

ACTION Mr. Wu (email)  
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**Chief of the NGO Branch of UN.DESA**  
president to: United Nations HQ.EOSG  
Cc: OUSG DESA

17/02/2016 10:15 AM

History:

This message has been forwarded.

H.E. Mr Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General  
United Nations

cc: Under Secretary-General, UN.DESA

Honorable Secretary-General:

The Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO) has for 68 years promoted, defended and practised ever-increasing interaction between the United Nations System and the broad NGO/Civil Society communities. As you have said, civil society is indispensable to achieving the goals of the United Nations and to upholding inviolable principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. That too is our credo.

CoNGO has therefore worked extremely closely and harmoniously over the years with the NGO Branch of DESA and when appropriate with the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs. We have been concerned that the post of Chief of the NGO Branch has been without a titular appointment for more than 18 months, and are glad to learn that the process of selection has reached virtually a final stage.

We therefore wish to affirm to you, and to the Under Secretary-General of DESA, that the broad NGO/CSO world is deeply concerned that the future NGO Chief be a person whose record demonstrates unambiguously her/his long-term commitment to the defence of fundamental freedoms of opinion, expression, assembly and association. The person who will hold this key post for the next years must have earned the respect and appreciation of human rights/developmental/social constituencies of NGOs and CSOs in her/his home country.

We ask that the future incumbent, in exercising her/his responsibilities vis-à-vis governments and civil society, be ready to uphold unflinchingly what you so well stated this morning in the Security Council, namely "The blatant disrespect for fundamental principles of international human rights and humanitarian law defies our common humanity."

We respectfully request that you take these concerns into account in proceeding to the final appointment of the Chief of the NGO Branch, with whom we will wish to cooperate trustingly.

Yours sincerely,

Cyril Ritchie, President of CoNGO

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