



Before: Duty Judge

Registry: Geneva

Registrar: René M. Vargas M.

RUSDIA

v.

SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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

Counsel for Applicant:

Robbie Leighton, OSLA

Counsel for Respondent:

Alister Cumming, UNICEF

Chinonyelum Esther Uwazie, UNICEF

Introduction

1. By application filed on 18 December 2023, the Applicant, a staff member of the United Nations Children’s Fund (“UNICEF”), contests the decision to “refuse return Education Grant Travel for [her] three children for the 2022-[20]23 academic year”.
2. On 18 January 2024, the Respondent filed his reply.
3. By Order No. 22 (GVA/2024) of 14 March 2024, the Tribunal instructed the parties to explore an amicable settlement, and the Applicant to file a rejoinder.
4. On 27 March 2023, the parties filed a joint motion for suspension of proceedings.
5. By Order No. 27 (GVA/2024) of 28 March 2024, the Tribunal, *inter alia*, suspended the present proceedings until 27 May 2024 pending mediation through the Office of the Ombudsman.
6. On 24 May 2024, the parties filed a joint motion for a further suspension of the proceedings until 28 June 2024.

Consideration

7. In support of their motion, the parties informed the Tribunal that the mediation is still ongoing and requested the Tribunal to further suspend the proceedings until 28 June 2024 “to permit time for the mediation to run its course”. Additionally, the parties asked the Tribunal to extend the deadline for compliance with “para. 5(a) of Order No. 022 (GVA/2024) to 5 July 2024” for the Applicant to file a rejoinder.
8. 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.

9. Consequently, pursuant to art. 10 of its Statute, the Tribunal will grant the present motion.

Conclusion

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

- a. The proceedings before the Tribunal in this matter be further suspended until **Friday, 28 June 2024** to allow the parties to finalise an amicable settlement of their dispute;
- b. If a settlement agreement is reached within this period, the parties shall inform the Tribunal accordingly without delay, and the Applicant shall subsequently confirm to the Tribunal, in writing, that her application is withdrawn; or
- c. If no settlement agreement is reached within the prescribed period, the parties shall inform the Tribunal, and the Applicant shall file her rejoinder by **Friday, 5 July 2024**.

(Signed)

Judge Sun Xiangzhuang

Dated this 27th day of May 2024

Entered in the Register on this 27th day of May 2024

(Signed)

Liliana López Bello, Legal Officer, for René M. Vargas M., Registrar, Geneva