



UNITED NATIONS DISPUTE TRIBUNAL

Case No.: UNDT/GVA/2025/048

Order No.: 95 (GVA/2025)

Date: 8 August 2025

Original: English

Before: Duty Judge

Registry: Geneva

Registrar: Liliana López Bello

RAFIQ

v.

SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**ORDER
ON SUSPENSION OF PROCEEDINGS
PENDING MEDIATION**

Counsel for Applicant:

Self-represented

Counsel for Respondent:

Nisha Patel, AS/ALD/OHR, UN Secretariat

Introduction

1. By an application filed on 21 July 2025, the Applicant contests the recovery of the amount paid to him as Education Grant in relation to his dependents for the period from 2018 to 2022.
2. On 22 July 2025, the application was served to the Respondent for him to file his reply by 21 August 2025.
3. On 6 August 2025, the parties filed a joint motion requesting the Tribunal to refer the matter to the Mediation Division, Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services (“UNOMS”) and to suspend the proceedings.

Consideration

4. Pursuant to art. 10.3 of the Dispute Tribunal’s Statute and art. 15 of its Rules of Procedure, the Tribunal may refer a case to mediation with the consent of the parties. During the mediation process, the proceedings before the Tribunal shall be suspended.
5. The Tribunal notes that the General Assembly has consistently encouraged alternative dispute resolution. The Tribunal commends the parties for agreeing to engage in settlement discussions and urges them to consult and deliberate in good faith, with the assistance of UNOMS, towards having this matter resolved amicably.

Conclusion

6. In view of the foregoing, it is ORDERED THAT:
 - a. Case No. UNDT/GVA/2025/048 be referred for mediation to the Mediation Division in UNOMS;
 - b. The proceedings before the Tribunal in this matter are suspended during the mediation process until **Monday, 8 September 2025**, for the purpose of allowing the parties to engage in mediation;

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accordingly without delay, and the Applicant shall confirm to the Tribunal, in writing, that his application is withdrawn; and

d. If no settlement agreement can be reached within the prescribed period, the parties or the Mediation Division shall inform the Tribunal, which will resume proceedings in the matter, unless otherwise requested and decided. The Respondent's reply shall, therefore, be filed by **Wednesday, 8 October 2025**.

(Signed)

Judge Sun Xiangzhuang (Duty Judge)

Dated this 8th day of August 2025

Entered in the Register on this 8th day of August 2025

(Signed)

Liliana López Bello, Registrar, Geneva