Mr. President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the G-4 countries: Brazil, Germany, India and Japan.

Mr. President,

I would like to start by thanking you for your letter dated 10 November, in which you appointed the Permanent Representative of Jamaica, Ambassador Courtenay Rattray, as the new Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations. Let me assure Ambassador Rattray that the G-4 is encouraged by his appointment and is committed to work closely with him with a view to achieve the much needed and long awaited reform of the Security Council.

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank once more Ambassador Zahir Tanin for the invaluable work and tireless efforts that we has undertaken during the past five years to move this process forward.

I would also like to commend you, Mr. President, for your strong commitment to the cause of Security Council reform, undoubtedly clear after less than two months in office. In your capacity as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uganda you have been following this issue very closely and for a long time - having personally participated in the adoption of the Ezulwini consensus. You therefore understand, more than anyone, the urgency of the matter.

Mr. President,

The 68th session of the UNGA has brought important developments to the intergovernmental process. Former PGA John Ashe has endorsed the non-paper produced by his Advisory Group, which represents a neutral and objective summary of the main positions expressed in the past 20 years and is now a widely recognized tool to frame our discussion. We then went through another series of meetings convened by Ambassador Tanin based on the five clusters established by Decision 62/557. On these occasions some convergences were clearly identified - especially as regards the existence of a clear majority in favour of expansion in both categories.
In his assessment of the current state of play circulated to the membership on July 9, Ambassador Tanin also recognized this "proactive tone and momentum" achieved in the last session and, looking ahead, pointed out that a text-based discussion remains the "logical evolution" for this process.

That is why the G-4 believes it is imperative to start the first meeting of the next round of the intergovernmental negotiations with a text on the table. We cannot allow for the next round of the intergovernmental process to be - once again - a "merry go round".

As for those who state that there must be a prior consensus before drafting a working document, let me point out that this requirement has no precedent in any other process in the United Nations. This line of thought could actually be considered an "anti-UN" argument. As a matter of fact, the former PGA John Ashe highlighted in his statement delivered at the meeting on the roll-over decision held on September 8 that a negotiating text needs a "sufficiently wide, but not necessarily universal agreement".

Be assured, Mr. President, that the G-4 remains ready to start real negotiations at any time on Security Council reform. Negotiations, however, do not happen in a vacuum. Relying on your authority and mandate as President of this body, we therefore ask you to empower the new Chair by putting forward, yourself, a negotiating text that does not prejudge any positions or any outcomes.

Mr. President,

There is a prevailing view among Member States and among civil society that the Security Council is not capable to respond satisfactorily to specific crises around the world. One can clearly identify a growing sense of frustration arising from the paralysis in the efforts to reform it. During the last General Debate, over a hundred delegations stressed the need for reform.

Let us recall that 2015 will mark 50 years after the first and only time that the Security Council was reformed, 15 years after the Millennium Summit and 10 years after the 2005 World Summit - when our leaders unanimously called for an early reform of the Security Council.

If we leave things as they are we run the risk of bringing discredit and erosion of authority to the United Nations in a core area of its mandate. It is time to fulfill the mandate given to us by our Heads of State and Government, a call that was once again made by the Foreign Ministers of the G-4 in their last meeting held in New York on 26 September.

As the former Chairman pointed out in his aforementioned assessment, the 70th anniversary of this Organization in 2015 will provide a "tremendous opportunity" for achieving the much needed reform. The G-4, in close cooperation with the rest of the membership, will keep working towards that goal.

Thank you.