



The United Nations General Assembly has appointed by acclamation Mr. Antonio Guterres, former Prime Minister of Portugal, as the new Secretary-General of the 193-member body. Mr. Guterres, who will assume his duties on 1 January 2017 for a five-year term, is the fourth Secretary-General from Europe.

Mr. Guterres brings a decade of UN service as the former High Commissioner for Refugees, where he served until 2015. Speaking before the General Assembly, outgoing Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon praised Guterres for his “effective advocacy” during his time at UNHCR. The Secretary-General offered his congratulations and said that Mr. Guterres was “a wonderful choice to steer this Organization.”

Mr. Guterres, aged 67, served as Prime Minister of Portugal from 1995 to 2002.

### **Additional information:**

- [UN News Centre Article](#)