



Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly

27 April 2015

WFM-IGP Meeting Record



Member States, etc.	Open Hearings/ Dialogue with Candidates	Criteria or “Best Practices” in Other International Appointments	More than One Candidate	Term Length	Role for PGA	Active Role for GA	Gender Equality	Region	Timeline/ Deadlines	Promises/ Entitlement
Algeria (for NAM)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Argentina	Yes	Yes	Yes	--	--	Yes	Yes	Yes	--	--
Belarus (in NAM)	Yes	‘Do not rule out criteria’	--	Yes	--	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	--
Brazil	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	--	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Canada	Yes	Yes	--	--	Yes	--	--	Yes	--	--
China	--	--	--	--	--	No	--	--	--	--
Colombia (in NAM)	Yes	Yes	Yes	--	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	--	--
Costa Rica (ACT)	Yes	--	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	--	Yes	--
Cuba (in NAM)	--	--	--	--	--	Yes	Yes	--	--	--
Cyprus	Yes	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Czech Republic	--	--	--	Yes	Yes	--	Yes	Yes	Yes	--



Member States, etc.	Open Hearings/ Dialogue with Candidates	Criteria or “Best Practices” in Other International Appointments	More than One Candidate	Term Length	Role for PGA	Active Role for GA	Gender Equality	Region	Timeline/ Deadlines	Promises/ Entitlement
Ecuador (for CELAC)	Yes	--	--	Yes	--	Yes	Yes	--	--	--
Estonia (ACT, EU)	Yes	Yes	--	‘Sees merit’	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	--
European Union	--	--	--	--	Yes	--	Yes	Yes	--	--
Finland (in ACT)	Yes	--	--	--	--	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	--
France (P-5)	Arria-Formula meetings in SC	--	--	--	Yes	--	Yes	--	--	--
Germany	Yes	Yes	--	--	--	--	Yes	Yes	--	--
Guatemala (in NAM)	Yes	Yes	--	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	--	--	--
Hungary (in ACT)	Yes	Yes	--	--	--	--	Yes	Yes	--	--
India (in NAM)	Yes	Yes	Yes	--	--	Yes	Yes	Yes	--	Yes



Member States, etc.	Open Hearings/ Dialogue with Candidates	Criteria or “Best Practices” in Other International Appointments	More than One Candidate	Term Length	Role for PGA	Active Role for GA	Gender Equality	Region	Timeline/ Deadlines	Promises/ Entitlement
Indonesia (in NAM)	Yes	--	Yes	--	--	Yes	Yes	Yes	--	--
Japan	Not for all states	--	--	--	--	--	Yes	Yes	--	--
Liechtenstein (in ACT)	Yes	--	--	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	--
Malaysia (in NAM)	Yes	--	Yes	‘Takes Note’	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	--
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	Yes	--	--	Yes	--
Moldova (Eastern Europe)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Yes	--	--
Morocco (in NAM)	Yes	Yes	--	--	--	Yes	Yes	Yes	--	--
Nicaragua (in NAM)	‘informational meetings’	--	Yes	--	--	Yes	--	--	--	--
Philippines (in NAM)	--	--	Yes	--	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	--
Russia (P-5)	No	--	--	--	--	No	No	--	No	--
Thailand (in NAM)	Yes	--	--	--	Yes	--	Yes	--	--	--
United Kingdom (P-5)	Yes	--	--	--	--	--	Yes	--	Yes	--
United States (P-5)	No	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	No	--



Key

Open Hearings/Dialogue with Candidates: The statement supported or opposed proposals which would allow for greater interaction between Member States and candidates for Secretary-General, including hearings with candidates in which all Member States could participate.

Criteria or “Best Practices” in Other International Appointments: The statement supported or opposed the proposal that selection criteria for the position of Secretary-General be established, *and/or* supported or opposed the idea that the best practices established in the appointment procedures for other high-level international appointments—such as judges for the International Criminal Court or the executive heads of the UN’s system organizations—should be applied to the appointment procedures for the UN Secretary-General.

More than One Candidate: The statement supported or opposed the proposal that the Security Council recommend more than one candidate to the General Assembly for it to consider. Currently, the Security Council recommends one candidate to the General Assembly.

Term Length: The statement supported or opposed the proposal that the length of the term of appointment of the Secretary-General be reconsidered. This category includes proposals to extend the length of the Secretary-General’s term as well as proposals regarding a single, non-renewable term. Currently, the Secretary-General is appointed for a five year renewable term.

Role for PGA: The statement supported or opposed the proposal that the President of the General Assembly could play a role in the selection and appointment of the UN Secretary-General. This category includes statements which called for the President of the General Assembly to take specific actions, such as writing a joint letter with the President of the Security Council inviting candidate nominations.

Active Role for GA: The statement supported or opposed an active role for the General Assembly in the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General. The category stems from the perception by many Member States that the General Assembly has become a “rubber stamp” for the Security Council’s decision.

Gender Equality: The statement supported or opposed the proposal that greater attention be paid to gender equality when appointing the Secretary-General. At this time, there has never been a female Secretary-General. [see the following note]

Region: The statement supported or opposed the consideration of a candidate’s region when appointing the Secretary-General. Many Member States would argue that the selection process already uses an informal regional rotation scheme. [see the following note]

Timeline/ Deadlines: The statement supported or opposed establishing a formal timeline for the appointment process. This category includes statements which called for strict deadlines to be implemented for candidate nominations, and/or at other stages in the process.

Promises/Entitlement: The statement referred to the practice in which candidates for Secretary-General are pressured to promise high-level positions in the UN Secretariat to the nationals of certain countries in exchange for support of their candidacy. [see the following note]



A Note on the Summarization of Member State Positions

During the 27 April 2015 debate, Member States varied in how they described their concerns about the current appointment process, as well as in their approach to and level of support for specific reform proposals. Of course, no summary can replace the full text of a statement. Instead, the preceding chart is intended as a guide to inform the public about the issues under discussion in this important debate.

For the sake of brevity, “yes” on the preceding chart indicates that the speaker raised a subject during the debate and suggested that it could or should be addressed. For instance, while some states called for the immediate implementation of certain proposals, others suggested that a proposal ought to be considered by the Ad Hoc Working Group specifically or by Member States more broadly. Still others noted that there was value in a particular proposal or that they were not opposed to a proposal. Where possible, these nuances have been reflected in the chart itself.

In instances where various proposals were suggested to achieve the same goal, they have been bundled into a single category on the chart. For instance, a speaker who encouraged Member States to nominate female candidates and a speaker who called for preference to be given to equally-qualified female candidates during the appointment process would both be marked with a “yes” under “***Gender Equality***”.

Similarly, in the “***Region***” category, while a “yes” indicates that regional representation was identified as a contributing factor in the selection of a candidate, speakers differed in how they envisioned the regional background of the candidates playing a role in the selection process. Some speakers expressed support for regional representation through a strict rotation scheme, in which each region would receive a “turn” for nationals of its Member States to be considered. Others indicated that there should be “geographic balance” in the appointment—Secretaries-General should hail from all regions—or that geographic region could be a deciding factor between equally qualified candidates.

In the case of “***Promises/Entitlements***,” a “yes” indicates that the speaker raised concerns about the way in which other high level positions, including Under Secretary-Generals are identified and appointed, either by noting that office holders of certain positions have repeatedly been nationals of the same country or by suggesting that this trend is the result of promises made by candidates for Secretary-General to Member States in exchange for their support.