



Before: Duty Judge

Registry: Geneva

Registrar: René M. Vargas M.

RUSDIA

v.

SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**ORDER
ON CASE MANAGEMENT**

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 2024, 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, which was granted by Order No. 61 (GVA/2024) of 27 May 2024.
7. On 28 June 2024, the parties filed a joint motion for a further suspension of the proceedings until 31 July 2024.
8. By Order No. 78 (GVA/2024), the Tribunal granted the parties’ joint motion and encouraged the parties to ensure that a meaningful mediation result is reached by the prescribed deadline.
9. By email dated 30 July 2024, the Office of the Ombudsman informed the Tribunal that the parties have reached an agreement in principle and are finalizing the details of their settlement agreement.
10. On 31 July 2024, the parties filed a joint motion for a further suspension of the proceedings.

Consideration

11. In support of their motion, the parties informed the Tribunal that the terms of a settlement agreement have been reached in principle, but that some details of the agreement remain outstanding.

12. As it follows, the parties request a further suspension of the proceedings for one month to permit finalization of this agreement. They further submit that the length of this suspension request is due to the Applicant's counsel departing on annual leave for two weeks, during which additional negotiations will not be possible.

13. Satisfied that the parties have reached a settlement agreement in principle, the Tribunal sees no obstacle in granting their request to allow sufficient time for the finalization of their negotiations.

Conclusion

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

- a. The proceedings before the Tribunal in this matter be further suspended until **Friday, 30 August 2024**, to allow the parties time to finalise their settlement agreement;
- 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, 6 September 2024**.

(Signed)

Judge Sun Xiangzhuang (Duty Judge)

Dated this 2nd day of August 2024

Case No. UNDT/GVA/2023/063

Order No. 88 (GVA/2024)

Entered in the Register on this 2nd day of August 2024

(Signed)

René M. Vargas M., Registrar, Geneva