

**Report of the Coordinator, Mr. Mladen Bručić-Matic (Croatia),  
on the informal consultations of the Sixth Committee  
on agenda item 147, Administration of justice at the United Nations,  
during the 76<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly**

Madam Chair,  
Distinguished colleagues,

I have the honor to introduce the draft letter from the Chair of the Sixth Committee to the President of the General Assembly on agenda item 147, “*Administration of justice at the United Nations*”.

The Sixth Committee held a total of seven rounds of virtual informal consultations on the agenda item. Informal consultations were also held with interested delegations in-person on 8 and 10 November 2021.

During our informal consultations we were able to cover some of the requests and recommendations included in the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of the UN Ombudsman and Mediation Services (A/76/140); the report of the Secretary-General on the Administration of Justice at the United Nations (A/76/99); and the report of the Internal Justice Council (A/76/124).

As customary on this item, informal consultations were preceded by a briefing in which various units of the Secretariat as well as the Internal Justice Council virtually participated this year, followed by a question-and-answer segment.

During our informal consultations, I received written communications from the Executive Director of the Office of Administration of Justice, from the Ombudsman, and from the Chair of the Internal Justice Council, all of which were brought to the attention of delegations either orally or in writing.

Madam Chair,

The draft letter under your consideration is, to some extent, a continuation of the letter sent last year to the PGA in that the Sixth Committee addresses the following similar matters:

- It underlines the importance of the **independence of the judiciary**;
- It emphasizes the need for **knowledge of the internal system of administration of justice and for outreach activities**;
- It also continued to underline the importance of **transparency and consistency of jurisprudence and judicial directions**;
- It further renewed its interest in improving the **regulatory framework**;
- With regard to the **informal system of internal justice**, it continued to emphasize that informal dispute settlement was a crucial component of the internal system of

administration of justice. It also supported the consideration by the Office of the UN Ombudsman and Mediation Services of a pilot project to increase utilization of mediation for workplace disputes;

- Turning to the **formal system of internal justice**, delegations again commended the Management Evaluation Unit for its continued important role in enabling the resolution of work-related disputes of staff members. The Committee further requested that the Internal Justice Council, the United Nations Appeals Tribunal, the United Nations Dispute Tribunal, and the Secretary-General include their views on recommendations 1 (modalities of appointment of UNAT & UNDT Presidents) and 3 (no dual functions as Judge) of the report of the IJC in the Secretary-General's report for the seventy-seventh session.

- The Sixth Committee also continued to address the issue of **self-representation and voluntary supplemental funding mechanism of the Office of Staff Legal Assistance**. It took note of the proposal of the Secretary-General to extend such mechanism from 1 January 2022 until 31 December 2024;

- With regard to **remedies available to non-staff personnel**, the Committee reiterated its long-standing views, by which it highlighted that the UN should ensure that effective remedies were available to all categories of personnel, including non-staff personnel, and recommending to continue the discussions on ways to provide non-staff personnel with access to fair and effective mechanisms for resolving work-related disputes. The Committee further encouraged the continuation of the pilot project within existing resources and requested the Office of the Ombudsman and Mediation Services to include in its next report information regarding the expected resources that would be required to expand its mandate to cover non-staff.

- On **protection against retaliation**, the Committee took note of the information provided in relation to staff members lodging cases before the Tribunals, and of the panel discussions held on retaliation policies;

- Finally, the Committee considered strongly advisable for the General Assembly to approve the amendment to article 48 of the Regulations of the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund, currently under consideration before the Fifth Committee, and the corresponding **amendments to articles 2.9 and 7.2 of the statute of the Appeals Tribunal** at the same time;

- It also recommended the approval of the **amendments to articles 8.2 (a) and 9.2 (a) as well as 24, 25, 26 and 27 of the rules of procedure of the Appeals Tribunal**.

The draft letter under your consideration reflects the outcome of the negotiations we conducted. I hope that it will be approved by consensus. As indicated in its paragraph 41, it is then meant to be brought to the attention of the Chair of the Fifth Committee, through the PGA.

In closing, I would like to thank the Secretariat for their support.

I thank you for your attention.

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