

H.E. Mr. John Ashe  
President of the General Assembly  
United Nations

Dear President Ashe,

I am writing to you to request your urgent consideration of what I believe could become a very serious matter – the potentially very unhelpful consequences of including the issue of the reform of the UN Security Council within the framework of the 2015 UN summit declaration negotiations.

The World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy (WFM-IGP) is a very strong supporter of the need for reforming the Security Council. We are among the very few NGOs that have closely followed these negotiations in the General Assembly, and related negotiations since the mid-1990s. WFM-IGP believes that all aspects of the reforms, those being negotiated in the Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN), those being advanced by the ACT initiative, and several others initiatives, are extremely important, not only to enhancing the legitimacy of the Security Council in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but indeed in the fervent hope of achieving the first goal of the UN Charter as well as the ongoing maintenance of international peace and security. However, WFM-IGP believes strongly that linking, even indirectly, the negotiations for the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals with the Security Council reform proposals would be very counter-productive, especially those requiring UN Charter amendments.

WFM-IGP supports the General Assembly adopting a progressive, far-reaching and effective agenda that embraces the largest platform of sustainable development goals. In addition to the larger sustainable development goals emerging from Rio Plus 20, we will strive for the inclusion of appropriate elements and bridges to the issues of human security, human rights, women's rights and gender equality, peace and the rule of law in the outcome documents.

We know that overcoming the differences between Member States and political groupings on the SDGs alone presents a formidable challenge. We are aware of the impact that introducing major peace and security issues goals into the 2005 summit had on the negotiations. WFM-IGP believes, on balance, that there were major successes in the 2005 “outcome document,” for example, on human rights, peace-building, and the responsibility to protect. The impact of unilateral military interventions and the so-called “war on terrorism” necessitated that the UNGA and summit grant serious attention to these issues. However, as a “plus 5” conference on the MDGs, the 2005 summit was not very successful.

WFM-IGP fears that including the Security Council Reform issues in the 2015 declaration negotiations could have extremely divisive repercussions. We have listened closely to the statements by Heads of Governments in the General Debate, others in the GA debate on the

IGN and report of the Security Council, and in the recent IGN negotiations. We know how committed certain governments are to having a decision on the expansion issue, especially as it relates to adding additional permanent members to the Security Council, included in the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary summit declaration. We know most experts believe the prospects of securing a 2/3 agreement, much less consensus, are considered remote. However, WFM-IGP has monitored these negotiations for two decades, and we caution that the political intensity of the divisions among Member State groupings on this issue is overwhelming. The impacts of the political maneuverings on the expansion issues occurs almost non-stop at UN Headquarters. You should not believe that the general perception that a decision cannot be achieved in the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary summit will dissuade these major governments from strenuously pursuing their goal. WFM-IGP consulted with some key leaders at the UN before deciding to send this letter.

WFM-IGP does not have a concrete proposal how to separate the SDG and Security Council reform negotiations, but we appeal to you as President of the General Assembly, and to the Secretary-General, to seriously consider our concern. Since we know very few NGOs are aware of this issue, WFM-IGP will be bringing the matter to their attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William R. Pace".

William R. Pace  
Executive Director  
World Federalist Movement – Institute for Global Policy

CC: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon