

*The Permanent Representative of Italy
to the United Nations*

Prot. n. 1084
New York, 31 August 2020

Excellency

On behalf of United for Consensus (UfC), I have the honor to submit the attached explanation of position on the Draft decision entitled “Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council” (A/74/L.88).

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Mariangela Zappia
Ambassador

H.E. Dr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande
President of the General Assembly
United Nations
New York

Explanation of Position

Subject: Draft decision entitled “Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council” (A/74/L.88)

On behalf of United for Consensus (UfC), Italy wishes to thank the President of the General Assembly for his proposal of technical roll-over decision on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council as well as for leading the IGN process forward during the unprecedented circumstances which we are living.

We also wish to thank the Co-Chairs – H.E. Mrs. Lana Nusseibeh, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations, and H.E. Ms. Joanna Wronecka, Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations – for their tireless work and continuous engagement in the process. Throughout the entire session this year, they made intensive and commendable efforts listening to the views of all Member States in order to find new convergences.

The Co-Chairs’ letter circulated on 29 July 2020 offers a balanced reflection of the discussions held during the two IGN meetings which took place in 2020, despite lacking a specific reference to the “support to an increased representation in the Council of developing Countries, Africa, SIDS and small States”, as initially proposed by UfC. In a spirit of compromise, UfC has accepted the reference to the letter of the Co-Chairs in the roll-over decision as a constructive solution aimed at achieving consensus.

The divergent positions among Member States and negotiating groups on key aspects of the Security Council’s reform, such as the veto and the categories of membership, can be overcome only if we reach an overall agreement on the principles underpinning the reform itself. In this respect, UfC continues to have reservations on the Framework Document of 2015.

UfC is fully committed to reaching a consensual solution within the IGN, as we believe this represents the only process where States can discuss and make progress on the crucial issue of Security Council reform. The UfC Group firmly believes that the Security Council needs to become truly representative, accountable, democratic, transparent and effective. This is essential in order to foster the trust in this institution and to strengthen multilateralism. We have to pursue our common goal to increase the Council's legitimacy both with regard to the general membership and to the public opinion. This would strengthen the Council's authority as well as its effectiveness.

We are convinced that - with the necessary political will and flexibility - the membership can make progress towards a consensual and sustainable reform. We are looking forward to engaging in future discussions in good faith, with the sincere belief that Security Council reform is needed and remains possible.