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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

8 June 2018

Dear Mr. Donaldson,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I would like to thank you for your letter dated 22 March 2018, sent on behalf of a large group of civil society organisations.

The Secretary-General exercises the discretionary authority entrusted to him by the United Nations General Assembly with great care to ensure transparency and to maintain the institutional safeguards of the recruitment and selection process, while protecting the privacy of the applicants.

In this regard, the Secretary-General intends to follow the established process for the selection and appointment of the next High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/141 which stipulates that the High Commissioner for Human Rights shall be appointed by the Secretary-General and approved by the General Assembly, with due regard for geographical rotation, and have a fixed term of four years with a possibility of one renewal for another fixed term of four years. The position will be advertised through a note verbale to all Member States, vacancy announcement on the website of the Secretary-General and distribution in various media, civil society and other relevant networks.


The Secretary-General will make a specific request to Member States, non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions and regional organizations for the nomination of women candidates and to the public to encourage women candidates to apply to the vacancy. Short-listed candidates will be interviewed by a panel of internal and external experts and finalists will be recommended to the Secretary-General for consideration.

In selecting the most suitable candidate for his senior management team, the Secretary-General strives to ensure that the candidate fully meets the profile for the position and that the selection decision enhances the objectives of the Organization for gender parity and geographic diversity.

Mr. Ben Donaldson  
Head of Campaigns  
United Nations Association – UK  
London

I would like to express my appreciation for your continued interest and engagement with the United Nations, in particular in supporting the efforts of the Secretary-General to promote the core principle of merit, as outlined in the Charter of the United Nations for selection of the next High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. L. Viotti', written in a cursive style.

Maria Luíza Ribeiro Viotti  
Chef de Cabinet