CANDIDATE FOR UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL, 2026

Ambassador Olara Otunnu

Consensus Builder & Innovative Leader



November 20, 2026

Candidate for the position of UN Secretary General, Ambassador Olara Otunnu, has issued the statement below, following today's straw ballot in the Security Council:

"I wish to express my appreciation to all members of the Security Council for their engagement and consideration in this process. I welcome the opportunity for continued dialogue on the future of the United Nations and the urgent need for fundamental reforms.

Reforming the UN is no longer an option; it is an imperative. Reforms must deliver greater effectiveness, legitimacy and tangible impact on the ground. The challenges confronting the institution demand consensus building, innovative solutions, and the resolve to translate agreed measures into action.

I remain committed to this undertaking and to strengthening the UN's capacity to fulfill its founding promise of ensuring peace and security, upholding human rights and promoting sustainable development."