

The Honourable Malcolm Turnbull MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
Canberra.

4 April 2016

Dear Prime Minister,

Further to our recent discussions on the question of my candidature for the position of Secretary General of the United Nations, and those I've had with the Foreign Minister, I am writing to you formally to request the Australian Government's nomination of me for that position.

As you know, I have been a life-long supporter of the UN. I believe it remains crucial to the continued functioning of the global order. It is therefore central to Australian interests that the UN remain relevant to the core global challenges of peace and security, sustainable economic growth and humanitarian responsibility for the future.

I also believe, however, that the UN system is now in danger of dying the death of a thousand cuts. It has become progressively marginalised from core global decision-making. We have seen this in recent times on Iran, Syria, North Korea, the "European" refugees crisis and Ebola. There is a growing danger that governments around the world are increasingly walking around the UN, rather than supporting its continued centrality to a functioning global order. And more broadly there is a growing deficit in effective global governance in general at a time when the delivery of such governance is needed more than ever before.

I believe I can make a concrete contribution to arresting these developments should I be elected as Secretary General. I have a deep familiarity with the UN system. This is based on our successful campaign for an Australian position on the UN Security Council in 2013-14. It is also based on my recent chairmanship of the Independent Commission on Multilateralism, a two year long review of the UN system against the core question of whether the UN remains fit for purpose for the demands for effective global governance for the 21st century, and if not what practical reforms are necessary to make it so. Furthermore, my periods of service as a career diplomat, Foreign Minister and Prime Minister, as well as working on various UN High Level Panels, also provide relevant professional experience.

As you know, there will be many candidates from the Eastern European and Western European and Others Group of which Australia is a member. I understand eight candidates have already been nominated by their respective governments. These include candidates from both groups, and both male and female. It is therefore impossible to predict the likelihood of success in the case of my own candidature. Nor could any other candidate credibly claim that at this stage they have a high probability of success. This uncertainty is compounded by the vagaries of the election process itself. Nonetheless, based on the informal soundings I have taken so far, I believe there are reasonable grounds for support for my candidature in critical capitals.

You have indicated that you would take this matter to Cabinet after I had notified you formally of my intention to be a candidate. I am conscious of the fact that you will have many competing Cabinet priorities. Therefore the timing of Cabinet deliberation is of course a matter for you. At a practical level, however, for me to run an effective campaign, I would need at least two months before the UN Security Council begins its "straw polls" selection process in July. Which means I would need the government's nomination letter to be lodged with the UN Security Council and General Assembly in April.

Many governments have assembled large teams to run their candidate's campaigns. I do not believe this is necessary. The government would need a single, senior experienced officer, with a support officer, to coordinate the campaign out of our mission in New York. Then it would be a

matter of me campaigning personally in relevant Security Council capitals, and a small number of other capitals, with logistical support from our missions in the field. I would hope to run the most modest campaign structure of all candidates. These campaigns are much smaller in nature than campaigns for Security Council membership, where the support of all 193 member states is sought. In this campaign, the key decision-makers are the 15 members of the Council itself.

As for the public management of the question of my candidature, I would appreciate it if your office, or the FMO, could liaise with either myself, or Kate Sieper on my staff, on how this would best be done.

Thank you for the support you have offered me in our discussions on my candidature. If I succeed, I believe I can do Australia proud. As well as make a strong contribution to sustaining a credible United Nations for the future.

Yours Sincerely

Kevin Rudd

cc The Hon. Julie Bishop, Foreign Minister.

Attachment B – Current and expected candidates

Nine candidates have been formally nominated by their governments:

- Srjan Kerim (FYROM): former Minister for Foreign Affairs; President of UNGA62
- Vesna Pusić (Croatia): former Deputy PM and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs
- Igor Lukšić (Montenegro): Deputy PM; Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration
- Danilo Türk (Slovenia): former President of the Republic of Slovenia
- Irina Bokova (Bulgaria): Director-General of UNESCO
- Natalia Gherman (Moldova): former Deputy PM and Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration
- Antonio Guterres (Portugal): former PM and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Helen Clark (New Zealand): Administrator of the UNDP, former Prime Minister
- Vuk Jeremić (Serbia): former Minister of Foreign Affairs, President of UNGA67

The nominations of Argentinian Foreign Minister Susana Malcorra and Slovakian Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajčák are also expected shortly.

UNSG Selection Process

The UN Secretary-General is "appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council" [Article 97, UN Charter].

In accordance with the General Assembly resolution adopted last year, there will – for the first time – be a process of nominations and General Assembly hearings with the candidates.

A joint letter from the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council was sent to all members states on 15 December 2015 inviting member states to nominate candidates. There is no deadline for nominations.

In April, the President of the General Assembly will begin holding informal sessions of the General Assembly to allow nominated candidates to present and answer questions. The PGA will hold further informal sessions if and when further candidates are nominated.

The Security Council is also likely to hold sessions with candidates in a so-called Arria formula, which means that they are not formal meetings and are not held in the Council Chamber.

The Security Council will commence its consideration of candidates in closed informal sessions in July. The Council is expected to follow its previous practice of holding straw polls to gauge the level of support for candidates.

The Council will continue to conduct straw polls until agreement can be reached on a single candidate who is not opposed by any of the P5, whose veto power extends to the UNSG selection process. There is no deadline by which the Council must reach agreement on a candidate other than the conclusion of UNSG Ban's term on 31 December 2016.

Once agreement is reached in the Council, the Council adopts a resolution recommending a single candidate to the General Assembly.

The General Assembly subsequently adopts a resolution appointing the Secretary-General, whose term begins on 1 January 2017.

Month
UNSC President
December 2015 US
January 2016 Uruguay
February 2016 Venezuela
March 2016 Angola
April 2016 China
May 2016 Egypt
June 2016 France
July 2016 Japan
August 2016 Malaysia
September 2016 New Zealand
October 2016 Russia
November 2016 Senegal
December 2016 Spain
January 2017 Ukraine

Letter issued by Presidents of GA and UNSC requesting nominations from member states - no deadline for nominations

GA holds first round of informal dialogues with candidates no deadline for nominations

Possible further GA informal dialogues with candidates

UNSC to hold straw polls in closed informal meetings to gauge level of support for candidates

Possible UNSC Arria formula meetings with a shortlist of candidates.

UNSC to recommend a single candidate to GA for appointment

New UNSG commences 1 January 2017

