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Sixth Committee

“Administration of justice at the United Nations”

**Statement by Wieteke Theeuwen
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Netherlands to the United Nations**

NEW YORK, 11 October 2022

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.

To start, let me 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.

Throughout 2021 we continued to be confronted with the coronavirus and its enormous impact. Working modalities still had a strong virtual emphasis, travel was difficult or not even possible and at some points returning to the office became a discussion and a concern to some.

This also continued to impact the respective parts of the system of Administration of Justice. We commend the flexibility and agility 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. It is good to see that during 2021 there was more opportunity again for travel and in-person meetings.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands would like to highlight the following elements.

[Report on the Administration of Justice]

First, the Kingdom of the Netherlands notes that the UN Dispute Tribunal disposed of all 404 cases which were pending on 31 December 2018. This tackling of the backlog is an appreciated positive development.

We have noticed the differences in UN Dispute Tribunal duty stations related to the numbers of received, disposed and pending applications, recognizing the higher caseload in Nairobi and Geneva and understand the composition of the UN Dispute Tribunal with full-time and half-time judges facilitated the deployment of judicial resources where they were needed, which contributed to reaching disposal and judgment targets.

We continue to encourage the UN Dispute Tribunal to increase its efficiency in line with the measures introduced by the General Assembly in resolutions 73/276 and 74/258.

The increase in judgments delivered and cases disposed combined with a slight decrease of cases received by the UN Appeals Tribunal has not gone unnoticed either.

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

[Report of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation services]

Second, the services offered by the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation services 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 this Office, including the work of the regional ombudsman offices, as the Office is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2022.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands appreciates and highly values 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.

[Review of the jurisdictional set-up of the United Nations common system]

Third, on the review of the jurisdictional set-up of the United Nations common system the Kingdom of the Netherlands notes with concern that organizations of the United Nations common system still face the challenge of having two independent administrative tribunals with concurrent jurisdiction among the organizations of the United Nations common system.

We hope that the recommendations from the report A/77/222 of the Secretary-General on the review of the jurisdictional setup of the United Nations Common System will contribute to a speedy resolution of the issue.

[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/77/213 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.