



Sixth Committee

Item 144:

“Administration of Justice at the United Nations”

Statement delivered by

CANZ

October 11, 2023

I have the honour today to speak on behalf of Australia, New Zealand, and my own country, Canada.

CANZ countries emphasize the importance of a transparent, impartial, independent and effective internal justice system at the United Nations since the commencement of the administration of justice system in 2009. An effective, transparent and adequately resourced administration of justice system anchored in the principles of due process and access to justice is essential for the organisation to be able to deliver its objectives. CANZ thanks the Secretary-General, the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services and the International Justice Council for their reports, which are a valuable resource for Member States.

We commend the productivity of the United Nations Disputes Tribunal (UNDT) and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal (UNAT) for their successful efforts in continuing to reduce the backlog of pending cases. We also recognize the efforts of the tribunals to train and foster the competence of new judges on the tribunals.

CANZ is pleased with the ongoing commitment to multilingualism and the increase in geographical and linguistic diversity of the tribunals in the reporting period. We also congratulate the organization on the launch of the case law portal, a significant accomplishment that promotes consistency and transparency in the tribunals' work.

The Office of the Ombudsman and Mediation Services has identified systemic issues that underpin workplace conflict. CANZ countries are pleased to see in this context that the Organization is taking seriously the important issues of mental health and personal needs of non-staff. We also welcome the efforts to address mental health challenges and improve the working environment, including due to persistent challenges faced in the wake of the COVID pandemic.

CANZ countries remain concerned about the harm caused by discriminatory attitudes and behaviours. We acknowledge the ongoing and new efforts to address racial and gender discrimination and sexual harassment in the organisation, and efforts to promote diversity, equality, inclusion and equity. We welcome continuing work on these issues, including the numerous programmes and trainings that took

place in the reporting period, and we look forward to hearing about the outcomes of these efforts.

We remain concerned about the risk of retaliation as a persistent problem in the organisation. We recognize the attention to this issue, including the meeting of the Chief Executive Board in March 2023. At the same time, we continue to call for more attention and action to ensure protection against retaliation and for whistleblowers.

CANZ countries will continue to engage constructively with all Member States and the UN to foster an administration of justice that is fair, impartial, transparent and efficient. Thank you.