



[www.1for8billion.org](http://www.1for8billion.org)  
[ben@1for8billion.org](mailto:ben@1for8billion.org)

21 March 2024

*Dear Excellency,*

*The appointment of a woman Secretary-General is long overdue.*

*Gender equality is a core guiding principle of the United Nations. It is a fundamental human right and a necessary foundation for a peaceful, fair and sustainable world. However, the Organization cannot claim to be a champion of women's empowerment when half of the world continues to be excluded from its highest office.*

*We are calling on you to take matters into your own hands: **help address the historic imbalance by announcing that your country will only consider nominating women candidates for the next Secretary-General selection process while encouraging all states to do the same.***

*Women need the UN, but the UN also needs women. Evidence clearly shows the contribution women bring across all areas of the UN's work. Progress in breaking the glass ceiling has not been impeded by a shortage of qualified women, but a shortage of opportunity and the limited imagination of decision makers operating in an environment of systemic discrimination.*

*Despite recent improvements, the sphere of international relations remains woefully monopolised by men: 13 multilateral organizations (including the four largest development banks) have never been led by a woman, 78 years without a woman leading the UN, and just 24% of UN Permanent Representatives are women, as [highlighted by GWL Voices](#).*

*We ask states to keep this disturbing reality in mind as they consider their nominations for the next UN chief. We ask states to consider the urgent need to restore credibility and faith in the UN's highest office. We ask states to appoint a woman Secretary-General.*

*The time is now.*

*Yours faithfully,*



[www.1for8billion.org](http://www.1for8billion.org)

[ben@1for8billion.org](mailto:ben@1for8billion.org)

**1 for 8 Billion**

**Access Now**

**Associação das Mulheres Diplomatas Brasileiras (AMDB) – Association of Brazilian Women Diplomats**

**Atlas**

**Blue Smoke**

**BRICS Policy Center (BPC)**

**Casa de Acolhimento Marielle Franco Brasil – Marielle Franco Brasil Shelter Home**

**Center for Development of International Law**

**Children's Investment Fund Foundation**

**CIVICUS**

**Coalition for the UN We Need**

**Coalizão O Clima é de Mudança – Coalition The Climate is for Change**

**COESUS Coalizão Não Fracking Brasil – No Fracking Coalition Brazil**

**Coletivo AquilombaRI (Coletivo Negro Estudantil da PUC-Rio – Black Student Collective of PUC-Rio)**

**Coletivo Negro de Relações Internacionais - Brasil (Black International Relations Collective)**

**Curso de Graduação em Relações Internacionais da Universidade Veiga de Almeida (UVA) – Undergraduate Program in International Relations at Veiga de Almeida University**

**Democracy Without Borders**

**European Center for Not-For-Profit Law (ECNL)**

**Equality Now**



[www.1for8billion.org](http://www.1for8billion.org)

[ben@1for8billion.org](mailto:ben@1for8billion.org)

**FADA - Força Ação e Defesa Ambiental – Action and Environmental Defense Force**

**Fundación ARAYARA – ARAYARA Foundation**

**Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS)**

**Global Citizen**

**Global Governance Innovation Network (GGIN)**

**Global Shapers Community - Belo Horizonte Hub**

**GWL Voices**

**Instituto Clima de Eleição – Climate of Election Institute**

**Instituto de Relações Internacionais (IRI) da PUC-Rio – International Relations Institute at PUC-Rio**

**Instituto Internacional ARAYARA – ARAYARA International Institute**

**Instituto PACS (Políticas Alternativas para o Cone Sul) – Alternative Policies Institute for the Southern Cone**

**Instituto Socioambiental (ISA) – Socio-Environmental Institute**

**InterAgency Institute**

**International Centre for Eritrean Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

**Kurytiba Metropole**

**LITIGA - Litigância Climática e de Direitos – Climate and Rights Litigation**

**Núcleo de Pesquisa em Gênero, Raça e Diferença na Política Internacional (NUGRAD-UFU) – Research Center on Gender, Race, and Difference in International Politics**

**Observatório do Carvão Mineral (OCM) – Mineral Coal Observatory**

**Observatório do Petróleo e Gás (OPG) – Oil and Gas Observatory**



[www.1for8billion.org](http://www.1for8billion.org)

[ben@1for8billion.org](mailto:ben@1for8billion.org)

**Observatório Feminista de Relações Internacionais (OFRI) – Feminist Observatory of International Relations**

**Open Society Foundations**

**Perifalab**

**Plataforma CIPÓ**

**Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciência Política da Universidade Federal Fluminense (PPGCP-UFF) – Graduate Program in Political Science at Fluminense Federal University**

**Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciência Política da Universidade Federal Fluminense (PPGCP-UFF)**

**Project Starling**

**Rede Fé, Paz e Clima – Faith, Peace and Climate Network**

**Rockefeller Brothers Fund**

**Strategy for Humanity**

**United Nations Association - UK**

**Women's International League for Peace and Freedom UK (WILPF UK)**

**WomanSG**