
December 8, 2006

Mr. Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General-designate
c/o Ambassador Choi Young-jin
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the U.N.
335 East 45th Street
New York, New York 10017


Dear Mr. Ban,

Congratulations once again on your appointment as the next Secretary-General of the United Nations last month. As you may know, the World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy this year organized a campaign for a more democratic, transparent and effective selection process. During that campaign, 14 organizations joined us in writing to the Security Council and the General Assembly to advocate for the appointment of the most qualified candidate, based on substantial improvements in the selection process.

I am writing to you today to suggest that as the next Secretary-General, one of the most important actions you can take is to establish provisions for the appropriate selection of high-level officials throughout the UN system. In particular, I would strongly urge you to appoint your top officials – including the Deputy Secretary-General, Under Secretaries-General, Assistant Secretaries-General and other key posts – based on finding the most qualified individuals from different backgrounds and regions, and not on reciprocal agreements of any kind. This will ensure that you are supported by a team of unbiased, expert advisors throughout your term.

Moreover, the entire UN system would benefit from your enunciating the procedures you employ in selecting and appointing individuals to the most important posts, including making your criteria transparent.

In my capacity as the director of the WFM-IGP, I direct programs on the Responsibility to Protect, international democratic governance, and genocide prevention. In these areas, we promote better international cooperation, stronger regimes of international law, and more equitable participation by small and middle-power countries and peoples in addressing the problems that affect them. We are also responsible for ReformtheUN.org, a website and e-news service that provides current information on UN reform processes, including those stemming from the 2005 World Summit. Our websites, communication, and coordination resources allow civil society, government and other experts in capitals throughout the world to follow and contribute to important negotiations and norm developments, especially those held at UN Headquarters.




In addition, my organization hosts the secretariat of the NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC), comprising more than 2000 NGOs, one of the most successful global civil society campaigns working for the success of this new and emerging system of international criminal justice.

WFM-IGP is an international NGO and movement dedicated to a strengthened and more democratic UN, and ending wars through the just rule of law in international affairs. In pursuing our goals, we strive to create strategic networks and coalitions of NGOs from all regions and coordinate with like-minded governments and leaders of international organizations.

Mr. Ban, you face extraordinary challenges in very difficult times. No job in the world is more difficult than that of UN Secretary-General. My organization and thousands of other civil society NGOs will strongly support you if you stand for principle over politics in selecting the next generation of leaders of the UN.

With sincere regards,



William R. Pace
Executive Director