

15 March 2016

Excellency,

During the last session of the *Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly*, 193 Member States negotiated a historic resolution to improve the selection process for the UN Secretary-General. Many of the reforms outlined in resolution 69/321 are now in the process of implementation, setting the stage for a selection process that is more transparent and inclusive than ever before.

Nonetheless, as indicated by that resolution, there remain compelling proposals which require further attention by the *Ad Hoc Working Group* this year. In particular, the *1 for 7 Billion* campaign believes that two issues must be addressed before the next Secretary-General assumes the post: the proposals to appoint the Secretary-General to a single, non-renewable term of longer duration, and to request that the Security Council recommend more than one candidate to the General Assembly for it to consider. The *Ad Hoc Working Group's* thematic debate on the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General on 22 March is a critical opportunity for Member States to further strengthen the office of Secretary-General before the UN's next leader is appointed.

On 29 February, the co-chairs of the *Ad Hoc Working Group* convened an informal session for Member States to exchange views on these proposals. During that session, speakers on behalf of more than 145 countries—a vast majority of Member States—expressed the view that the single term proposal merited further consideration. More than two-thirds of the UN's membership called on the Security Council to recommend multiple candidates to the General Assembly.

As set out in our paper, a single, non-renewable, longer term would strengthen the Secretary-General's ability to perform her or his highly complex global leadership responsibilities in a rapidly changing world. Moreover, the recommendation of multiple candidates for the General Assembly to choose from would ensure that all Member States play a meaningful and democratic role in the appointment process.

Furthermore, *1 for 7 Billion* remains concerned about the practice of certain veto-carrying members of the Security Council extracting promises from candidates on entitlements to senior UN positions in exchange for support of their candidacy. This practice, which was also noted in reports of the *Ad Hoc Working Group* and the Joint Inspection Unit, contravenes the letter and spirit of Article 100 of the Charter and undermines the transparent and inclusive selection process adopted by all Member States last year.

Ahead of the 22 March debate, we hope that all Member States will carefully study and speak out in support of these proposals, which we believe will significantly enhance the independence, legitimacy, and effectiveness of the office of Secretary-General. The United Nations—and the seven billion people it serves—deserve nothing less.

Yours sincerely,  
The *1 for 7 Billion* campaign

Contact

William Pace / Yvonne Terlingen  
Members of the *1 for 7 Billion* Steering Committee  
WFM-Institute for Global Policy  
Email: [info@instituteforglobalpolicy.org](mailto:info@instituteforglobalpolicy.org)  
Phone: +1 (646) 465 8520