

Statement by
Dr. T. Suka Mangisi, Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations on Agenda Item 143:
Administration of Justice at the United Nations, at the
Sixth Committee of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly,
New York, Wednesday, 06th November 2013

Mr Chair

Tonga attaches great importance to the development of a fair, transparent and efficient system of administration of justice at the United Nations, and we commend the Secretary-General on progress made since 2009.

We thank the Secretary-General for the reports before the Sixth Committee on the Administration of Justice at the United Nations and the Activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services, and the Internal Justice Council for their report on the administration of justice at the United Nations.

We also acknowledge the staff and judges of the Tribunals, the Management Evaluation Unit, the Office of Staff Legal Assistance, the Ombudsman and Mediation Services, and the Office of the Executive Director for their commitment to the administration of justice at the United Nations.

Mr Chair

It is right that the United Nations, as the embodiment of our collective aspirations for a peaceful, fair and just global society, put into practice internally those values that we espouse externally.

The reports before the Sixth Committee today are evidence of an increasingly efficient and effective system of administration of justice at the United Nations; but they also highlight continuing challenges.

Tonga is convinced that a continued commitment to informal dispute resolution processes is crucial to the success of the administration of justice at the United Nations.

We note with concern the under-resourcing of the Office of Staff Legal Assistance, which plays a pivotal role in the efficient administration of justice, including by encouraging recourse to the informal system of justice, by declining representation in

unmeritorious cases and by encouraging settlement, where appropriate, of cases that are before the Tribunals.

Tonga notes the Secretary-General's conclusion that it is in the best interests of the Organization for the Organization to continue to fund the entire cost of the Office of Staff Legal Assistance, including the additional resources that it requires. We recognize the benefit to the Organization as a whole of ensuring the Office of Staff Legal Assistance is adequately resourced. We also note that funding uncertainty is a corollary of many of the joint financing models proposed.

For these reasons, we favor continued funding of the Office of Staff Legal Assistance by the Organization.

Mr Chair

Tonga also welcomes the Secretary-General's proposal for an independent assessment of the system for administration of justice, to be conducted by the Joint Inspection Unit with existing budgetary resources.

Finally, Mr Chair, Tonga notes the importance of continuing to disseminate lessons learned from the administration of justice at the United Nations, to promote best practice by managers and others within the Organization, and to guide Member states in the promotion of good governance and effective dispute resolution at the regional and domestic levels.

We are ready to discuss these matters, and other issues raised by the Secretary-General in relation to the administration of justice at the United Nations.

I thank you Sir.