

United Nations Nations Unies

HEADQUARTERS | SIEGE | NEW YORK, NY 10017

25 November 2025

Excellency,

In line with General Assembly resolution 79/327 and previous relevant General Assembly resolutions on the revitalization, the present joint letter serves to begin soliciting candidates and to set in motion the process of selecting and appointing the next Secretary-General of the United Nations, in accordance with the provisions of Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations and guided by the principles of transparency and inclusivity and in a structured and timely manner.

The position of Secretary-General is one of great importance and one that requires the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and a firm commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. We invite candidates to be presented who have proven leadership and managerial abilities, extensive experience in international relations and strong diplomatic, communication and multilingual skills.

Noting with regret that no woman has ever held the position of Secretary-General, and convinced of the need to guarantee equal opportunities for women and men in gaining access to senior decision-making positions, Member States are encouraged to strongly consider nominating women as candidates. We note the importance of regional diversity in the selection of Secretaries-General.

Noting that some candidates have already emerged, we invite Member States presenting candidates to do so in a letter to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council. Candidates should be nominated by one Member State or by a group of Member States, and each Member State may nominate only one candidate, individually or jointly with other Member States. The Presidents of the Assembly and of the Council will jointly circulate to all Member States, on an ongoing basis, the names of individuals who have been submitted for consideration.

Candidates should provide a vision statement and disclose the sources of funding at the time of the nomination. Candidates holding positions in the United Nations system should consider

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suspending their work in the United Nations system during the campaign with a view to avoiding any conflict of interest that may arise from their functions and adjacent advantages.

The President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council will jointly maintain and regularly update a public list of candidates, including the name, nominating State(s), vision statement, curriculum vitae and campaign financing disclosures, published on a dedicated United Nations webpage.

The President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council will offer candidates opportunities for informal dialogues or meetings with members of their respective bodies, including webcast interactive dialogues in the General Assembly, while noting that any such interaction will be without prejudice to those who do not participate. The informal dialogues or meetings can be held before the Council begins its selection by the end of July 2026 and may continue throughout the process of selection.

A nominating Member State may withdraw a candidate at any time during the process. The President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council should be notified of the withdrawal of the candidate and the candidate should be considered automatically withdrawn. If a candidate is withdrawn, the nominating Member State may subsequently nominate another candidate.

Early presentation of candidates will help the organization of informal interactive dialogues in the General Assembly and the deliberations of the Security Council; nonetheless, that should not preclude others making themselves known throughout the process, as appropriate. The Council plans to make its recommendation to the General Assembly in a timely manner so that the appointment by the Assembly allows the newly appointed Secretary-General sufficient time to prepare for the job.

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



H.E. Ms. Annalena Baerbock
President of the General Assembly



H.E. Mr. Michael Imran Kanu
President of the Security Council