



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.: General
17 December 2015

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 120

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Security Council
Seventieth year

Letter dated 15 December 2015 from the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council addressed to all Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations

In line with General Assembly resolution 69/321, the present joint letter serves to begin soliciting candidates and to set in motion the process of selecting and appointing the next Secretary-General of the United Nations, in accordance with the provisions of Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations and guided by the principles of transparency and inclusivity.

The position of Secretary-General is one of great importance that requires the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and a firm commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. We invite candidates to be presented who have proven leadership and managerial abilities, extensive experience in international relations and strong diplomatic, communication and multilingual skills.

Convinced of the need to guarantee equal opportunities for women and men in gaining access to senior decision-making positions, Member States are encouraged to consider presenting women, as well as men, as candidates for the position of Secretary-General. We note the regional diversity in the selection of previous Secretaries-General.

Noting that some candidates have already emerged, we invite Member States presenting candidates to do so in a letter to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council. The Presidents of the Assembly and of the Council will jointly circulate to all Member States, on an ongoing basis, the names of individuals who have been submitted for consideration.

The President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council will offer candidates opportunities for informal dialogues or meetings with the members of their respective bodies, while noting that any such interaction will be without prejudice to those who do not participate. The informal dialogues or



meetings can be held before the Council begins its selection by the end of July 2016 and may continue throughout the process of selection.

Early presentation of candidates will help the deliberations of the Security Council; nonetheless, that should not preclude others making themselves known throughout the process, as appropriate. The Council plans to make its recommendation to the General Assembly in a timely manner so that the appointment by the Assembly allows the newly appointed Secretary-General sufficient time to prepare for the job.

(Signed) Mogens **Lykketoft**
President of the General Assembly

(Signed) Samantha **Power**
President of the Security Council
