



Organization name: 1 for 8 Billion

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Chapeau

(Add your concise, concrete, and action-oriented language for the Chapeau)

From climate collapse to intensifying conflict, the United Nations has formidable challenges on its plate. As the only person who can represent the entire UN system, an effective Secretary-General can play a major role in shaping the UN's agenda, mediating between countries and speaking as the moral conscience of the world.

The Secretary-General's role has expanded rapidly in scope, importance and profile since the UN was created in 1945. She or he is uniquely placed to provide global leadership. She or he has powers to prevent wars through mediation, build partnerships with NGOs and businesses and urge governments to fulfil their global responsibilities on the environment, development and human rights.

A Secretary-General can save lives. The next Secretary-General selection process will be critical - we need the best possible person for the job: a highly-qualified and visionary leader, equipped to deal with the world's crises.

Until 2015, the Secretary-General was chosen in secret, by just five countries that hold permanent seats on the Security Council. It was an opaque and outdated process which the rest of the UN's membership had to rubber-stamp. Subsequent reforms have made important progress, including a public list of candidates and their respective vision statements.

However, further reform is urgently required. A more open and inclusive selection process, with better structure and genuine involvement by all UN Member States and civil society, increases the chances of appointing the Secretary-General the world needs and could give future Secretaries-General a stronger mandate. That in turn would boost their ability to mobilise support for the UN and drive forward its agenda. A better process would also help to revitalise the UN, enhance its effectiveness and credibility, and reaffirm its global authority and popular appeal.

(see Chapter 5 for specific proposals)

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 1)

Chapter II. International peace and security

(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 2)

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 3)

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 4)

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 5)

The next Secretary-General selection process will be critical - we need the best possible person for the job: a highly-qualified and visionary leader, equipped to deal with the world's crises. The current process continues to fall short of the UN's own principles, basic recruitment standards and current practice at other international organisations:

- There is no timetable for the appointment process
- The Security Council's "shortlist" for the General Assembly contains just one name
- Backroom deals are struck between states and candidates
- No woman has ever held the post

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States should build on the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group and use the Pact for the Future as an opportunity to note the importance of a fair, open inclusive forthcoming Secretary-General Selection Process. Specific ideas for inclusion include committing to:

- **A well structured process:** inc. a start date agreed ASAP and a clear timetable for the process with sufficient time for a rigorous process (15 months minimum)

- **Civil society participation:** Building on the inclusion in the 2016 and 2021 processes, states should work with civil society to identify candidates and bring them into the race. All candidates should engage with civil society and the media.
- **Financial disclosures:** All candidates should disclose the extent and source of all funding related to their candidatures along with any other information relevant to possible conflicts of interest
- **General Assembly choice:** The General Assembly should have a greater say. It should request the Security Council to present two or more candidates for the General Assembly to consider
- **Female SG / progressive nominations:** States should only consider nominating female candidates and work together to jointly nominate (including individuals who are not their nationals).
- **No deals on top jobs:** States should desist from extracting promises from candidates and likewise candidates should refrain from making any such promise
- **Well-qualified candidates:** The next SG must oversee the successor to the SDGs & be well equipped to advocate for action to address climate change, conflict, human rights abuses & tech concerns.
- **Transparency at every step:** The Presidents of the SC and GA should keep the public well-informed of the process; there should be an end to the secret Security Council straw polls.
- **Contingency planning:** A clear protocol should be established for what happens if an SG's is unable to complete their term of office

More details can be found at www.1for8billion.org