



22 December 2020

H.E. Mr. Jerry Matjila
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of South Africa
President of the Security Council
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

Selection and appointment of the Secretary-General for the term beginning on 1 January, 2022

Excellency,

I am writing on behalf of the Accountability Coherence and Transparency group (ACT)*. Our group which is comprised of 25 Member States coming from every regional group, firmly believes that accountability, coherence and transparency are principles that make every organization stronger. We therefore have a strong interest in, and will continue to engage actively in promoting increased transparency and inclusiveness in the working methods and selection processes within the United Nations.

There is no more important selection process in our organization than that of the UN Secretary-General. Not only because of the significance of the mandate, but also due to the unique provisions for the appointment as outlined in Article 97 of the UN Charter, which accord an active role for the General Assembly.

ACT welcomes the historic progress achieved by the General Assembly and the Security Council in 2015-2016, and is now focused on ensuring that the relevant reforms and standards are consolidated and further strengthened.

We specifically note the need for timely action as we reach this moment in the cycle as on 15 December— that 5 years ago saw the circulation of a joint letter from the Presidents of the General Assembly and Security Council outlining the selection process.

Mindful of the need to outline a transparent and inclusive selection process as called for by the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, we would value your timely engagement Excellency, together with the President of the General Assembly, to ensure this upcoming selection process meets at the very minimum the standards of transparency and General Assembly involvement set in 2015/16 and enshrined in the General Assembly resolutions 69/321, 70/305 and 73/341. ACT remains fully at your disposal to explore ways how to further improve that process.

Therefore, Excellency, we would value your timely contribution together with the President of the General Assembly, to ensure this upcoming selection process lives up to the positive standards set in 2015/16. A similar letter has also been to the President of the General Assembly for his consideration.

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

Maritza Chan
Ambassador, Chargé d'affaires
Permanent Mission of Costa Rica

Marie-Louise Koch Wegter
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative

*ACT Group members: Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Gabon, Ghana, Hungary, Ireland, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Maldives, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Portugal, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, and Uruguay.