participate in an informal dialogue with Member States. I have the honour to enclose copies of both letters.

I have commenced discussions with the President of the Security Council regarding the selection and appointment process.

As required by resolution 69/321, to start the process of soliciting candidates for the position of Secretary-General, I will shortly issue a joint letter with the President of the Security Council containing a description of the process.

I am committed to ensuring that the selection process remains as inclusive and transparent as possible, and to ensuring all Member States are kept informed throughout.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Volkan Bozkir'.

Volkan BOZKIR

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



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

8 January 2021

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

In 2015, in its resolution 69/321, the General Assembly agreed a new transparent, open and inclusive process to select and appoint the next Secretary-General. My predecessor, President of the 70th session, successfully implemented this process as mandated in the resolution. For the first time, there was a clearly defined nomination process. Candidates were invited to provide a vision statement and were able to participate in informal dialogues with the entire General Assembly. In a historic move, civil society and the wider global public were engaged in the selection process for the first time.

The process culminated on 13 October 2016 with the General Assembly appointing you as Secretary-General for a five-year term beginning on 1 January 2017.

As we enter 2021 and the final year of your term, the General Assembly must once again consider the selection process. There is strong interest from Member States in ensuring that the important reforms implemented in 2015-2016 are consolidated, and the selection process remains guided by the principles of transparency and inclusivity.

In this regard, I am writing to you to seek an early indication of whether you will seek a second term. I would propose to share those intentions with Member States in a joint letter with the President of the Security Council regarding the selection process in the near future.

Should you nominate, there is an expectation that you would submit a vision statement and participate in an informal dialogue with the Member States, as you did in 2016.

I look forward to receiving a response at your earliest convenience.

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

Yours sincerely,

Volkan BOZKIR

His Excellency  
Mr. António Guterres  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

11 January 2021

Dear Mr. President,

I wish to extend to you my sincere gratitude for your leadership and our effective cooperation since your election as President of the General Assembly.

With reference to your letter of 8 January 2021, I wish to convey to you that I am available to serve a second term as Secretary-General of the United Nations, if that will be the will of Member States.

Since assuming office, I have had the privilege of working towards the reform of the United Nations to meet the aspirations of Member States, striving for the dignity and the well-being of people, while ensuring the sustainability of our planet for future generations. This in fulfilment of my obligations to deliver on the mandates entrusted to me by Member States. It would be my honour to continue to serve the Organization in pursuing its purposes and fulfilling its noble objectives.

In line with the strong interest of the General Assembly regarding transparency and inclusivity, I am ready to fully meet the expectations referred in your letter, notably with regard to the submission of a vision statement and to the participation in an informal dialogue with Member States.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the General Assembly.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

*with my warmest personal regards*

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'António Guterres', written in a cursive style.

António Guterres

His Excellency  
Mr. Volkan Bozkir  
President of the General Assembly  
New York