



**Before:** Judge Teresa Bravo

**Registry:** Geneva

**Registrar:** René M. Vargas M.

ZHANG

v.

SECRETARY-GENERAL  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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**ORDER  
ON CASE MANAGEMENT**

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**Counsel for Applicant:**

Self-represented

**Counsel for Respondent:**

Adrien Meubus, LPAS, UNOG

## **Introduction**

1. The Applicant contests the decision to close her complaint against her First Reporting Officer (“FRO”), namely the Chief, Chinese Translation Section (“CTS”), Languages Service (“LS”), Division of Conference Management (“DCM”), United Nations Office at Geneva (“UNOG”).
2. The Respondent filed his reply on 4 May 2022.
3. By Order No. 83 (GVA/2022) of 26 August 2022, the Tribunal granted leave to the Applicant to file comments on the Respondent’s reply by 26 September 2022.
4. By motion dated 26 September 2022, the Applicant requested an extension of at least two weeks of the deadline to file her above-mentioned comments.
5. By Order No. 89 (GVA/2022) of 10 October 2022, the Tribunal granted the above motion and extended the Applicant’s deadline to file comments on the Respondent’s reply to 17 October 2022.
6. By motion dated 17 October 2022, the Applicant requested a further extension “of no fewer than three months” of the deadline to file her above-mentioned comments.

## **Consideration**

7. The Applicant grounds her 17 October 2022 motion on the following three reasons, which the Tribunal will examine in turn:
  - a. Her health condition and medical visits;
  - b. Her ongoing efforts to find legal representation; and
  - c. Her having to “leave area” to assist a relative in the search for medical treatment.
8. The relevant period for assessing the Applicant’s first reason (“the relevant period”) is from 26 August to 17 October 2022, namely from this Tribunal’s ruling granting the Applicant leave to comment on the reply up to the last deadline set by its Order No. 89 (GVA/2022).

9. The Tribunal closely examined the 22 documents attached to the 17 October 2022 motion in support of the Applicant's health-related argument, and determines that only eight documents are pertinent to it. The remaining 14 documents are either dated before the relevant period or are pharmacy prescriptions and medical bills that provide no information on the Applicant's claim.

10. The eight pertinent documents do support that the Applicant has faced health issues (e.g., eyesight, balance). However, none of them attests to an incapacity during the relevant period to undertake tasks such as word processing, which is required to work on submissions in connection with her case.

11. Accordingly, the Tribunal is not persuaded that the Applicant's health condition supports the extension of time requested.

12. Turning to the Applicant's claim that she is seeking legal representation, the Applicant merely submitted a cropped screenshot of a message from what seems to be a potential counsel who could represent her. Said message provides the Applicant with information about, *inter alia*, the cost of representation. Although this documentary evidence in support of the Applicant's claim to be searching for legal representation is minimal, the Tribunal is willing to give her the benefit of the doubt in that respect.

13. Concerning the Applicant's claim that she has to "leave the area" to help a relative in need of assistance ("the patient") to find medical treatment, the documents attached to the motion do not substantiate a family link between the Applicant and the patient or the need for the Applicant's absence to assist the patient and/or its impact on her ability to pursue her case.

14. Moreover, the Tribunal recalls that the Applicant requested that the instant case be examined together with another ongoing case she has before this Tribunal, namely Case No. UNDT/GVA/2021/066, which is also assigned to the undersigned Judge. The Applicant reiterated this request in her 17 October 2022 motion.

15. For judicial efficiency reasons, the Tribunal intends indeed to adjudicate both matters if not jointly at least sequentially. Moreover, the Tribunal notes that on 31 December 2022, Case No. UNDT/GVA/2021/066 will have been in the Tribunal's docket for 373 days and the instant case for 331 days. As such, the Tribunal expects to begin adjudication of these cases in January 2023.

16. In view of the foregoing, the Tribunal will partially grant the Applicant's motion by setting a final deadline for her submission of comments on the Respondent's reply.

IT IS ORDERED THAT

17. The Applicant's final deadline to file comments on the Respondent's reply is set to **Monday, 5 December 2022**.

*(Signed)*

Judge Teresa Bravo

Dated this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 2022

Entered in the Register on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 2022

*(Signed)*

René M. Vargas M., Registrar, Geneva