

Statement made by Chile

Fourth thematic debate of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly on the Selection and appointment of the Secretary-General and other executive heads

(New York, 23 April 2021)

Distinguished Co-chairs,

My delegation fully aligns with the statements delivered by the Non-Aligned Movement and the ACT Group, and now we would like to make the following remarks in our national capacity.

Thank you for convening this fourth thematic debate, which is very relevant and timely to look more closely into the process of the selection process of the Secretary General.

The UN secretary-general has come to occupy a highly visible position in world politics, more than anyone else within the UN system. In this regard, Chile welcomes the expression of interest of the current SG Antonio Guterres for a second term.

Resolution (69/321) included groundbreaking changes to an appointment process that was somehow blurry and opaque. This led to unprecedented public dialogues with the candidates, that tested a broad set of skills, providing the UN membership as well as a global audience with an insight into the thinking of candidates.

While we welcome all the progress made, there is still a need to add additional layers of quality control and procedural certainty in the selection process.

With this in mind, Chile strongly believes that it is necessary to provide the process of SG selection with clear timelines that encompass all the stages of the process. A potential preset schedule must include:

- The submission of the joint letter from the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council,
- The deadline for the presentation of candidates,
- The deadline for completing General Assembly hearings, and
- The recommendation of the Security Council and the resolution from the General Assembly regarding the appointment of the Secretary-General.

We strongly favor the establishment of a system of regular updates from the President of the Security Council to the wider membership, on developments in the selection process and for full transparency on the results of the straw poll process.

Gender balance and geographical rotation should also be in the basis of the selection of senior officers, including the Secretary General.

Chile reaffirms its commitment to work constructively and contribute to the achievement of an inclusive, well-structured and merit-based process for the crucial role as UN Secretary General.

We have posted a more detailed version of this intervention for your consideration.

Thank you.