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Sixth Committee

“Administration of justice at the United Nations”

**Statement by Angelique van der Made
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NEW YORK, 15 October 2021

Madam/Mr Chair,

Thank you for giving me the floor. The Kingdom of the Netherlands aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union.

My delegation would like to thank the Secretary-General for his reports on the Activities of the Office of the UN Ombudsman and Mediation Services and on the Administration of Justice at the United Nations. Let me also thank the Internal Justice Council for their report, the first report of the current panel of the Council.

Throughout 2020 we were all confronted with the coronavirus and its enormous impact. Working modalities changed and became more digital, travel was much more difficult or not even possible.

In the reports we read about the impact on the respective parts of the system of Administration of Justice. We commend the flexibility of those working in the system of Administration of Justice as well as efforts that have been made to continue the work and deliver results.

We would like to highlight the following elements.

[Report on the Administration of Justice]

First, the Kingdom of the Netherlands notes the increase in judgments delivered by the UN Dispute Tribunal for the year 2020. The backlog has been reduced by an even higher number than last year. This is a welcome positive development.

The increase in cases received, disposed of and pending before the UN Appeals Tribunal has not gone unnoticed either.

We have noticed the differences in UN Dispute Tribunal duty stations related to the numbers of received, disposed and pending applications and we thank all the judges and personnel at the Dispute Tribunal as well as Appeals Tribunal for their dedication and the work that has been done.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands welcomes the development of the Caselaw portal and the continued dissemination of information and materials. We are confident that the functioning of the system of Administration of Justice will continue to further professionalize and improve.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands will continue to engage on the functioning of the system of Administration of Justice at the UN.

[Report of the UN Ombudsman and Mediation Services]

Second, the services offered by the UN Ombudsman provide a safe, accessible and cost effective way for all staff members to discuss any kind of workplace-related concern. We note with appreciation the work of the UN Ombudsman, including the work of the regional ombudsman offices.

The Kingdom appreciates the continuation of the pilot project that offers access to informal dispute-resolution services to non-staff members.

We follow initiatives aimed at improving the prevention and resolution of disputes involving non-staff personnel with interest and look forward to their expeditious development.

As a result, we think it is time to regularize the pilot project and expand the mandate of the Office of the UN Ombudsman and Mediation Services to include non-staff personnel.

[Conclusion]

In conclusion, The Kingdom of the Netherlands emphasizes the importance of a strong, efficient and professionalized internal system of administration of justice at the UN, which can be accessed by both staff and non-staff.

We welcome that the Secretary-General's report A/76/235 on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities contains information on strengthening the Administration of Justice within the Organization. In the next report we would welcome information on the implementation by the Organization of decisions taken by its judicial institutions.

We continue to follow developments with great interest and look forward to further improvements being made.

Thank you, Madam/Mr Chair.