



UNITED NATIONS DISPUTE TRIBUNAL

Case No.: UNDT/GVA/2025/006

Order No.: 9 (GVA/2025)

Date: 18 February 2025

Original: English

Before: Duty Judge

Registry: Geneva

Registrar: Liliana López Bello

ZWINKELS

v.

SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**ORDER
ON SUSPENSION OF PROCEEDINGS**

Counsel for Applicant:

Robbie Leighton, OSLA

Counsel for Respondent:

Rosangela Adamo, UNICEF

Roma Kessaram, UNICEF

Introduction

1. On 13 February 2025, the Applicant, a national of the United States of America (“US”), filed an application contesting the decision to only partially reimburse the US tax incurred on her United Nations earnings.
2. On 14 February 2025, the present application was transmitted to the Respondent for his reply, which was due on 17 March 2025.
3. The same day, the parties filed a joint motion requesting the suspension of the proceedings for 90 days to enable them to continue the settlement discussions. The parties further requested the Tribunal to extend the deadline for filing the Respondent’s reply until 16 June 2025.

Consideration

4. The Tribunal considers the parties’ motion and recalls that the General Assembly has consistently encouraged alternative dispute resolution.
5. Having examined the case record and guided by art. 15 of its Rules of Procedure, the Tribunal finds that suspending the proceedings as requested is in the interest of justice and will give the parties sufficient time to focus on their settlement efforts. The parties are encouraged to engage in constructive discussions to reach an amicable settlement during this period.
6. Consequently, the Tribunal finds it appropriate also to extend the deadline for the Respondent to file his reply until 16 June 2025 if the parties do not reach an agreement and proceedings are resumed.

Conclusion

7. In view of the foregoing, it is ORDERED THAT:
 - a. The present proceedings before the Tribunal are suspended during the parties’ settlement discussions until **Monday, 19 May 2025**; and

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accordingly without delay, and the Applicant shall confirm to the Tribunal, in writing, that her application is withdrawn; or

c. If no settlement agreement can be reached within the prescribed period, the parties shall inform the Tribunal, and the Respondent shall file his reply by **Monday, 16 June 2025**.

(Signed)

Judge Sun Xiangzhuang (Duty Judge)

Dated this 18th day of February 2025

Entered in the Register on this 18th day of February 2025

(Signed)

Liliana López Bello, Registrar, Geneva