



August 7th 2006

To: Ambassadors to the United Nations

Re: Final meeting of drafting group for resolution on Revitalization of the General Assembly

Dear Ambassador,

In preparation for the meeting of the drafting group of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly tomorrow, Tuesday 8 August 2006, we are writing to raise some issues for your consideration. We understand that the drafting group will be discussing the text in the draft resolution related to Cluster 2: Role of the General Assembly in the Selection of the Secretary-General. We are following the process of selecting the Secretary-General closely through the global civil society campaign **UNSGselection.org**, and we wish to bring your attention to four issues concerning the appointment procedures.

First, we encourage the General Assembly to call for continued and increased transparency in the process. We welcome the increased level of consultation between the Security Council and the General Assembly and the Council's decision to inform the larger membership of the straw polls. In addition to this increased communication and improved procedural transparency, however, ***Member States will need concrete opportunities to meet with candidates*** to evaluate them. We encourage you to include language for more thorough and transparent procedures for evaluating the candidates in the resolution.

Second, we stress the need for ***a set timetable for the selection process***, accompanied by systematic reporting. Such timetables are applied by other international organizations for their high-level selection processes and are integral to a transparent, democratic process. We thus encourage the Working Group to include language in the resolution that makes the timetable as specific as possible, with deadlines for each stage of the process.

Third, we would like to encourage thorough consideration of two further proposals:

- ***Limitation of term:*** In 1997, the General Assembly agreed to consider the advantages of a single term before the next Secretary-General appointment process (Resolution 51/241, OP 58). To date, six of the seven Secretaries-General have served multiple terms. Many NGOs believe that a single but longer term would benefit the tenure of the Secretary-General and we thus call for serious consideration of this proposal. Accordingly, we encourage the General Assembly to resolve to consider a single-term limit for the next one or two Secretaries-General, to be followed by an evaluation in the Security Council and General Assembly regarding a permanent decision on the proper duration of a term.
- ***Recommendation of more than one candidate to the General Assembly:*** Some Member States have suggested that it may be appropriate for the Council to amend the 1946 Resolution 11(1), so as to allow the Security Council to recommend more than one

candidate to the General Assembly for appointment. Having support from Member States and civil society groups, this idea warrants systematic consideration in the appropriate bodies. We encourage you to support a decision to further consider such revision in the 61st Session of the General Assembly.

Finally, we strongly encourage the *Ad-Hoc Working Group to resume its work in the 61st Session of the General Assembly.* We believe that continued discussions of these issues are essential for the strengthening of the General Assembly. We also encourage the Working Group to implement its own calls for transparency and inclusiveness by *considering the proposals of other stakeholders.* We thus recommend the following text to be inserted into the draft resolution on Revitalization of the General Assembly, Cluster III – Working methods, Operative Paragraph 31:

*“Decides, in order to allow for the implementation of relevant resolutions on the revitalization of the General Assembly, to resume an Ad Hoc Working Group open to all Member States to identify ways to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly, inter alia, by building on relevant Assembly resolutions and reviewing the agenda and working methods of the Assembly **in the 61st session and decides to expand discussions by inviting proposals from other stakeholders, including international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and UN agencies.**”*

Ambassador, these issues *can all be addressed within the framework of the UN Charter* and would bring the process for SG selection more in line with both the spirit and the letter of the Charter. We would like to reiterate our appreciation for your delegation’s recent efforts to improve the process, and we are ready to work with you to make further advances over the next several weeks.

Reforming selection procedures for the UN Secretary-General is an ongoing process that will occur over time, but we hope that the General Assembly will take this opportunity to initiate a key set of basic reforms. For a full range of resources on the selection process, including expert reports, NGO and government proposals, outlines of other high-level selection processes, and a full description of the procedures advocated above, please visit www.UNSGselection.org.

Yours sincerely,



William R. Pace, Executive Director
World Federalist Movement – Institute for Global Policy
pace@UNSGselection.org