



PERMANENT MISSION OF ITALY TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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“Uniting for Consensus”

Excellency,

On behalf of the Uniting for Consensus Group, I wish to thank you for the letter conveying your "framework document" and your speaking points for the 26 March meeting. Let me also take this opportunity to express our appreciation for your efforts in facilitating the Inter-Governmental Negotiations on Security Council reform.

The principles and ideas that UfC advocates are well-known to Member States. On this occasion, UfC would like to reiterate some of the key elements of the membership-driven nature of the negotiating process:

One, ownership of the Member States remains the paramount guideline for any advancement of the reform process. In this regard, it is important to note that the General Assembly Decision 62/557 explicitly states that the IGN should be based on "Positions and proposals by the Member States, regional groups, and other Member States groupings";

Two, ownership of Member States refers both to the process and contents of reform; and,

Three, any modification, regrouping or merging of positions has to be membership-driven. No position or proposal should be eliminated or merged without the consent of the Member States.

Accordingly, in light of your briefing on March 26 and of the speaking notes circulated through your letter, UfC would like to request a clarification of the following points:

H.E. Ambassador E. Courtenay Rattray
Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations
on Security Council Reform
The United Nations
New York

Cc: H.E. Mr. Sam Kutesa
President of the 69th Session of the General Assembly

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- What difference does the Chair see between the membership-driven and the “Member-centric” approach to the reform process mentioned in his speaking notes?
- Where does Decision 62/557 grant the Chair a mandate for "executive action or authority" to guide the process? In the absence of any explicit mention in this Decision, how does the Chair envisage his role in making proposals and technical adjustments to proposals, participating in interactive discussions among Member States, and identifying any areas of convergence and overlap in the positions of Member States?
- Recalling that there are numerous precedents in the United Nations for working on long and dense documents in negotiations, especially for processes that involve long-term and far-reaching political interests, why couldn't a consensual text such as Rev-2 be used as a basis for negotiations, as requested by more than half the membership? If the Chair believes that Rev-2 no longer commands a consensus and can therefore not become a basis for negotiations, should we assume that the same principle will be applied to all such documents in the future?
- A credible and viable reform of the Council requires a comprehensive approach, addressing the five key issues outlined in Decision 62/557. UfC and a number of other Member States have always called for addressing the linkages between these five key issues. How will these linkages be addressed through the "framework document"?
- UfC, as well as other negotiating groups, have consistently called for the creation of a convergence on the principles that should inspire Security Council reform. A consensus on these principles lies at the heart of reform negotiations. Doesn't the Chair fear that, if Member States do not share the basic tenets of reform, collating into a single text their divergent positions could hamper rather than facilitate a consensus?

UfC has always taken a constructive approach to upholding and enhancing the authority of the General Assembly and the entire membership. We, therefore, look forward to your clarifications on these points, in the collective interest of ensuring a smooth continuation of the current IGN round, as well as to enable us to proceed swiftly and appropriately in this process.

Please be assured, Excellency, that UfC will spare no effort to explore genuine reform for a timely, substantive and politically sustainable transformation of the United Nations.

Yours sincerely,

Sebastiano Cardi
Ambassador

