

Madam Secretary-General Campaign

United Nations

2026

In 2026, the United Nations has **another opportunity to break barriers** and elect its first-ever female Secretary-General. With a potential regional rotation favoring Latin America, several highly qualified women leaders from the region could step into this role.

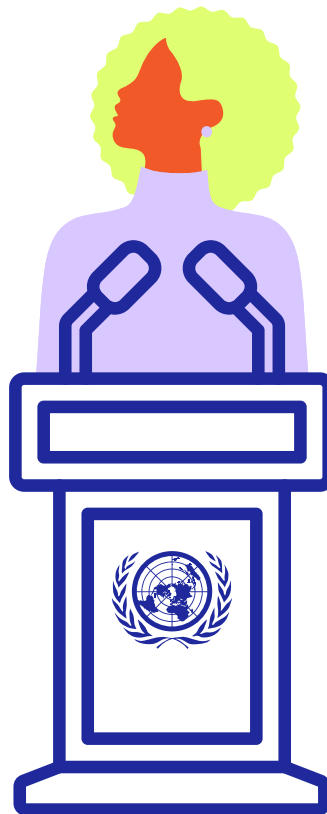
Momentum is Building

Growing Support:

Eleven countries explicitly called for a female Secretary-General during UNGA79, including Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Germany, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liechtenstein, Namibia, Norway, Slovenia, and Spain.

A Strong Joint Statement:

Following UNGA79, Slovenia, Mexico, and Spain—**joined by 78 other Member States—delivered a statement urging greater representation of women in UN leadership.** Ambassador Samuel Žbogar of Slovenia emphasized the need for Member States to nominate and back female candidates in 2026.



Key Considerations from GWL Voices:

1 Who Decides?

The Secretary-General is elected by the UN Security Council—not by a referendum or popular vote. **The influence of key Member States is critical.**

2 From Local to Global:

Mobilizing national governments to support and nominate distinguished female candidates will be crucial in this election.

3 Visibility Matters:

While the 2016 election saw significant media and social media campaigns, they did not translate into success for any of the seven female candidates. **Strategic advocacy must go beyond awareness.**

4 United Call to Action:

GWL Voices emphasizes the need for a **clear and unified message**—urging Member States to support a woman for the UN's top leadership position.