

"Uniting for Consensus"
Focal Point

SEP - 6 2011

Excellency,

On behalf of UFC, I thank you for your letter dated August 18 and have the following appreciations to make:

On rev 3 - the first point of your communication - let me start by reminding you that UFC engaged in a constructive way on your proposal. Our letter dated February 14, 2011 highlighted some concerns and requested some clarifications. Some issues have been resolved, others need to be addressed yet. Underlining once again that ownership of the Member States remains the paramount guideline for any advancement in the reform process, we note that only rev 2 reflects all positions and proposals as put forward by Member States up to this stage.

On the second point of your letter, regarding the initiatives taken by Members States during the current session, I would like to recall the ones promoted by Italy, Mexico and their UFC partners: the Ministerial level conference on Global Governance and Security Council Reform held in Rome on May 16 and the Vice Ministerial level meeting on Identifying a Compromise Solution on Security Council Reform held in Mexico City on July 18.

Whereas the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) - and your ability to chair them - were *de facto* put on hold as a result of a divisive initiative taken by some Member States, spirit of dialogue and compromise, transparency and inclusiveness were at the basis of the meetings in Rome and Mexico.

As a consequence, the Rome conference was attended by 123 delegations (list attached), all groups, the PGA as well as yourself. The meeting in Mexico included 27 delegations, representative of the main regional groups and informal groupings within the SC reform process, as well as the PGA and representatives of the incoming Presidency of the General Assembly.

On both occasions, a large number of Member States sent a clear signal on the parameters to achieve a much needed reform of the Security Council: the reform must be consensual and comprehensive to be effective, to serve the goal of strengthening the United Nations and to reflect the core UN values of inclusiveness, democracy, flexibility and accountability.

H.E. Ambassador Zahir Tanin
Chairman of the intergovernmental negotiations
on Security Council reform
The United Nations
New York

The outcome and principles that emerged in the Rome conference are summarized in the oral conclusions (attached) pronounced by the Italian Foreign Minister, H.E. Franco Frattini, which I request to be circulated to the membership through the Chair. The same spirit and eagerness for compromise inspired the meeting in Mexico, with the aim of achieving a much needed compromise solution that could garner the widest possible political acceptance. Both meetings were held with the objective of supporting the Intergovernmental Negotiations and they actually called for a prompt resumption of them, which unfortunately did not happen.

Mr. Chairman, UFC will continue to exert constructive efforts to push forward a reform that makes the Council more accountable and democratic. As proved by this session, divisive initiatives based on a piecemeal approach stall the process and jeopardize the goal of an early and comprehensive reform of the Security Council. Finally, such initiatives are detrimental to the role of the Chair.

Henceforth we call upon Member States to bridge differences within the intergovernmental negotiations framework in compliance with resolution 62/557 which was adopted by consensus as the basis of the process.

On these premises, you can count on our commitment to the process during the upcoming 66th session of the General Assembly.


Yours Sincerely,

The Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations
Cesare Maria Ragalini