

UNITED NATIONS



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15 December 2015

Excellency,

In line with General Assembly resolution 69/321, this joint letter serves to begin soliciting candidates and to set in motion the process of selecting and appointing the next United Nations Secretary-General, in accordance with the provisions of Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations and guided by the principles of transparency and inclusivity.

The position of Secretary-General is one of great importance 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 with proven leadership and managerial abilities, extensive experience in international relations, and strong diplomatic, communication and multilingual skills.

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 consider presenting women, as well as men, as candidates for the position of Secretary-General. We note the regional diversity in the selection of previous 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. The Presidents of the General Assembly and of the Security Council will jointly circulate to all Member States, on an ongoing basis, the names of individuals that have been submitted for consideration.

The President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council will offer candidates opportunities for informal dialogues or meetings with the members of their respective bodies, while noting that any such interaction will be without prejudice to those who do not participate. These can take place before the Council begins its selection by the end of July 2016 and may continue throughout the process of selection.

Early presentation of candidates will help the Council's deliberations; nonetheless, this should not preclude others from 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 General Assembly allows the newly appointed Secretary-General sufficient time to prepare for the job.

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



H.E Mr. Mogens Lykketoft
President of the General Assembly



H.E. Ms. Samantha Power
President of the Security Council

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