

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA
BY MR. SAINIVALATI S. NAVOTI, COUNSELLOR, PERMANENT MISSION OF FIJI TO
THE UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM 143: ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AT THE
UNITED NATIONS, AT THE MAIN PART OF THE SIXTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE FIFTH
COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(NEW YORK, 18 OCTOBER 2013)**

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on this important agenda item.
2. We would like to thank the Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations Ombudsman Mr. Johnston Barkat for introducing the report on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and mediations services as contained in document A/68/158. We would also like to thank the Executive Director of the Office of Administration of Justice, Ms. Linda Taylor, for introducing the report of the Administration of Justice at the United Nations as contained in document A/68/346, as well as the Chairman of Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, for introducing the Advisory Committee's related report.

indicator of trust put in it by its clients. The Group notes with satisfaction that the average length of time it takes to dispose of a case in the current system following its receipt by the United Nations Dispute Tribunal is approximately 12 months instead of 12 to 14 months during the last year and comparatively to a disposal rate of 5 years in the previous system of internal justice.

7. Despite the overall positive trust built by the current system which justifies this surge in the number of applications on one hand, the Group notes with great concern on the other hand that this surge of applications in the new system is also an indicator of bad management and of poor relations between staff and management. The Group recalls paragraph 5 of resolution 61/261 which emphasized that the introduction of the new system of Administration of Justice should, inter alia, have a positive impact on staff-management relations and improve the performance of both staff and managers. This aspect of the functioning of the new system will also be scrutinized by the Group with the aim of having it fully reach the goals for which this system of internal Justice was created.

8. In this regard, the Group agrees with the ACABQ on the importance of lessons learned guides on the Tribunals' jurisprudence for managers, and expects that these lessons learned will produce concrete results in managerial actions.

Mr. Chairman,

9. The Group of 77 and China notes with appreciation the efforts made to provide to Member States, during this session, various proposals, mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/241 to strengthen the current system of internal justice, in particular the proposals of conducting an interim assessment of the formal system of the administration of justice and the financing of the Office of Staff Legal Assistance. The Group will consider each of them on its own merit.

10. The Group of 77 and China will in the same vein seek for updated information on specific