

## **The UN Secretary-General represents seven billion people. But just five countries hold sway over a decision that affects us all.**

The UN Secretary-General is called upon daily to fulfil seemingly impossible and disparate tasks: to mediate and prevent conflict, to urge and persuade governments to heed their global responsibilities both in times of crisis and peace, and to build constructive partnerships with civil society to transform ideas into action. The UN – and the international community – deserves a highly competent manager, a respected and impartial mediator, and a charismatic and visionary adviser. **The process to fill the world’s most ‘impossible’ – and important – job must be worthy of the post itself: a process that allows for due consideration of the world’s most extraordinary women and men.**

While the role of the Secretary-General has significantly evolved, the process of selecting the UN’s top post has largely remained unchanged: defined by secretive practices and effectively placed in the hands of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. There is no deadline for nominations, no candidate shortlist, and no opportunity for civil society or most UN member states to interact with candidates. There is not even a real job description.

### **WHO WE ARE**

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From climate change to conflict resolution, to championing our most essential human rights, the next Secretary-General will implement key UN decisions that affect us all. The **1 for 7 Billion** campaign calls for a fair, open, and inclusive selection process to make sure the best person is chosen for the job.

Our campaign is guided by an informal steering committee, which consists of Avaaz, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York, United Nations Association-UK, and the World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy. More information is available online at [1for7billion.org](http://1for7billion.org).

### **WHAT WE WANT**

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1 for 7 Billion advocates for an open and inclusive selection process that aims to appoint the best possible Secretary-General. **The 1 for 7 Billion campaign does not endorse individual candidates.** Instead, we advocate for a process that gives all candidates a fair chance to present their views and demonstrate their skills for the position.

Our supporters believe that a better selection process would be grounded in seven common-sense principles, such as transparency, inclusiveness, and merit-basis. Based on these principles, we suggest ten reforms to help identify and appoint the strongest candidate. These include selection criteria, a public timetable for the selection process, and a series of open sessions for UN member states, civil society, and the general public to engage with candidates.

As candidacies for Secretary-General become public, personalities begin to overtake the process—and reform becomes politically difficult. With the next Secretary-General set to be appointed in 2016, 1 for 7 Billion aims to lay the foundation for a better process now, **before the search officially begins.**

### *1 for 7 Billion Campaign Supporters*

Amnesty International	Zarga Organization for Rural Development	Institute for Advocacy in Africa (IAA)
African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)		Center for Development of International Law
Baha'i International Community	Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect	Youth Action for Development, YAD
International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)	FemLINK Pacific	Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies
Avaaz	Red Latinoamericana de Acogimiento Familiar	NAWO - National Alliance of Women's Organisations (UK)
Arab NGO Network for Development	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)	Social Watch
International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)	Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy	Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
Association of World Citizens (AWC)	Center for Bangladesh Studies	Global Justice Center
CIVICUS	Africa Disability Inclusive Society (ADIS)	International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges (IAAI)
World Federation of United Nations Associations United Nations Association – UK (On behalf of over 100 UN Associations worldwide)	Alignment for Dignity	Humanity Strong
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung - New York	Birches Group LLC	Nepal Grassroots Development Forum
Parliamentarians for Global Action	Present Purpose Network	Oxford Islamic Information Centre
World Federalist Movement - Institute for Global Policy (On behalf of 26 national and associated member organizations)	Campaign for Earth Federation	Changement Social Bénin (C S Bénin)
Third World Network	Child Rights International Network – CRIN	United Humanity
Forum-Asia	Committee for a Democratic U.N.	Rideau Institute on International Affairs
Equality Now	ConnectJustice	Darfur Center for Peace Studies & Transitional Justices
Conectas	Espolea	Citizens for Global Solutions
Control Arms	Future United Nations Development System Project (FUNDS)	Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press
Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)	Gender and Mine Action Programme	Youth Partnership for Peace and Development (YPPD) Liberia
Global Policy Forum	Global Memo	Present Purpose Network
International Peace Bureau	IMPACT CREATORS (IC)	Yayasan Tambuhak Sinta
Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)	Sentinel Human Rights Defenders	
Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)		