

To: Experts on Revitalization of the General Assembly

Third Thematic Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Revitalization of the General Assembly: Selection and Appointment of the Secretary-General - 16 April 2018

10 April 2018

During its General Debate of 20 February over two thirds of UN Member States emphasized the need to solidify and consolidate the major improvements the General Assembly made during its 70<sup>th</sup> and 71<sup>st</sup> session to provide a more open, transparent and inclusive process to select the UN Secretary-General. The 1 for 7 Billion campaign welcomes and underlines the timeliness of this important commitment. We also appreciate the pertinent proposals made by a range of Member States in the course of the debate to capture the lessons learned, to address outstanding issues, and to further strengthen the selection process.

As you are preparing for the 16 April thematic debate, our worldwide NGO campaign advocating an open, transparent and inclusive selection process is writing to you to urge the Ad Hoc Working Group of the General Assembly on Revitalization (AHWG) **to adopt a resolution that strongly welcomes and specifies the historic advances made, that confirms their application to future selection processes, that addresses outstanding issues and that further strengthens the selection process.**

The General Assembly has adopted historic new measures for the selection process in resolution 69/321, which have yet to be consolidated. The following year, the then President of the General Assembly described the formal selection process and scope for further improvement in his [13 September 2016 letter to the Security Council](#), conveyed the same date to members of the General Assembly. In our [letter to Member States of 16 March](#) we outlined specific elements of the new process that we urge to be consolidated for future selection processes and in [our letter of 8 February](#) we addressed outstanding issues and specific proposals to further strengthen the selection process of the Secretary-General.

Although the AHWG now has a range of issues on its agenda, **we request that the AHWG will give priority to consolidating the selection process.** Time is pressing: the next Secretary-General will already be selected in 2021 or the sitting Secretary-General may then seek re-appointment. In the latter case, it is important to confirm that the principles of the new process equally apply, although their application warrants further discussion including to allow a sitting Secretary-General to effectively carry out his or her duties.

In short, we urge AHWG members to consolidate the new process in this year's resolution, to review lessons learned and to address outstanding issues, which should include: clarifying the process of nominating and withdrawing candidacies; setting a deadline for presenting candidates; requesting the Security Council to publish the outcome of straw polls and updating the Secretary-General's Oath of Office. We also urge the AHWG to hold an in-depth debate on the proposal - supported by previous Secretaries-General, a range of Member

States and our campaign - that the Secretary-General be appointed for [a longer, single term of office](#). The AHWG should also consider the longstanding proposal to request the Security Council to present multiple candidates to the General Assembly. Considering the Assembly's and our campaign's longstanding concern that there should be [no monopoly on senior posts](#) in the United Nations system by nationals of any State or group of States, we note that the practice continues. We urge the AHWG to closely review the full implementation of resolution 71/323, which requires observing the highest standards of recruitment to senior posts without exercise of a monopoly.

We will be glad to provide further information.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of William R Pace and Yvonne Terlingen.

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](mailto:info@instituteforglobalpolicy.org)  
Phone: +1 (646) 465 8510