



## Press invitation

### First 2026 worldwide televised candidates' debate for the selection of the next United Nations Secretary-General

**Date:** 9 June 2026

**Venue:** Ivan Pictet Auditorium, Maison de la Paix (Geneva)

**Press access:**

The doors to the event will close at 14:45, so members of the press are requested to arrive by 14:00. The event will last c. 75 minutes.

**Participants:**

Michelle Bachelet  
María Fernanda Espinosa  
Rebeca Grynspan

**Video intervention:**

Macky Sall

**Moderated by**

Zeinab Badawi

At a critical moment for the future of multilateralism, marked by growing geopolitical tensions and distrust towards international institutions, the upcoming selection of the United Nations Secretary-General places at the center of the debate the type of leadership the UN needs to address the challenges of the 21st century.

In this decisive context, GWL Voices, in collaboration with the United Nations Foundation, will host an internationally broadcast debate among Secretary-General candidates.

The event will provide a platform for candidates to present their vision and priorities. The debate will serve as a touchstone for international conversation on the leadership the UN needs in the current global context to promote a more effective, representative organization prepared to respond to 21st-century challenges.

**A dedicated press room will be available to candidates and media for stakeout, media statements, and interviews.**

**Media registration:**

Please confirm in-person attendance to: Nat Pastor Aguirrezabal |  
nat@gwlvoices.org | +34 606 876 153

For media requests for [candidates](#), contact Christina Butler (UN Foundation) | [press@unfoundation.org](mailto:press@unfoundation.org) | Mobile/WhatsApp: +1 202-369-9831

### **Broadcast and technical coverage**

A live feed of the debate will be distributed free of charge by Eurovision News Events via Worldfeed on satellite and IP for news use only.

The full event, as well as clips and a highlights package, will also be available on the [NewsDirect](#) platform for download in different formats, for your broadcasts and social media. Registration for the platform is free.

For more information on how to request Worldfeed and access to NewsDirect, please visit the event's [webpage](#) or contact the News Events team directly: [newsevents@eurovision.net](mailto:newsevents@eurovision.net)

### **About GWL Voices**

GWL Voices is an organization comprising nearly 80 global women leaders from all regions and trajectories, committed to building an international system that advances gender equality and responds effectively to current challenges in sustainable development, peace, security, and human rights.

The organization was founded by Susana Malcorra, Helen Clark, and Irina Bokova, candidates for the United Nations Secretary-General in 2016.

[www.gwlvoices.org](http://www.gwlvoices.org)

### **About the UN Foundation**

The United Nations Foundation has built novel innovations and partnerships to support the United Nations and help solve global problems at scale for over 25 years. As an independent charitable organization, the Foundation was created to work closely with the United Nations to address humanity's greatest challenges and drive global progress.

Learn more at [www.unfoundation.org](http://www.unfoundation.org).