



To the President of the Security Council for
the month of June 2015
H.E. Mr. Ramlan Bin Ibrahim
Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the
United Nations
New York

Sent by fax: +1 917 367 0406

New York, 01.06.2015

Selection and Appointment of the next Secretary-General of the United Nations

Excellency,

I am writing on behalf of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group (ACT). The group comprising of 27 Member States* coming from every regional group, believes that accountability, coherence and transparency are the principles that make every organization stronger and more efficient, those principles – if followed – create wider inclusiveness and ownership that will have a positive impact to the overall performance of every conceivable international body. Therefore ACT would like to engage actively in promoting increased transparency and inclusiveness in working methods and election processes at the United Nations, particularly in the Security Council.

Having that in mind I would like to – in my capacity as Coordinator of ACT – draw your attention to proposals by the group on the appointment of the next Secretary-General of the United Nations due next year.

ACT believes that more rigorous process and more transparency are welcomed in selecting the next chief of the Organization to represent all of us. We believe that transparent and inclusive decision making has much bigger potential for the best possible outcome than a concealed process with exclusive participation. We think that in the UN system, there are number of processes that need to be scrutinized in order to make them more open. Therefore we have formulated proposals on the selection and appointment of the next Secretary-General which are attached to this letter.

In our proposal we acknowledge the relevant Charter provisions and relevant General Assembly resolutions on the appointment process. The principle, according to which the candidatures for the post of Secretary-General of the UN are first discussed within the Security Council and then recommended to General Assembly, could in our view remain unchanged.

ACT recommends starting the nomination process in an open and transparent manner with a joint letter by the Presidents of the Security Council and of the General Assembly, inviting UN Member States to present nominations for the post of Secretary-General of the UN. The joint letter should fix a deadline by when the nominations need to be submitted. In our view to assure sufficient time for all the considerations, now is the time to start the process. We believe that at the conclusion of the nomination process, a joint Security Council/General Assembly document should be issued containing the names and nationalities of the candidates in alphabetical order with the CVs in annex. The document should also outline the ensuing steps and indicative timelines in order to make the process more structured and foreseeable.

We would value your contribution, Excellency, in initiating the discussions at the Security Council on these proposals and together with the President of the General Assembly in making the nomination process more structured with an established timeline. A similar letter is sent by ACT to the President of the General Assembly for his consideration.

I kindly ask you to circulate this letter to the members of the Security Council and to issue it as a document of the Council.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Seger', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul Seger
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the UN

*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, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania and Uruguay.