



11 April, 2016
MEDIA ADVISORY

Campaign for next UN Secretary-General

In a historic development, the United Nations General Assembly will hold open meetings this week, from April 12 to 14, at which eight declared candidates for the position of UN Secretary-General will meet and answer questions from 193 member states. The meetings with candidates will be [webcast](#).

The meetings are part of a new more transparent process for selecting the Secretary-General, a process that for the first 70 years of the organization's history was held behind closed doors and dominated by the views of the permanent members of the Security Council. The new process includes prior publication of candidacies, a clear timetable for the selection process, the candidate meetings with member states, and also with media and civil society.

Candidate biographies and additional information are available at the [UN web site](#) and also the [1 for 7 Billion campaign](#).

Most of the declared candidates are from Eastern Europe. There is a tradition of rotation of the post among representatives from the world's regions. However, that tradition is also coming under question. Two of the current eight candidates (Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and Antonio Guterres from Portugal) are from outside Eastern Europe.

There is a strong movement to elect, for the first time in UN history, a woman as Secretary-General. Four of the eight declared candidates are women.

Additional candidacies, and another round of General Assembly meetings, are likely to arise later this spring.

For more information:

1 for 7 Billion campaign:

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