



October 7, 2016

António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres
c/o Office of the Secretary General
United Nations Headquarters
405 E 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Guterres:

On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, we welcome your election as secretary general of the United Nations. We are privileged to count in our ranks of public employees members of the United Nations Staff Union.

The challenges facing the world and the United Nations today require a proven and effective leader of the highest caliber. Throughout your career, you have demonstrated exceptional vision, integrity and independence. Your record as prime minister of Portugal has clearly shown your outstanding skills at governance, as well as great distinction on the world's diplomatic stage. During your tenure as U.N. high commissioner for refugees, you made significant contributions as a humanitarian, dealing with one of the great crises of our time, negotiating with countries and donors alike with exceptional skill and acumen.

During your political career in Portugal, you were recognized for your support of Portuguese workers and their labor rights. Now, as secretary general, we ask that you continue your leadership in supporting the U.N.'s own workers, treating them as true assets to the U.N.'s mission, not liabilities to be cut by shortsighted austerity measures or so-called political and economic reforms.

The more than 60,000 men and women who work for the United Nations—employees in New York and around the world who work at advancing the goals of the U.N.—are represented by 15 unions. The U.N. has, however, fallen short in fully protecting its employees' rights—too many U.N. employees have neither the guarantee of essential bargaining rights nor voice over the shape and direction of their careers and retirement.

We urge that as secretary general you actively intervene and oversee a credible labor-management process for negotiating full collective bargaining rights for all U.N. employees.

Let us meet at your earliest convenience to have the honor to offer our congratulations in person as we look forward to your leading the United Nations in the upcoming years.

Sincerely,

Randi Weingarten
President

RW: mc opeiu#2 afl-cio

The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

American Federation
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

AFT Teachers
AFT PSRP
AFT Higher Education
AFT Public Employees
AFT Nurses and Health
Professionals

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