



# UNITED NATIONS APPEALS TRIBUNAL TRIBUNAL D'APPEL DES NATIONS UNIES

Case No. 2018-1151

**Secretary-General of the United Nations  
(Appellant/Respondent)**

**v.**

**Langue  
(Respondent/Applicant)**

**ORDER No. 321 (2018)**

1. On 13 December 2017, the United Nations Dispute Tribunal (UNDT) in Nairobi issued Judgment No. UNDT/2017/092, in the case of *Langue v. Secretary-General of the United Nations*.
2. On 12 February 2018, the Secretary-General appealed. His appeal was forwarded to Ms. Gisèle Langue on 14 February 2018 for an answer within 60 days, i.e., by 15 April 2018.
3. On 14 May 2018, Ms. Langue filed a motion for waiver of the time limit to file an answer. In support of Ms. Langue's motion, her counsel states that he immediately informed Ms. Langue of the filing of the appeal when he was notified on 14 February 2018 but then "lost track of the case" due to the passing away of his mother, a series of teaching field trips and the loss of his personal laptop, claiming that he only recovered most of his documents including his e-mail inbox about two weeks prior to filing the motion. Ms. Langue asks for an additional seven days to file the answer.
4. Under Article 30 of the Rules of Procedure of the Appeals Tribunal, "the President or the panel hearing a case may shorten or extend a time limit fixed by the rules of procedure or waive any rule when the interests of justice so require".
5. While the Appeals Tribunal "has consistently held that it strictly enforces the various time limits under its Statute and Rules",<sup>1</sup> I find that in this particular case, though Ms. Langue is too late in filing such a request, it is in the interests of justice to

<sup>1</sup> *Nyakossi v. Secretary-General of the United Nations*, Order No. 72 (2011), para. 3.

waive the time limit to file an answer to the appeal since receiving submissions from both parties in any given case will greatly assist the Appeals Tribunal in its deliberations and furthermore, the aforementioned waiver will not prejudice the Secretary-General's rights.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Ms. Langué's motion for a waiver of the time limit is **GRANTED** and she shall file her answer, if any, **no later than 30 May 2018**.

Original and Authoritative Version: English

Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May 2018 in  
Athens, Greece.

Entered in the Register on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of  
May 2018 in New York, United States.

*(Signed)*  
Judge Dimitrios Raikos  
President

*(Signed)*  
Weicheng Lin, Registrar