



Before: Judge Teresa Bravo

Registry: Geneva

Registrar: René M. Vargas M.

ZHANG

v.

SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**ORDER
ON CASE MANAGEMENT**

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. The Applicant filed a series of motions commencing on 7 July 2022 requesting an extension of time to file comments on the Respondent’s reply. The Tribunal granted each of the Applicant’s motions. However, considering the disposal timeframe of the cases in the Tribunal’s docket, by Order No. 103 (GVA/2022) of 7 November 2022, the Tribunal granted the Applicant a final deadline of 5 December 2022 to file her comments.
4. By motion dated 5 December 2022, the Applicant requested a further extension of time for a “reasonable” period as of 12 January 2023 when she will return to Switzerland.

Consideration

5. The Applicant grounds her 5 December 2022 motion on the following reasons:
 - a. Not having access to her paper files/folders from her current location and being unable to collect and/or sort through all her medical records to present to the court before her trip to assist her sister in another country;
 - b. Being busy assisting her sister who has been diagnosed with a serious illness; and
 - c. Not being able to secure legal representation before her trip to assist her sister.

6. The Tribunal sympathizes with the Applicant's situation. However, the documents attached to the motion do not substantiate her request as they do not serve to prove that her ability to pursue her case has been impacted. As such, the Tribunal considers that the reasons put forward by the Applicant are irrelevant and do not justify a further extension of the Tribunal's final deadline.

7. The Tribunal further notes that the Respondent's reply was filed on 4 May 2022 and the Applicant first filed a motion for an extension of time to file comments on the reply on 7 July 2022. She subsequently filed three more motions requesting further extensions of time to file her comments. The Tribunal granted each of her motions until the final deadline of 5 December 2022. Therefore, the Applicant has had ample time to present her comments and secure legal representation if she so wishes.

8. Moreover, the Tribunal refers to its Order No. 103(GVA/2022) whereby it informed the Applicant of its intention to adjudicate the two ongoing matters she has before the Tribunal, namely this case and Case No. UNDT/GVA/2021/066, if not jointly at least sequentially. The Tribunal also informed the Applicant that in view of its current docket, it expected to begin adjudication of these cases in January 2023.

9. In view of the foregoing, the Tribunal considers that it is not in the interest of justice or judicial efficiency to grant her a further extension of time to file her comments on the Respondent's reply.

10. Furthermore, having examined the parties' submissions and the evidence on record, the Tribunal considers itself fully briefed and that the matter can be determined based on the written submissions on record.

Conclusion

11. In view of the foregoing, it is ordered that the Applicant's motion for a further extension of time to file comments on the Respondent's reply is rejected.

Case No. UNDT/GVA/2022/005

Order No. 123 (GVA/2022)

12. The parties are hereby informed that the Tribunal is ready to adjudicate the matter on papers and will proceed with judgment.

(Signed)

Judge Teresa Bravo

Dated this 8th day of December 2022

Entered in the Register on this 8th day of December 2022

(Signed)

René M. Vargas M., Registrar, Geneva