

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

www.UNSGselection.org

The following questions are intended to elicit information on your qualifications, vision, and priority goals as a Secretary-General candidate. In formulating this questionnaire, we have given consideration to areas of particular concern to global civil society groups. The questionnaire also reflects the selection criteria developed by the UNSGselection.org campaign. *For more information on the campaign, see www.UNSGselection.org.*

1. **Overview:** In what ways have your past experiences, positions, and duties promoted or demonstrated a commitment to the principles of the United Nations?
2. **Peace and Security:** In the past two decades, the UN's peacekeeping operations have grown to become one of its largest and most prominent functions. What aspects of the current debate on peacekeeping, as reflected, *inter alia*, in the Brahimi Report on Peacekeeping Operations, are especially important for creating more accountable and effective forces in addressing the most severe challenges to peacekeeping and peacebuilding?
3. **Protecting Civilians:** The UN Charter opens with, "We the peoples of the United Nations," yet the organization remains a primarily intergovernmental body. The UN Secretary-General therefore is responsible to both the citizens of the world and the Member States. Where is the threshold between the UN's (and the Secretary-General's) obligations to protect civilian populations and to respect national sovereignty?
4. **Human Rights:** The current Secretary-General has written, "[The framers of the UN Charter] decided to create an organization to ensure respect for fundamental human rights, establish conditions under which justice and the rule of law could be maintained, and 'promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.'" During the past ten years, the Secretary-General has initiated and supported substantial reform of the UN's human rights machinery in order that human rights could be given its rightful institutional emphasis as one of the three pillars of the United Nations. If you were selected as the next Secretary-General, what specific steps would you take to follow through on these processes?
5. **Development:** What are the main elements of an effective development strategy, and in which areas should ECOSOC, as opposed to international financial institutions, play a leading role? What specific role should the Secretary-General play in promoting the development agenda?
6. **Governance:** Given the current criticism of the UN for a lack of transparency, accountability and democracy, what are the key opportunities in the UN system for increased democratic governance, allowing all actors – Member States, international

organizations, and NGOs – fair representation while ensuring effective decision-making?

7. **Gender:** How can the UN better promote gender equality and women’s human rights, both at the Secretariat and at the operational level? What specifically would you do to strengthen both the gender mainstreaming efforts at the UN as well as the gender “architecture,” i.e. the agencies charged with advancing gender equality and women’s human rights? How do you envision reaching the UN goal of 50/50 gender balance in the Secretariat?
8. **International Justice:** How will you support and strengthen the UN’s and Member States’ commitment to international justice mechanisms such as international criminal tribunals, including the International Criminal Court (ICC)?
9. **Environment:** How can the UN provide more comprehensive and coherent management and monitoring of the multilateral environmental agreements? How can the UN strengthen a sustainable development-oriented agenda throughout both the Secretariat and at the country level?
10. **Disarmament and non-proliferation:** What institutional changes are needed within the United Nations, in particular with respect to the role of the Secretariat, to improve the capacity to respond to global challenges posed by nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, missiles and other means of their delivery, and the risk of their acquisition by terrorists?
11. **UN Reform:** The UN has been involved in reform discussions for the past two years. What do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of the current Secretary-General’s reform recommendations (i.e. “In Larger Freedom,” March 2005)? What are the most important reforms, and what role should the Secretary-General play in promoting those reforms?
12. **UN Leadership Roles:** How would you distinguish between the roles of the Secretary-General and the Deputy SG? What qualifications would you look for in a candidate for DSG? Do you already have anyone in mind for the post?
13. **South versus North – Mediating Role of Secretary General:** Progress on key issues is often undermined by tension between developed and developing countries. What role can the Secretary-General play in addressing that divide? What experience do you have that would aid you in the considerable task of achieving the compromises and building the consensus necessary for meaningful action?
14. **Role of NGOs/Civil Society:** What role should civil society and other non-state stakeholders play in the work of the UN? Do you support a greater consultative role for NGOs in intergovernmental decision-making processes, or a decreased role? What measures should a Secretary General take to improve UN-civil society relations?