

**Report of the Coordinator, Ms. Sopio Kupradze (Georgia),
on the informal consultations of the Sixth Committee
on agenda item 149, Administration of justice at the United Nations,
during the 77th session of the General Assembly**

Mister Chair,

Distinguished colleagues,

I have the honour to introduce the draft letter from the Chair of the Sixth Committee to the President of the General Assembly on agenda item 149, “*Administration of justice at the United Nations*”.

The Sixth Committee held a total of six rounds informal consultations on the agenda item. Two rounds of informal informal consultations were also held with interested delegations.

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 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.

Mister 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** and welcomed the launch of the Caselaw portal;

- It further renewed its interest in improving the **regulatory framework**, including measures to address racism and promote dignity for all at the United Nations;
- 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 of various mechanisms to increase the use of mediation for workplace disputes;
- Turning to the **formal system of internal justice**, delegations again commended the Management Evaluation Unit, the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal for their continued important roles in enabling the resolution of work-related disputes of staff members. The Committee noted the differing views of relevant stakeholders on the proposal of the Internal Justice Council to change the modalities of appointment and term of office of the presidents of the two tribunals.
- The Sixth Committee also continued to address the issue of **self-representation and voluntary supplemental funding mechanism of the Office of Staff Legal Assistance**;
- 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, affordable 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;
- Finally, the Committee took note of the Secretary-General's proposal to **amend article 9 of the statute of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal by adding a new paragraph 4** and of the different views expressed by key stakeholders and Member States. It encouraged the Secretary-General to continue consult the various stakeholders on this important legal issue and revert to the appropriate committee to consider the matter;
- It also recommended the approval of the **amendment to articles 19 (2) of the rules of procedure of the Dispute Tribunal** and took note of the Secretary-General's request that the General Assembly consider the comments, as set out in annexes II to IV of his report, before deciding whether to approve the remaining proposed amendments. The Committee suggested to postpone the decision on the remaining amendments to the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly

- *check against delivery* -

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 38, 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 delegations for their constructive engagement throughout this process and to thank the Secretariat for their support.

I thank you for your attention.
