

United Nations Nations Unies

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Excellency,

1. I have the honour to write to you with regard to agenda item 152, on the administration of justice at the United Nations.
2. As you are aware, at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 September 2024, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, referred the agenda item to both the Fifth and the Sixth Committees. In paragraph 15 of its resolution
3. During the present session, the Sixth Committee considered the item at its 13th meeting, on 15 October 2024, as well as in informal consultations held on 11, 18 and 30 October and 6 and 11 November. The Committee considered the legal aspects of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services (A/79/156), the report of the Secretary-General on the administration of justice at the United Nations (A/79/127), and the report of the Internal Justice Council on the administration of justice at the United Nations (A/79/121).
4. During the informal consultations held on 11 October, the Executive Director of the Office of Administration of Justice, the Chairperson of the Internal Justice Council and the United Nations Ombudsman made presentations and remained available, along with representatives of other units of the Secretariat, to provide answers and clarifications to delegations, which were grateful for the opportunity.

5. Delegations expressed their appreciation to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report on the administration of justice at the United Nations submitted pursuant to resolution [78/248](#) and for his report on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services. The Sixth Committee considered the requests of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly contained in the former ([A/79/127](#), para. 109). Delegations also considered the report of the Internal Justice Council ([A/79/121](#)) and the recommendations contained therein.

6. I should draw your attention to a number of specific issues related to the legal aspects of those reports, as discussed in the Sixth Committee.

7. While emphasizing the need for effective cooperation and coordination between the Fifth Committee and the Sixth Committee, the Sixth Committee once more underlined that, under paragraph 4 of its resolution [61/261](#), the General Assembly had decided that the new system of administration of justice should be independent, transparent, professionalized, adequately resourced and decentralized, consistent with the relevant rules of international law and the principles of the rule of law and due process to ensure respect for the rights and obligations of staff members and the accountab

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languages. The Committee also recalled that the Secretary-General had been requested to intensify his efforts to implement multilingualism within the system of administration of justice, and to report on his efforts to continue to promote multilingualism in the system of administration of justice in the context of his future reports.

16. Delegations noted with concern the reports by women, especially those appointed to senior positions, that they seemed to be measured by different standards compared with their male counterparts and that several women leaders reported the harassment they experienced (A/77/151, para. 83). The Sixth Committee noted with appreciation the projects set up to further support a culture change in the Organization and to create an enabling environment at all levels (A/78/156, annex I, para. 26) and requested the Secretary-General to keep informing on the results of said projects.

17. The Sixth Committee also recalled the observations by the United Nations Ombudsman that the Organization had no mechanism to systematically monitor staff well-being in difficult duty stations so that it could respond promptly when conditions started to affect the health of staff members in a way that prevented them from continuing to work in that location (A/75/160, para. 88).

18. The Sixth Committee emphasized that informal dispute settlement is a crucial component of the internal system of administration of justice and noted with appreciation that the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services has gradually evolved to become a global and decentralized conflict resolution resource for addressing workplace conflicts and grievances of United Nations personnel (A/78/170, para. 1). It commended the different services offered by the Office and its positive impact on the United Nations work environment (ibid., paras. 8–12). It took note of the tangible benefits of utilizing the services of the Office (ibid., paras. 13–17) and renewed its call for further incentives to resort to informal conflict resolution.

19. Delegations commended the activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services, and its efforts to continue to ensure a global presence and regional activities to increase conflict resolution services for staff and non-staff away from Headquarters (ibid., paras. 43 ff.).

20. The Committee noted with concern that racism remains an issue in the United Nations workplace and that there remain knowledge and awareness gaps (ibid., paras. 86–89). The Committee therefore encouraged the continuation of learning and education on racism, in particular through the implementation of the Secretary-General's strategic action plan for addressing racism and promoting dignity for all in the United Nations Secretariat (ibid., paras. 90–92).

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35. The Sixth Committee recommended that the General Assembly include