A breakfast panel conversation on the challenging role of a woman Secretary-General to lead the organization beyond its 70th anniversary in the current context of the UN marked by the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the General Assembly revitalization process and the need to strengthen the organization capacity in its three pillars: International Peace and Security, Development, and Human Rights.

At its 70th anniversary the UN is living a time of reforms, and the most important decision that the Member States will take in 2016 will be the selection and appointment of the ninth Secretary-General of the UN. Moreover, it is crucial that the forthcoming Secretary-General is given the necessary authority to deal with the current context which is marked by conflicts, humanitarian crises, natural disasters, and climate change.

The next Secretary-General, as those that previously held the post, must be a leader that is able to deal with multiple current and future challenges and be a catalyst to implement the ambitious agenda of the organization. In this regard, the next Secretary-General must be able to exercise political initiative while providing managerial leadership and embody the principals and ideals of the Charter.

Being Secretary-General of the United Nations is a top job that requires an action oriented, actively engaged individual who will be able to respond to needs both immediate and pervasive. The new challenges and opportunities presented by the changing international context add complexity and salience to the role of the Secretary-General as a primary focal point of UN activities.
Noting that the process of soliciting candidates for Secretary-General has begun in the current session of the General Assembly, there is now increasing support for the possibility of selecting and appointing a woman to the post. Accordingly, some governments have already endorsed female candidates for the position.

Mindful of the need of having the best possible pool of candidates, and to ensure that the selection process will be an open and inclusive exercise, with the highest standards of transparency and accountability, it is in the best interests of the organization, that a good number of women candidates be presented and considered.

The Secretary-General personifies the organization. Thus, finding the right person to replace Mr. Ban Ki-moon is crucial to the future of the United Nations. The Group firmly believes that the time has come to consider a woman to the highest position at the UN.

To facilitate the discussion, the panel will be focused on the following topics:

- **Women participation and leadership in top jobs**
  - Women in Foreign Policy/Diplomacy
  - Identifying “the best candidate for SG”
  - Qualifications and skills for the Job
  - Advantages of having a woman as SG

- **Gender Equality and its relevance in decision-making positions at the UN**
  - How a woman could strengthen the UN work and its leading role on the Global Agenda?
  - What topics of the Global Agenda would a Woman SG help to become more visible?
  - Women’s equal opportunities for leadership as a challenge to advance towards an inclusive and sustainable future?
  - There is a strong need of a greater gender balance in high level positions at the UN System. Can the efforts to promote a Women SG contribute to improve women’s leadership and access to the top jobs along the system?