

A fair, open and inclusive process to select the best UN Secretary-General

Resolution by UNA-UK adopted at WFUNA's 41st Plenary Assembly

Summary

UNA-UK co-founded [1 for 7 Billion](#) - a global movement campaigning for a fair, open and inclusive process to select the UN Secretary-General. The campaign is getting results; the UN General Assembly recently passed a landmark resolution (GA Res 69/321) to improve the process. UNA-UK is now looking to all UN member states to ensure not only that this resolution is implemented in time to select the next Secretary-General in 2016, but that further key reforms, notably a longer, non-renewable term of office for the Secretary-General, are considered.

The support of United Nations Associations across the world is crucial for three reasons: to apply pressure on governments around the world to speak up for a fairer process; to mobilise civil society, the media and national legislatures to provide scrutiny of candidates and their visions; and to increase public awareness and understanding of how a better Secretary-General could lead to a more effective United Nations.

Preambular clauses of the draft resolution

The 41st Plenary Assembly of the World Federation of United Nations Associations,

Recognises that the Secretary-General of the United Nations is the Organization's foremost advocate who has a critical role to play in driving forward the UN's agenda on peace and security, human rights and development;

Asserts that appointing the best possible candidate for the position of UN Secretary-General, irrespective of background, would have a positive impact on the fulfilment of the UN's purposes and principles, improving the lives of the world's seven billion people; and that the primary consideration in making the appointment should be the qualities of the candidates and their ability to further the UN's agenda; but that all other factors being equal, it is high time for a woman to be appointed after seven decades of men in post;

Recalls the active role assigned by the UN Charter to all member states in selecting the Secretary-General, complemented by UN General Assembly Resolution 69/321, through which all UN member states have committed to an improved selection process incorporating: increased dialogue with candidates; a timeline for candidate nominations; a circulated list of selection criteria; and encouragement of female candidates.

Operational clauses of the draft resolution

UNA-UK calls on all United Nations Associations to:

Urge their governments to support swift and robust implementation of the reforms they have committed to through Resolution 69/321;

Urge their governments to support two reform proposals which have not yet been agreed upon: a single, non-renewable term of office to ensure that the next UN Secretary-General is freed from the constraints of seeking re-election; and the recommendation of more than one candidate by the UN Security Council;

Stimulate debate in national legislatures, holding governments to account for the commitments they have made at the General Assembly and urging them to support the nomination of the most qualified candidates;

Work with civil society partners and the media to ensure civil society engagement with, and public scrutiny of, candidates and their visions for the role of UN Secretary-General;

Work with civil society partners to raise public awareness of the importance of getting an effective Secretary-General, using the outreach tools developed by UNA-UK and the 1 for 7 Billion campaign.