



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

Mr. Taulant Zeqiri

European Union Delegation to the United Nations

73rd Session of the General Assembly

Fifth Committee

Main Session

Item 147: Administration of Justice

New York

18 October 2018

Madam Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

Allow me first to thank Ms. Frankson-Wallace, Executive Director, Office of Administration of Justice, Ms. Dodson, United Nations Ombudsman, as well as Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chairman of ACABQ, for introducing their reports.

Madam Chair,

The European Union continues to attach great importance to the efficient and effective functioning of the system of administration of justice at the United Nations. As one of the cornerstones of a well-functioning Organisation, the system must embody the principles of independence, impartiality, transparency and confidentiality. We must ensure that individuals and the organisation are held accountable for their actions in accordance with rules in force within the Organisation.

Madam Chair,

** The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

We consider the informal resolution of disputes as a crucial element of the UN administration of justice system. It improves access to justice while reducing the need for costly and time-consuming litigation. In this regard, we are pleased to see the increased number of resolved cases in the formal system through informal means, as well as the extent of outreach activities aimed at raising awareness of the informal system, particularly mediation, and building capacities to better prevent and resolve conflict in the workplace.

At the cusp of its tenth anniversary, the internal justice system is constructively enhancing. We welcome recommendations to improve the system's internal operations and efficiency and encourage the continued efforts to promote informal dispute resolution.

Finally, we reiterate the importance of considering improvements to the system in the context of wider human and budget resource requirements. We call on the General Assembly to ensure that changes are justified in terms of real need and clear outputs, in line with the goals for the justice system and in the spirit of cost-effectiveness.

Thank you.