Before the discussion of whether the politicians should pursue common ground and reasonable consensus rather than elusive ideals, there is a necessity to clarify the definition of common ground, reasonable consensus and elusive ideals. Common ground and reasonable consensus are related to the homogeneity. With the rudimentary purpose of politics is the well-being of its people, the common ground and reasonable consensus should be regarded as the general welfare of its people. While the elusive ideals representing the impracticable ultimate purpose which is far away from the common life. Although the definition of these three words need to be illustrated in more detail, I am generally in favor of the issue that politicians should pursue common ground and reasonable consensus rather than elusive ideals based on the definitions above.

First, elusive ideals, sometimes an impractical one, are more likely to result in failure owing to the fact that the capabilities of human being are limited and the pursuit of a far-reaching goal often frustrates people and leads to the loss of confidence, and the normal development is disrupted. Chairman Mao hopes to realize the communism when the People's Republic of China is initially established. Therefore, in order to achieve this elusive ideal, Chairman Mao guided the Chinese people to carry out the planned economy, a typical feature of communism. He also initiated the campaign of the Great Leap Forward, one of the goal of which, to transcend the production of the United Kingdom in five years, was quite exaggerative and impracticable. The local officials found it difficult to achieve this goal and thus made fabricated reports and the workers wasted precious raw materials by attempt to transform them into steel. The result of the Great Leap Forward was the well-known Great Chinese Famine, during the year of 1960 and 1962. In this example, as we can see, the elusive ideals result in the severe catastrophe.

In addition, the welfare of people is the basic principle of almost all the policies made by politicians. The majority and core of a nation is its people. The nation will be in ramshackle when its people suffer. As most of politicians are elected by the people, they should base their policy on the general welfare of its people. The Reform and Opening-up, initiated by Deng Xiaoping, is a satisfactory illustration. After the realization that the planned economy no longer brought benefits to Chinese people, Deng Xiaoping determined to substitute it with market economy and opened the door of China to the world. In fact, the development of China was rapid and stable afterwards and Deng Xiaoping was also respected as one of the greatest leaders in this world.

Last but not least, the common ground and elusive ideals are not de facto mutually exclusive. When the term of a politician is comparatively long enough, and the strength of nation allows the investment for such an ideal, it is reasonable for politicians to pursue its ideal. In most cases, the term of a politician is limited to ensure the democracy and to give the young leaders a chance to improve themselves, so that the pursuit of common ground and reasonable consensus are more practicable.

As a conclusion, for politicians, the pursuit of common ground and reasonable consensus is still more applicable than the realization of elusive ideals. More importantly, the politicians should also ensure that these policies are in effect and the welfare of people is indeed enhanced. Otherwise, the policies they make are just sort of form rather than the content and the profits and benefits of the people will not be warranted.