



Before: Duty Judge
Registry: Geneva
Registrar: René M. Vargas M.

SOPHOCLEOUS

v.

SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**ORDER ON
JOINT MOTION FOR FURTHER
SUSPENSION OF PROCEEDINGS**

Counsel for Applicant:

George Irving

Counsel for Respondent:

Isavella Maria Vasilogeorgi, DAS/ALD/OHR, UN Secretariat

Introduction

1. The Applicant, a staff member of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, contests the decision to impose on him the disciplinary measure of demotion by one grade with deferment for three years of consideration for eligibility for promotion, in accordance with staff rule 10.2(a)(vii), as well as the administrative measure of requiring him to undertake a gender sensitivity training, in accordance with staff rule 10.2(b).

2. On 26 October 2023, the parties filed a joint motion for suspension of proceedings pending informal settlement discussions requesting the Tribunal to suspend the proceedings until 17 November 2023 and adjust any pending deadlines accordingly.

3. By Order No. 141 (GVA/2023) of 27 October 2023, the Tribunal suspended proceedings until 17 November 2023 pending ongoing settlement discussions between the parties.

4. On 16 November 2023, the parties filed a joint motion seeking a further suspension of the proceedings until 5 January 2024, and the resulting adjustment of any pleadings' deadlines.

Consideration

5. In their joint motion, the parties inform the Tribunal that they have made progress in their settlement discussions but need more time to reach a mutually agreed outcome.

6. In support of the requested deadline extension period, the parties submit that it accounts for upcoming travel and leave arrangements of counsel and other staff involved in the informal discussions.

7. Recalling that amicable settlement of disputes is encouraged and is important, especially in circumstances where there is an ongoing employment relationship, the Tribunal is inclined to continue supporting the parties' efforts to reach an amicable settlement of their dispute.

8. Consequently, pursuant to art. 10 of its Statute, the Tribunal will grant the parties' joint motion.

Conclusion

9. In view of the foregoing, it is ORDERED THAT:

a. The proceedings before the Tribunal in Case No. UNDT/GVA/2023/032 be further suspended during informal settlement discussions until **Friday, 5 January 2024**;

b. If a settlement agreement is reached within this period, the parties shall inform the Tribunal accordingly without delay, and the Applicant shall confirm to the Tribunal, in writing, that his application is withdrawn; or

c. If no settlement agreement can be reached within the prescribed period, the Tribunal will resume proceedings in the matter and the Respondent shall file his comments on the Applicant's rejoinder by **Friday, 19 January 2024**.

(Signed)

Judge Sun Xiangzhuang (Duty Judge)

Dated this 17th day of November 2023

Entered in the Register on this 17th day of November 2023

(Signed)

René M. Vargas M., Registrar, Geneva