



**BRAZIL**  
**70<sup>th</sup> Session of United Nations General Assembly**  
**Sixth Committee: “Administration of Justice at the United Nations”**

*26 October 2015*  
*check against delivery*

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by Ecuador on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). I also take this opportunity to thank both the Secretary-General and the Internal Justice Council for their reports and proposals on several aspects of the system of administration of justice at the United Nations.

**Member States are paying increasing attention to debates on the rule of law at the national and international levels. It is equally important to examine ways of improving the application of the rule of law and due process within the Organization. Brazil recognizes the significant achievements of the system of administration of justice at the UN, both in its informal and formal tracks. This system has proven to be indispensable for further strengthening the adherence to legality and due process within the Organization, thus contributing to the preservation of its integrity and efficiency, as well as to making the UN an even more attractive employer. My delegation will continue to support all efforts to keep this system independent, transparent, professionalized, adequately resourced and decentralized.**

Mr. Chairman,

We are convinced of the importance of fostering informal resolution of conflicts in the administration of justice, such as mediation and conciliation – including in the realm of its formal system. These settlement instruments are based on the actual engagement of the parties and prevent unnecessary litigation, leading to swifter solutions and lower budgetary impact. Brazil takes this opportunity to recognize the relevance of the Office of the UN Ombudsman and Mediation Services and welcomes efforts by all areas of the formal system to encourage informal dispute resolution. We take note, with satisfaction, of the fact that over the last year more than 200 pending cases within the formal system were resolved without the need for a final adjudication on their merits.

Our national experience of developing policies to tackle the challenge of ensuring access to justice has taught us the crucial role of providing legal advice. In order for any system of administration of justice to properly fulfill its purpose, all persons for whom it exists should be aware of their legal entitlements and, if necessary, have assistance to engage in informal dispute methods or seek judicial remedy. We consider it worrisome that, as stated in the Secretary-General's report, many staff members, especially those in the field, have limited knowledge of the internal justice system. Brazil stresses the vital task of the Office of Staff Legal Assistance and encourages it to continue its outreach and training activities.

My delegation also noted the increased caseload of the Management Evaluation Unit and both Dispute and Appeals Tribunals over the last year. From a positive perspective, this might be the consequence of increased awareness and trust of staff members in the system of administration of justice at the UN. This situation clearly brings additional challenges in terms of human and material resources – that, if overlooked, could endanger the efficiency and reputation of the system. The increase of 115% of interlocutory motions filed before the Appeals Tribunal is particularly illustrative of the need to provide its judges with additional support, in order to strengthen its ability to timely respond to urgent matters, including in the intersessional periods. As we approach elections to fill vacancies at both Dispute and Appeals Tribunals, Brazil echoes CELAC's call for promoting proper geographical and gender representation in these bodies.

Mr. Chairman,

Bearing in mind the evolving nature of the system of administration of justice, my delegation looks forward to receiving, during the 71<sup>st</sup> Session of the General Assembly, the report and recommendations by the panel of experts mandated for an interim independent assessment. Considering that this exercise will address all aspects of the current system, it will be an opportunity for further improving our tools to ensure respect for the rights and obligations of staff members and accountability of managers and staff alike.

Thank you.