



PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY

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OF JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Agenda Item 152 – Administration of Justice

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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(Check against delivery)

Mr. Chair,

I have the honour to speak on Agenda Item 149 – Administration of Justice on behalf of the Government of Jamaica.

As this is the first time that I will speak since the beginning of the session, do allow me to extend congratulations to you and the rest of the bureau on your appointment to this high post. Be assured of Jamaica's support throughout the session.

Monsieur le président,

Ma délégation tient à remercier le Secrétaire général pour ses rapports sur l'administration de la justice à l'Organisation des Nations Unies et sur les activités du Bureau des services d'ombudsman et de médiation des Nations Unies contenus dans les documents A/77/156 (A / soixante dix sept/ cent cinquante six) et A/77/151 (A/ soixante dix-sept/ cent cinquante et un) , respectivement. Nous prenons note en outre du rapport du Conseil de justice interne sur l'administration de la justice à l'Organisation des Nations Unies, contenu dans le document A/77/130 (A/soixante dix sept/ cent trente).

[Mr. Chair,

My delegation wishes to thank the Secretary-General for his Reports on the Administration of Justice at the United Nations, and on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services contained in documents A/77/156 and A/77/151, respectively. We further take note of the report of the Internal Justice Council on Administration of Justice at the United Nations, contained in document A/77/130.]

Mr. Chair,

Jamaica wholeheartedly supports systemic and institutionalized adherence to the rule of law, which must be characterized by respect for the role of independent, transparent and professionalized legal systems.

For this reason, we recognize and applaud the efforts made over the period under review towards the continued professionalization, and enhanced transparency and efficiency of the system of Administration of Justice at the United Nations, in accordance with relevant General Assembly Resolutions (61/261, 62/228 and 63/253).

Jamaica firmly supports all measures intended to strengthen the administration of justice, and to improve its effectiveness at the managerial and operational levels. In particular, we emphasize our support for efforts to ensure that well-established principles of law, such as separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary in the conduct of cases, govern the management of the system of Administration of Justice. These fundamental principles are critical to the success of the system. Fidelity to these principles must also be matched by a commitment to ensuring the highest standards of accountability of the administration of the internal justice system.

Caseload Management of the Dispute Tribunal

Mr. Chair,

Jamaica attaches great importance to the functioning of a system of administration of justice in the United Nations which operates in a manner consistent with the relevant General Assembly resolutions, principles of administrative law, the rule of law and due process. This is fundamental to ensuring respect for the rights and obligations of staff members, as well as the accountability of staff members and managers.

The effective and efficient processing and disposition of disputes using both formal and informal systems are central to the ability of the Organization to fulfil its mandate to promote peace and security, human rights and development.

Jamaica commends the Dispute Tribunal for ongoing efforts to manage heavy caseloads, noting that the case disposal and judgment targets for the Dispute Tribunal established in January 2019 were maintained in 2021. In 2021, the Tribunal received 215 new cases and disposed of 278 cases. It is also noted that all 404 cases pending on 31 December 2018 were disposed of by 25 July 2021.

COVID 19 and the work of the OAJ

Mr. Chair,

The widespread impact of the COVID-19 pandemic over these past three years has greatly affected how we execute our work here at the UN, both as diplomats and within the Secretariat. In many respects, we have had to find new ways of discharging our duties to ensure the continued implementation of UN Mandates. It is for this reason that we commend the OAJ for their professionalism and the dedicated manner with which their duties were executed throughout the COVID – 19 Pandemic. We are advised that the Tribunals, counsel for the parties and the registries worked mainly in a virtual environment, facilitated by a virtual courtroom and other electronic workspaces. Indeed, we are pleased that despite the numerous challenges, the justice system continued to function using flexible work arrangements.

Case Law Portal and Electronic Digest

Mr. Chair,

Last week Thursday, 6th October 2022, Jamaica was honoured to participate in the launch event for the Caselaw Portal and Electronic Digest for all judgements of the Tribunals which was developed by the Office of the Administration of Justice. The case management system, which was further enhanced to add French-Language capability to reinforce multilingualism, will undoubtedly serve to enhance the accessibility of the cases addressed by the system. We commend the Executive Director and her team on their hard work to ensure the development, launch and management of this portal

Jamaica también elogia y apoya el compromiso de la Oficina de Administración de Justicia de promover el multilingüismo en estos procesos.

[Jamaica also commends and supports the commitment of the Office of Administration of Justice to the promotion of multilingualism in these processes.]

Rules of procedure of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal

Mr. Chair,

My delegation recalls paragraph 27 of resolution 74/258, which welcomed recommendation 9 on judicial efficiency and accountability. The Member States urged the Dispute Tribunal and the Appeals Tribunal to review and amend their respective rules of procedure, subject to the approval of the Assembly. This recommendation was made with a view to streamline and harmonize the approach to case management, including by ensuring that the first judicial action in a case is taken no later than 90 days from the date on which an application is filed. In paragraph 38 of resolution 75/248, the General Assembly decided, among other matters, to consider at its seventy-sixth session the proposed amendments to the rules of procedure of the Tribunal, which resulted in consultations, the withdrawal of the proposed amendments submitted to the General Assembly in annex II to A/75/162, and the submission of a revised proposal to the Assembly for consideration at its seventy-seventh session.

We thank the Dispute Tribunal for the revised draft rules of procedure and the Secretariat for their views on the amendments, noting the wide ranging comments provided. We look forward to discussing the major issues arising, with a view to making a determination on these amendments to the rules of procedure of the Dispute Tribunal.

Mr. Chair,

Finally, on the matter of the addition of paragraph 4 to article 9 of the statute of the Dispute Tribunal, Jamaica notes the language being proposed, and recognizes the importance of the issue raised. Jamaica looks forward to engaging constructively with colleague Member States on the matter of the proposed amendment of the statute of the Dispute Tribunal, given the need to clarify the scope of the review to be conducted by the Tribunals in disciplinary cases.

In closing, Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica remains committed to the process of institutionalization of sound management practices, and is confident that the jurisprudence, working methods and rules of procedures applicable in the administration of justice at the UN will continue to build confidence in the operations of the organization going forward.

I thank you.