



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

STATEMENT BY

THE DELEGATION OF MOZAMBIQUE AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE DURING THE 79TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON

THE AGENDA ITEM 152: ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AT THE UNITED NATIONS

15 October 2024 (10:00 am)
United Nations
New York

Mr. Chair,

1. Mozambique aligns itself with the statement delivered by Uganda on behalf of the African Group (AG) for the subject under consideration.
2. Allow me to make some remarks in our national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

3. Mozambique commends with appreciation the reports of the Secretary General of the United Nations namely: on "*Administration of Justice at the United Nations*" and "*Activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services*", and on "*Administration of Justice at the United Nations*".
4. The significant progress has been made by the United Nations towards reinforcement of its system of administration of justice and efforts that continue to overcome remaining challenges.

5. Most notably of mention on the progress of the formal system of Administration of Justice is the maintenance of efficiency of the Dispute Tribunal and the Appeals Tribunal throughout 2023.
6. Mozambique also acknowledges on the informal justice system, the proactive dissemination of communications, including the “Informal First Champions” toolkit. The informal system plays an important role in the inclusive manner of conflict mediation and resolution. Accordingly, the number of cases received by the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services in 2023 have increased compared to 2022.
7. These are encouraging trends that must continue to be undertaken by the organs of the system of administration of justice of the United Nations, in accordance with the principles of independence and transparency, as established in resolution 62/228.

Mr Chair,

8. A structural recommendation was presented to establish an independent Mediation Office, distinct from the Office of the Ombudsman and Mediation Services, related to a possible incompatibility between the role of an ombudsman and the role of a mediator, that could be the reason behind a relatively low rate of mediation cases.
9. However, based on the Secretariat's assessment of the functioning of the system for the period 2009-2023, my delegation is of the view that the various components of the system are functioning, compatible, and have contributed, significantly, to reducing the litigation before the Tribunals.
10. In the same way, we look at the growing number of cases presented to the Office of the Ombudsman and Mediation Services, including from non-staff personnel, as a signal of trust and confidence in the body.
11. However, we encourage the allocation of adequate resources to informal mechanisms to enabling those services to resolve work-related disputes, as envisaged by the General Assembly resolution 78/248.

Mr Chair,

12. Regarding the proposal to extend the voluntary supplemental funding mechanism of the Office of Staff Legal Assistance on an indefinite basis, Mozambique expresses its support, commending the staff for their steadily increasing voluntary contributions to the mechanism over time. It enhances the Office staffing capacity, particularly in locations away from the Headquarters.

13. Concerning other recommendations, Mozambique avails itself the opportunity for further discussion during the debate on specific items.

Mr Chair,

14. Budgetary constraints constitute a matter of concern. This has a negative impact for the standards established by the General Assembly for the system of administration of justice at the United Nations. We hope the improvement in the allocation of the budget in the near future.

15. To conclude, Mr. Chair, we would like to highlight the importance of continually improving the work environment, including the relationship between managers and employees, and the continuation of the zero-tolerance policy against any type of discrimination, with emphasis on racial and gender discrimination.

I thank you!