

*The Permanent Representative of Italy  
to the United Nations*

**“Uniting for Consensus”**  
*Focal Point*

4571

New York, OCT 31 2013

Excellency,

On behalf of the Uniting for Consensus (UfC) Group, I have the honour to refer to your letter dated 22 October on Security Council reform and make the following observations:

We were surprised with the undue rush and modality followed in establishing the advisory group mentioned therein. The process lacked transparency, inclusiveness and “*extensive consultations with a wide range of delegations*” which are necessary to clarify the objectives, terms of reference, composition and working methods of such a group.

We have taken careful note of what you have stated in your letter that the group is “*advisory in nature*” and “*does not have a negotiating role*”. However, you also point out that the group’s “*purpose is to produce a basis for the start of the Intergovernmental Negotiations that reflects the ideas put forward in the negotiations so far*”. It is important to recall that a similar mandate sought by the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) Chair last year was not given to him by the general membership. Moreover, we are concerned by the conflicting interpretations of the group’s mandate being stated publically by some Member States.

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H.E. Ambassador John Ashe  
President of the General Assembly  
The United Nations  
New York, NY 10017

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We underscore that such a group cannot bypass the IGN process and the framework provided by Decision 62/557, as well as subsequent decisions of the General Assembly and that it must not jeopardize the membership-driven nature of this process. Only the IGN can take decisions on matters and procedures that impinge on negotiations. The creation of this group could be perceived by some as establishing a bureau of the IGN, which is neither elected by the IGN nor accountable to the general membership.

We strongly believe that no piecemeal procedural quick fix can resolve an issue of such substantive importance or muster consensus around it.

We have the greatest respect for the distinguished Ambassadors who have been nominated as members of the group. Nevertheless, given the complexity of the issues involved, and to ensure balance, equity, accountability and transparency, it is important that the entire membership has the opportunity to review and agree on the composition and terms of reference of the group.

We remain ready to discuss further this issue with you prior to the General Assembly debate on Security Council reform.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sebastiano Cardi', written in a cursive style.

Sebastiano Cardi  
Ambassador