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“Administration of justice at the United Nations”

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Madam/Mr. Chair,

Thank you for giving me the floor. The Kingdom of the Netherlands aligns itself with the statement given by the European Union on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

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.

We 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 206 cases during 2023 and again reduced its backlog. This tackling of backlog is a valued progression.

However, considering there is still a backlog, the Kingdom of the Netherlands continues 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 Kingdom of the Netherlands wishes to express its appreciation to all 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 welcomes the development of the Caselaw portal and the continued dissemination of information and materials in multiple languages. We are confident that the functioning of the system of Administration of Justice will continue to further professionalize and improve.

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. The Kingdom of the Netherlands notes with appreciation the work of this Office, including the work of the regional ombudsman offices.

We commend in particular the Office's ongoing efforts to promote and advance the 'informal first' approach.

Of the total number of 2,014 cases opened by the Office in 2023, 124 were mediation cases. We see the potential for increased utilization of mediation services and encourage the Office to continue to share information about and promote mediation.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the Office for its update on services available for non-staff personnel.

We appreciate and highly value the regularization of the pilot project to enable non-staff personnel to access the Office's services within existing resources.

[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 personnel.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands welcomes that the Secretary-General's report A/79/117 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 the Kingdom of the Netherlands would welcome information on the implementation by the Organization of decisions taken by its judicial institutions.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands continues to follow developments with great interest and looks forward to further improvements being made.

Thank you, Madam/Mr. Chair.

