



**United Nations
Association Youth**

3 Whitehall Court
London SW1A 2EL

www.una-youth.org.uk

Open Letter to the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly

A fair and inclusive selection of the world's top diplomat

25 May 2016

Excellency,

The Secretary-General of the United Nations is a person of singular importance, tasked with representing the shared interests of the world's seven billion people. Armed with unique moral force and substantive leadership over the wide UN System, this person works in service of humanity's highest ideals of peace, prosperity and human rights for all.

The method by which the Secretary-General is selected has not, however, hitherto reflected this importance. For 70 years he has been chosen in secret, behind closed doors, at the behest of only a fraction of the UN membership. His vision, experience and ability have not ranked high among the unwritten criteria of selection, which have been governed, rather, by narrow political interests.

As young leaders of youth groups dedicated to the United Nations, we aspire to a strong and effective multilateral system where human welfare and potential can thrive. A healthy UN is indispensable to this aim, as is a strong, independent and astute head of the organisation. A more transparent and competitive selection process would be a welcome step in this direction.

For this reason we are delighted by the progress made in recent months. The open nominations process, informal dialogues and public debates enable wider sections of the UN membership, as well as civil society, to voice concerns and take part in assessing candidates. The greater prevalence of female candidates is an equally encouraging feat.

But progress does not end there. We hope the Security Council will observe with due regard the wishes expressed by so many in the unfolding reform process, by ensuring their ultimate choice or choices will have been publicly-declared candidates. A contrary action would, in undoing the practical progress made to date, severely tarnish the Security Council as a collective institution as well as the individual members responsible.

We also ask of the Security Council, in a supreme effort to make selection more akin to an inclusive, democratic process, to refer more than a single candidate for consideration by the General Assembly. While ensuring the Council retains its crucial role in the process, this would strengthen the Secretary-General's mandate by virtue of election by the full UN membership. As it stands, the General Assembly's passive endorsement of the Council's choice does not accurately reflect the role that the Charter accords to the Assembly.

We finally ask, furthermore, of the General Assembly, that it consider in earnest appointing its choice of candidate for a single, non-renewable term of extended length. Rather than providing for a constructive mechanism of accountability, the existing practice of appointing Secretaries-General for renewable terms hampers their independence, a key prerequisite for the fulfilment of their duties.

While at present there may be limited appetite for genuine reform, history will judge these efforts favourably. We hope you will take action towards positive outcomes.

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



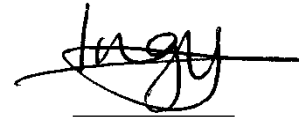
Dalí ten Hove
UNA Youth



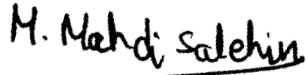
András Melles
Aberdeen University Model United Nations



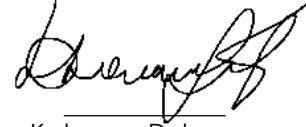
Mehr Nigar
Liverpool Model United Nations



Ingy Badawy
Aston University Model United Nations and Debating Society



Salehin Mohammed Mahdi
Bath University Model United Nations Society



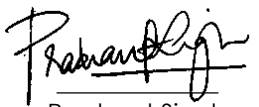
Kateryna Dubrova
University of Birmingham United Nations Society



Laura Nicoll
De Montfort University Model United Nations



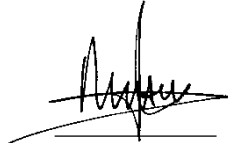
Josh Francis
University of Bristol Model United Nations



Prashant Singh
Brunel Model United Nations Society



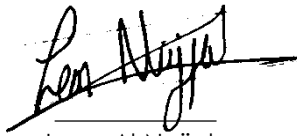
Sartaj Haque
BPP University United Nations Association



Muqqaddam Malik
University of East Anglia Model United Nations Society



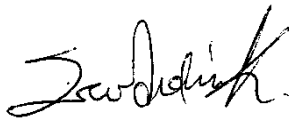
Martha Kubinieć
United Nations Society: Cardiff University



Leen Al-Najjab
Reading University Model United Nations Society



Paulietis Stasiulevicius
Warwick Model United Nations Society



Styliani Kontou
University of Essex Model United Nations Society



Rupankit Saha
University of Exeter Model United Nations Society



Conor Keir
University of Dundee Model United Nations Society



Nil Bozkurt
Imperial College Model United Nations



Miklós Dürr
Durham University United Nations Society



Jonas Rosales
Hult Model United Nations Society

Silje Olsson

Kent Model United Nations Society

Hong Chong Wen

King's College London United Nations Association

Ali Gardiner

Lancaster University Model United Nations Society

Christopher Crabbe

Cambridge University United Nations Association

Christie Deng

London School of Economics United Nations Society

Sara Heddi

Manchester Model United Nations Society

Eleanor Bennett

University of Nottingham United Nations Society

Matthew Benjamin

Oxford University United Nations Association

Matej Lovrenovic

University of Surrey Model United Nations Society

Evangelos Hatatsis

Queen Mary Model United Nations Society

Charlie Shimmins

Queen's University Belfast Model United Nations

Emily Williams

Royal Holloway Diplomatic Society

Evelyn Mantoiu

United Nations Association – University of Sheffield

Emiliano Cortes Morichetti

Leicester University United Nations Society

Matthew Albon

Southampton University Model United Nations

Philip Smit

St Andrews Model United Nations Society

Bendeguz Kassai

University of Sussex Model United Nations Society

Francisco Gimeno

Westminster Model United Nations Society

Miro Plückebaum

York United Nations Association

Kyle Lewis Jordan

University College London Model United Nations