
Statement by Cherith Norman
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On Agenda Item 146: Administration of Justice
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[As Delivered]

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to thank Mr. Johnston Barkat, United Nations Ombudsman, Assistant Secretary-General, Ms. Alayne Frankson-Wallace, Executive Director of the Office of the Administration of Justice and Mr. Babou Sene, Vice-Chairman of the ACABQ for introducing their respective reports. In particular,

those who report wrongdoing. There should be no fear of retaliation at the United Nations. We remain committed to this priority issue and acknowledge the ongoing efforts to strengthen the policy for protection against retaliation. My delegation would like to highlight its support for the letter from the Chair of the Sixth Committee (A/C.5/72/10) dated 25 October 2017 which requests the Secretary-General to analyze existing policies on protection from retaliation, in particular with regard to staff who appear before tribunals and to make recommendations to enhance such protections at the seventy-third session.

We also wish to acknowledge the tireless efforts of ASG Barkat and his staff who serve in the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services in successfully mediating 89% of cases referred to them by the Dispute Tribunal, other offices or self-referrals. We recognize these good efforts and look forward to learning more about the pilot series of performance management clinics. We do note, however, the continued need for enhanced outreach to staff, especially in the field, so that they better understand their rights and obligations under the Staff Regulations and Rules, thus decreasing requests for management evaluations and other forms of dispute resolution.

In closing, the United States looks forward to constructively engaging and working with member states on all the various aspects of this important agenda item.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.