

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SIXTH COMMITTEE 78TH SESSION

AGENDA ITEM 144 ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

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DELIVERED BY MELINA LITO

(check against delivery)

Mr. Chair,

We thank the Secretary General, Internal Justice Council and the Office of the United Nations Ombudsperson and Mediation Services for their reports as well as to all staff involved in the administration of justice at the UN. We welcome the progress noted in the report, in making the UN administrative system more independent, transparent, professionalized, and adequately resourced.

We would like to focus our statement on three points:

1. We thank the Secretary-General for his continued consultations with various stakeholders on the issue of amending the statute of the UN Disputes Tribunal to reinforce the legal framework established by the General Assembly regarding the authority to impose disciplinary measures on staff members. The United Kingdom was supportive of the Secretary General's proposal on this issue during last year's discussion and supported the need for a consensual outcome. We look forward to engaging further on this matter with the view to reach consensus around the SG's updated proposal.
2. We also welcome the further analysis provided in the SG's report on amending four of the rules of procedure, following the General Assembly's request at its 77th session for more information on how the amended rules interlink with the existing rules. We would welcome additional clarity, especially at the informal consultations later this week, on the practical impact of these proposed rule changes, and whether all of them needed to be adopted as a package or whether some may be easier to adopt than others.

3. Finally, we note the discussion in the report on the recent jurisprudence of the Tribunals concerning the anonymization of the names of applicants in judgments. We understand the complexity of this issue, and the need to uphold the transparency about the system of administrative justice whilst also ensuring protection of individuals through anonymization in exceptional cases. We would have concerns about the impact of anonymization if it was extended unduly, particularly in sexual exploitation and abuse cases. We would welcome further discussion on the implications of anonymization and preserving transparency in the system of administration of justice.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.