

31 March 2017

Thematic debate on the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General

Excellency,

1 for 7 Billion congratulates Member States of the General Assembly on the success of their efforts to improve the selection and appointment process of the Secretary-General over the last two years. You have helped create a more open and transparent process leading to the merit-based appointment of a particularly highly qualified Secretary-General to address the challenges facing the world and the UN.

In reviewing the process, our campaign believes that it is important to consolidate and build upon the advances achieved, to maintain the momentum gained in the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (AHWG), to address outstanding issues and consider further improvements that can be made to the selection process. The forthcoming thematic debate of the AHWG on the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General on 10 April provides an excellent opportunity to do so.

As the AHWG is committed to continue thorough consideration of the selection and appointment process of the Secretary-General and other executive heads, including innovative ways to improve it, we suggest that members of the Assembly, at the 10 April debate, decide to:

- **Strongly welcome the historic advances achieved** in 2015 – 2016 towards a more transparent and inclusive process to select the Secretary-General by the adoption of selection criteria; the issuing of a joint letter by the presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council to start the process; the provision of detailed information by all candidates; and the open interactive dialogues of all candidates with all Member States as well as with civil society facilitated by the President of the General Assembly playing a proactive role. While emphasizing the need to continue to fully implement resolutions 69/321 and 70/305, members of the Assembly may wish to comment on how the dialogues with candidates can be improved and candidates be given more time to respond to questions.
- Affirm the authority of the General Assembly to set the term of appointment of the Secretary-General and to **debate in more depth the option of appointing the Secretary-General for a longer, non-renewable term of office**, which would enhance the Secretary-General's independence and capacity for effective action with full accountability to all Member States. One reason for 1 for 7 Billion's advocacy of this option, supported by previous Secretary-Generals, was that the work of a Secretary-General serving such a term would not be disrupted and her or his attention not distracted by having to campaign for re-election.
- Consider **in more depth the proposal that the Security Council propose multiple candidates** to the General Assembly from whom to appoint the Secretary-General.

- Reaffirm and press for the full and effective implementation of paragraph 45 of resolution 70/305 which calls for the highest standards in recruitment and stresses that, as a general rule, **there should be no monopoly on senior posts in the United Nations system by nationals of any State or group of States**. 1 for 7 Billion advocates merit-based appointments of the Secretary-General and of senior posts from highly qualified candidates from all regions as actions in the spirit of Article 100 of the UN Charter. The Assembly should keep the effective implementation of these provisions under close review.

Member States will no doubt review what improvements can be made to the new system including what can be done to attract even more highly qualified candidates, women among them, from all geographical regions of the world, and what steps can be taken to create a level playing field for candidates. There is also the need to consider how the new selection process applies in the event of a reappointment. 1 for 7 Billion stands ready to continue contributing to the discussions to further enhance the transparency, inclusivity and meritocracy of the new selection process.

Yours sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'William R. Pace' and the signature on the right is 'Yvonne Terlingen'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

William Pace / Yvonne Terlingen
On behalf of the 1 for 7 Billion Steering Committee

WFM-Institute for Global Policy
708 Third Avenue, Suite 1715
New York, NY, USA 10017
Email: info@instituteforglobalpolicy.org
Phone: +1 (646) 465 8510