



UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement at the 79th General Assembly Sixth Committee
Agenda Item 152: Administration of Justice at the United Nations
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United States Mission to the United Nations
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Thank you, Chair.

The United States thanks the Secretary-General, the Office of the UN Ombudsman and Mediation Services, and the Internal Justice Council for their thoughtful reports on their work in 2023. The Office of the Ombudsman and Mediation Services continues to demonstrate the value of the “informal first” approach in fostering a culture of dialogue and connection within the workplace. The Management Advice and Evaluation Section and the Office of Staff Legal Assistance also played key roles in reducing litigation before the Tribunals.

We recognize the challenges that the liquidity crisis, recruitment freezes, and understaffing have presented. Given those challenges, the Office’s support of the UN workforce is especially critical. The increased levels of awareness of mediation services, the continued availability of services in the six official languages of the UN, and the enhanced accessibility to people with disabilities demonstrate the Office’s commitment to its mission. We commend the Office for its high success rate of mediated resolutions and hope that level of success can soon be enjoyed across the organization. We look forward to hearing about how the Office’s collaboration on the Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy and how the regularization of the pilot project for non-staff personnel reap benefits across the organization. The Office’s awareness of gaps in the implementation of the victim-centered approach and of the difficulties in accessing informal resolution services in challenging circumstances will be the first step to improving the Office’s work on these fronts.

We applaud the justice system within the UN for striving to be a model for the world on how to resolve disputes informally and amicably. By creating a work environment of dignity and respect among people of different genders, cultures, and languages, the United Nations embodies some of the highest aspirations of the community to which we all belong.

Thank you, Chair.