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RELEASE IN PART  
B5, B6

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January 29, 2009

**TO:** Secretary Hillary Clinton

**FROM:** Ambassador Susan Rice

**SUBJECT:** Candidates for UNDP Administrator

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The deadline for submitting candidates for the position of Administrator of the UN Development Programme to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon is Saturday.

UNDP Administrator is the third highest-ranking position in the UN system and a crucial source of leadership on the international development agenda. UNDP was historically considered a "US slot," which changed with the appointment of the UK's Mark Malloch Brown in 1999 and Turkey's Kermal Dervis in 2004.

**Proposed Approach to UN Secretary-General Ban:** Given our deep commitment to give development a new and significantly higher priority on our foreign policy agenda and our determination to manifest a new style of US leadership, I suggest we take a serious but low-key approach in which we present a slate of highly qualified U.S. candidates as well as a short-list of top-notch developing country candidates to whom we are also open. We would:

- Confirm the importance that the United States attaches to development, and in particular, to this appointment;
- Urge the Secretary-General to appoint a candidate with significant stature, unimpeachable development credibility, demonstrated institutional leadership, sound political judgment, and the utmost integrity;
- Express our commitment to personnel decisions made on the merits;
- Urge serious consideration of U.S. candidates who we believe to be of the highest caliber and in whom we have confidence;
- Present a list of non-U.S. candidates from the developing world, also of the highest caliber, to whom we would be open, if an American is not selected.

U.S. Candidates (in suggested order of preference):

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Non-U.S. Candidates (in suggested order of preference)

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**Considerations:**

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**Recommendation:** That you approve providing the attached slate of recommended candidates (U.S. and other) to UN Secretary-General Ban, making clear the U.S. desire to lead the organization again with top-notch candidates. We will also make clear that our candidacy for UNDP does not signal a willingness to give up leadership of UNICEF or WFP. Finally, we would stress that if he chooses a developing world candidate, we strongly suggest he select from the list we provide.

\_\_\_\_\_ Approve      \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove      \_\_\_\_\_ Other

<sup>1</sup> The U.S. at \$206 million is currently the fifth largest donor, behind: Norway - \$245 million; Netherlands - \$216 million; Sweden - \$215 million; UK - \$311 million.

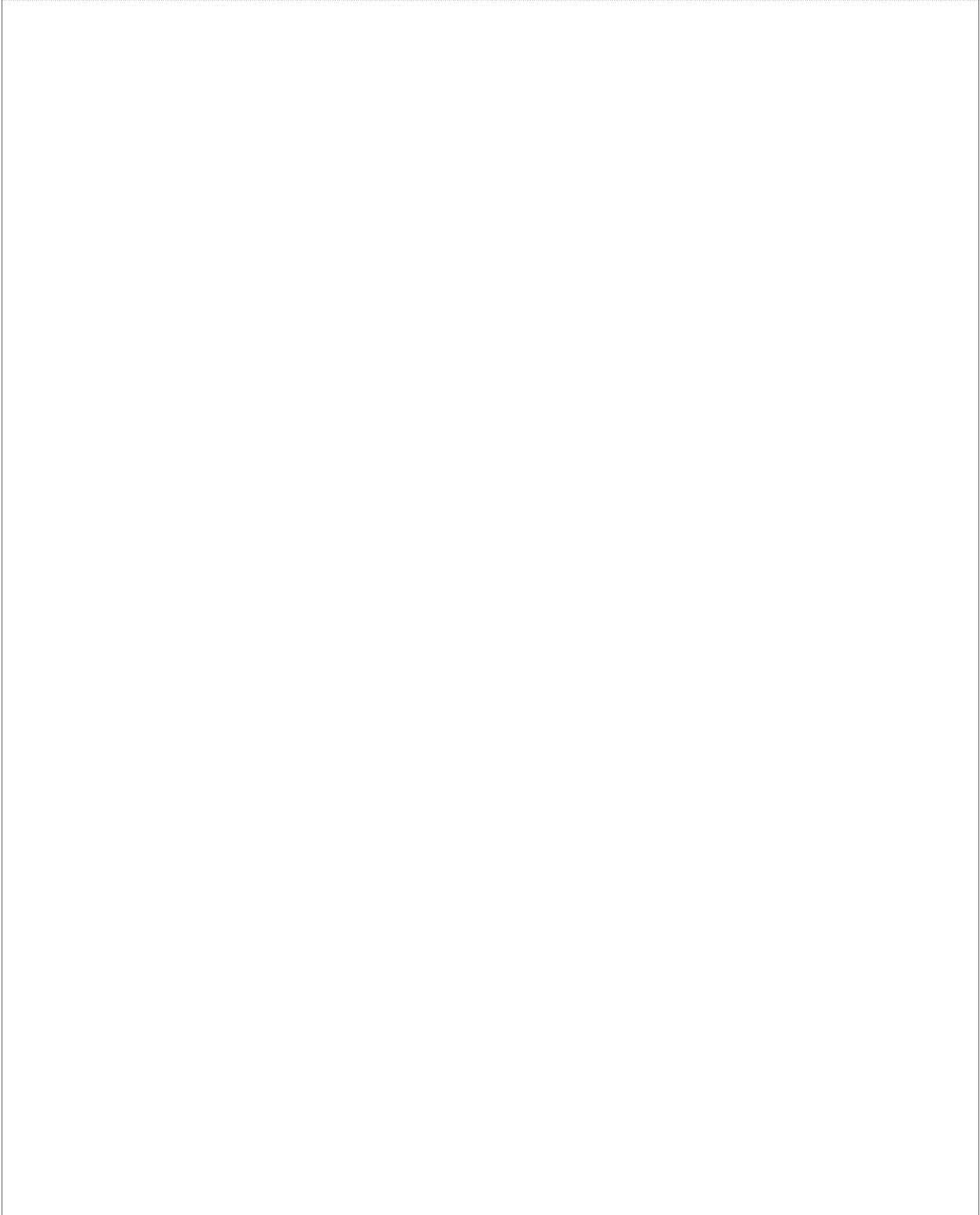
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**CANDIDATE BIOS - DETAIL**

**U.S. Candidates**



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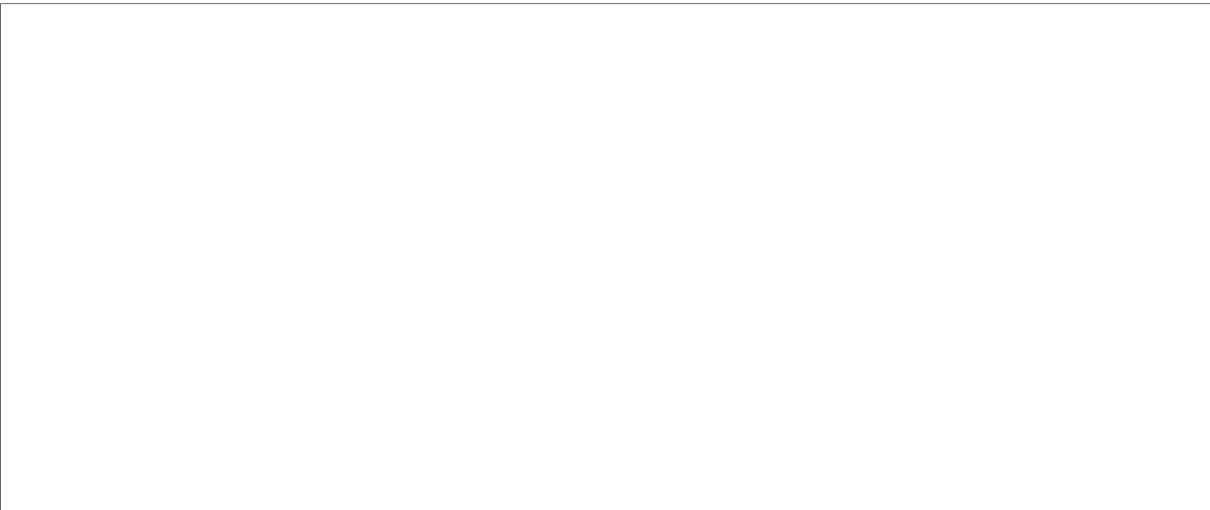
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**Non-U.S. Candidate)**

1. **Ngozi Onkonjo-Iweala (Nigeria). Current position: Managing Director, World Bank**



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