



H.E. Mr. Sam Kahamba Kutesa
President of the 69th session of the
General Assembly
United Nations
New York

Sent by fax: +1 212 963 3301

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.

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 General Assembly and of the Security Council, inviting UN Member States to present nominations for the post of Secretary-General of the UN. The joint letter should fix a deadline 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 General Assembly/Security Council 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, together with the President of the Security Council in making the nomination process more structured with an established timeline. A similar letter is sent by ACT to the President of the Security Council for his consideration.

I kindly ask you to circulate this letter to the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Seger', with a large, sweeping initial 'P'.

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.