

Strictly confidential**NOTE TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

The Permanent Representative of Romania came to see me yesterday. Amongst other issues raised, he highlighted that the Group of Eastern European States (GEES) is not represented in the UN Secretariat in New York at the ASG level or above. He noted that this issue of Eastern European representation has been raised before with you, as well as with the former Secretary-General and DSG, and that the GEES "wants fairer treatment".

He emphasized that appointments at the USG level have "more or less been completed", but did not include anyone one from Eastern Europe. He underlined that this is "one of the most serious concerns from a group that has otherwise been very sympathetic" to reforms and is increasingly active on the donor front. He also recognized that while due attention must be given to competency when making senior appointments, it is important also to take regional representation and gender balance into account.

I noted that finding the best person for the job did have to be balanced with ensuring equitable geographical distribution. I also indicated that I had taken specific note of his request and would alert you to this concern.

In the same vein, I should also mention that, at an open meeting of the G77 yesterday, many countries raised concerns about improving the Secretariat's accountability and transparency, particularly in the process of selecting candidates for vacancies. Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, on behalf of Caribbean Countries, commented on the Secretariat's weak gender balance and geographic representation and on the difficulties for candidates from developing countries to reach senior level positions. The Dominican Republic PR specifically noted that the UN has few senior level appointees from the Latin America and the Caribbean region.



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