



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

22 October 2013

Excellency,

In the 2005 World Summit Outcome, contained in resolution 60/1 of September 16th, 2005, Heads of State and Government supported early reform of the United Nations Security Council as an essential element of the overall effort to reform the United Nations in order to make it more broadly representative, efficient and transparent, and thus to further enhance its effectiveness and the legitimacy and implementation of its decisions. During the General Debate of the Sixty-Eighth Session, a large number of delegations reaffirmed the importance they attach to this issue.

As I noted in my acceptance speech on June 4th this year, United Nations reform represents an important element in our overall effort to strengthen the Organization,. Without such strengthening, the Organization runs the risk of becoming inconsequential. I also emphasized that reform was needed in all of the Organization's principal organs.

In adopting decision 67/561 on August 29th, 2013, the General decided, inter alia, "to immediately continue intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in informal plenary of the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session."

In keeping with this decision, and with the undertaking which I gave on two occasions to stimulate an early resumption of the intergovernmental process, I have held extensive consultations with a wide range of delegations.

I am pleased to inform you that the Assembly's annual debate under Item 123 entitled "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of, the Security Council and related matters" will be held on November 7th and 8th, instead of December 2nd as had originally been scheduled.

In light of the importance of maintaining continuity based on institutional memory of the history of the negotiations, and in recognition of the fact that the negotiations are a Member States driven process, I have decided to re-appoint H.E. Mr. Zahir Tanin, Permanent Representative of Afghanistan, as Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations.

To All Permanent Representatives to the United Nations
New York

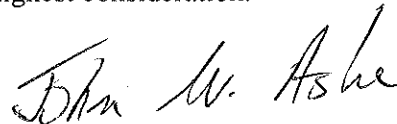
I have also invited the following Permanent Representatives to serve as an Advisory Group to myself: H.E. Benedicte Frankinet, Permanent Representative of Belgium, H.E. Antonio Patriota, Permanent Representative of Brazil, H.E. Christian Wenaweser, Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein, H.E. Mr. Robert Aisi, Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea, H.E. Daniele Bodini, Permanent Representative of San Marino, and H.E. Mr. Vandi Chidi Minah, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone.

The Group is advisory in nature. It does not have a negotiating role. Its purpose is to produce a basis for the start of the Intergovernmental Negotiations that reflects the ideas put forward in the negotiations so far, and also identifies available options.

The Group will begin to meet as early as possible and will take fully into account the views expressed in the Debate on November 7th and 8th, so as to enable it to provide an input for the start of the intergovernmental negotiations on November 15th 2013, or as early as is feasible thereafter.

I look forward to your usual cooperation in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiations.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John W. Ashe". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

John W. Ashe