



UNITED NATIONS DISPUTE TRIBUNAL

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| Case No.: | UNDT/GVA/2025/090 |
| | UNDT/GVA/2025/095 |
| Order No.: | 148 (GVA/2025) |
| Date: | 12 December 2025 |
| Original: | English |

Before: Duty Judge

Registry: Geneva

Registrar: Liliana López Bello

DE LA VARGA FITO

v.

SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**ORDER
ON CASE MANAGEMENT**

Counsel for Applicant:

Self-represented

Counsel for Respondent:

Rebecca Britnell, UNHCR

Introduction

1. On 24 November 2025, the Applicant filed an application with this Tribunal contesting the decision not to select her for the Senior Organizational Analyst position at the P-4 level (Position No. 33100021), Design and Development Service in Geneva. This application was registered as Case No. UNDT/GVA/2025/090.

2. On 26 November 2025, the Applicant filed an application with this Tribunal contesting the decision not to select her for the Senior Policy and Process Coordination Officer position at the P-4 level (Position No. 33100621), Design and Development Service in Geneva. This application was registered as Case No. UNDT/GVA/2025/095.

3. Both applications were served to the Respondent, who was given a deadline to file a reply by 26 December 2025 in Case No. UNDT/GVA/2025/090 and by 29 December 2025 in Case No. UNDT/GVA/2025/095.

4. On 2 December 2025, the Respondent filed a motion in Cases Nos. UNDT/GVA/2025/090 and UNDT/GVA/2025/095 requesting the Tribunal 1) to direct the Applicant to refile her applications in line with the 10-page limit, 2) to join both applications, 3) leave to exceed the page limit in his reply, and 4) extension of time to file his reply.

5. On 19 November 2025, the Applicant, who is self-represented, filed a motion in Cases Nos. UNDT/GVA/2025/090 and UNDT/GVA/2025/095 requesting the Tribunal to grant her 1) retroactive leave to exceed the page limit in her applications, and 2) leave to join her four pending applications before the Tribunal.

Consideration

Respondent's motion to direct the Applicant to refile her applications and Applicant's motion to exceed the page limit retroactively

6. In his motion, the Respondent submits that both applications (Cases Nos. UNDT/GVA/2025/090 and UNDT/GVA/2025/095) exceed the ten-page limit

provided for in para. 6 of Practice Direction No. 4 and requests the Tribunal to direct the Applicant to refile both applications to respect the ten-page limit.

7. In her motion, the Applicant argues, *inter alia*, that she is self-represented and has invested “considerable personal and mental efforts” in presenting her cases before the Tribunal. She requests retroactive leave to exceed the page limit, noting that the Tribunal has previously granted such leave.

8. The Tribunal notes that the Applicant is self-represented and acknowledges that in two of her previous cases, her request for retroactive extension of the page limit has been granted. However, such a decision was exceptional and should not be taken as permission to continue disregarding the 10-page limit set in para. 6 of Practice Direction No. 4.

9. At this stage, the Applicant was fully aware of the 10-page limit before filing the two new applications. Notably, despite knowing that she had previously been granted an exceptional accommodation in two earlier cases, the Applicant did not seek leave to obtain such an exception again.

10. When faced with the Respondent’s motion, the Applicant offered only generic submissions citing her status as a self-represented party, without providing any substantiated or reasonable grounds to justify an exceptional measure.

11. It thus follows that the Applicant’s motion for retroactive leave to exceed the page limit in her applications is denied. Accordingly, she is instructed to refile her applications respecting the 10-page limit. The Respondent shall then submit his response within thirty days of receipt of the revised applications.

Motion to join the applications and Respondent’s motion to exceed the page limit in his reply

12. The Respondent requests that the Tribunal join the applications challenging the above non-selection decisions, namely cases UNDT/GVA/2025/090 and UNDT/GVA/2025/095. In support of his request, he submits, *inter alia*, that the Applicant’s antecedents are the same, and the factual background of both decisions

is similar. He submits that “judicial efficiency and justice will be better served by having the same Judge adjudicating these applications”.

13. In line with the above, the Respondent further requests leave from the Tribunal to file one reply in response thereto and to exceed the page limit suggested in the Tribunal’s Practice Direction No. 4, by ten pages, *i.e.*, to file one reply of twenty pages. In his view, such a direction would reflect that the joined applications concern two distinct selection processes.

14. The Applicant requests that the Tribunal join her four pending applications before the Tribunal, that is, Cases Nos. UNDT/GVA/2025/076, UNDT/GVA/2025/077, UNDT/GVA/2025/090 and UNDT/GVA/2025/095. In support of her claim, she argues that “the factual background of the four matters is both similar and interconnected, as the non-extension of the temporary assignment/Temporary Internal Assignment and the two non-selections ... had a direct impact on the non-extension of the fixed-term contract/Temporary Appointment”.

15. Having considered the evidence on record, the Tribunal decides to join only cases UNDT/GVA/2025/090 and UNDT/GVA/2025/095, which refer to non-selection decisions and were addressed in the same management evaluation. Case No. UNDT/GVA/2025/076 refers to the non-renewal of the Applicant’s fixed-term appointment and case No. UNDT/GVA/2025/077 refers to the decision not to extend her temporary appointment. These two cases have already been joined by Order No. 131 (GVA/2025), and the Tribunal does not find it necessary to join the four applications at this stage.

Conclusion

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

- a. The Applicant’s retroactive motion to exceed page limit is denied;
- b. The Applicant shall refile her two applications within the prescribed page limits, by **Monday, 29 December 2025**.

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- c. Cases No. UNDT/GVA/2025/090 and UNDT/GVA/2025/095 are hereby joined;
- d. The Respondent shall file his reply within thirty days of receipt of the revised applications;
- e. The Respondent is exceptionally allowed to exceed the page limit as requested; and
- f. Other motions are rejected.

(Signed)
Duty Judge Sun Xiangzhuang
Dated this 12th day of December 2025

Entered in the Register on this 12th day of December 2025
(Signed)
Liliana López Bello, Registrar, Geneva