



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

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AT THE

**SIXTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

ON

**ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AT THE UNITED NATIONS
(AGENDA: ITEM 141)**

NEW YORK, 15 OCTOBER 2012

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to thank Ms. Linda Taylor, Executive Director of the Office of Administration of Justice on the report of the Panel on the United Nations System of Administration of Justice and Mr. Johnson Barkat, Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services for the report on the activities of the Ombudsman. We also welcome other related comprehensive reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the reports of the Secretary-General on the administration of justice in the Secretariat – with respect to the outcome of the work of the Joint Appeals Board and Statistics on the disposition of cases and the work of the Panel of Counsel.

2. We commend Mr. Brian Gorlick, Chief, Office of Staff Legal Assistance, Rene Vargas, Registrar, United Nations Dispute Tribunal Registries, and Weicheng Lin, Registrar, United Nations Appeals Tribunal Registry for their selfless contributions to the promotion of justice and the rule of law in the United Nations. We further extend our commendation to the Judges and the UN staffs for their contribution and efforts in promoting the mandate of the organization.

3. The Office of Administration of Justice remains a valuable system to the promotion of equity, transparency, equal representation, respect and the right to fair hearing in the United Nations. My delegation recognizes the value of the staffs of the United Nations in the main stream of activities of the organization and acknowledges the paramount importance in providing for their general welfare. The provision of a comprehensive system of administration of justice that is not only efficient and effective, but ensures that individuals and organizations are accountable for their actions in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and regulations is key to human resources management and strengthens the relationship between the staffs and management.

Mr. Chairman,

4. My delegation notes that there is still room for an improvement of the existing system of administration of justice in the United Nations as stipulated in the UN Charter. We recognize the challenges that abound in creating an effective and efficient administration of justice and therefore support proposals and reforms that guarantee efficiency and transparency in the dispersal of justice, provided such proposals are consistent with the relevant rules of international law and the principles of the rule of law, and most importantly ensure that the rights and privileges of UN staffs are respected.

5. Moreover, we take due cognizance of the need for adequate resources to effectively manage the workforce within the office of administration of Justice. The General Assembly in Resolution 63/253 reiterates the decision to independently and transparently establish adequate resources as a means to further address the work-related problems affecting UN staffs. We still believe that a functional system requires adequate funding and, while we endorse the decision of the General Assembly, we would continue to call for sufficient allocation of funds to cover all the components of the office of administration of justice.

Mr. Chairman,

6. The Internal Justice Council is an important component of the office of administration of justice in the United Nations, notably in promoting judicial independence and unbiased recommendation to the General Assembly on the merit of judicial candidates. The Nigerian delegation believes that experienced judges would impact positively on the operational system of the Council and the Office of administration of Justice in general. We therefore call for transparency in the selection of judges bearing in mind that efficiency in the operational system of the Internal Justice Council depends on qualified and experienced judges.

7. Nigeria supports the idea of a decentralized system of administration of justice in the United Nations. Both decision making related to staff welfares and administration of justice closer to UN staffs at all levels allows for a lateral relationship between staffs and management rather than that consolidated on force or authority. We therefore encourage a system that allows administration of justice to be more decentralized, and to reach as many UN staffs as possible. Such representation will not only promote confidence and trust in the UN justice system amongst staffs and managers, but it will help in the reduction of conflict of interests as they arise. We firmly support the concept of an open hearing administration that will help to assist in addressing complaints and not jeopardize the interest of both staff and management.

8. The Nigerian delegation notes the importance of information sharing and strategic communication in enlightening staffs and management of relevant and available judicial privileges. We urge for consistency in the sharing of information related to judicial cases; in particular, a comprehensive communication of available judicial information that highlight rights and privileges, appropriate units to seek redress, and updates on reforms on the system as they become available. Effective judicial communication strategies increases awareness to the appropriate offices and audiences, thus, we encouraged information sharing amongst delegations in the Committee and all units of the office of administration of justice on judicial related matters concerning UN staffs and management, and other relevant information necessary to strengthen administration of justice in the UN.

9. I thank You.