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Chair person ,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. The delegation of Sierra Leone aligns this statement with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Uganda on behalf of the African Group.

2. We thank the Secretary -General for his reports on the *Administration of Justice at the United Nations* contained in document A/79/127 - on administration of justice at the United Nations; A/79/156 - on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services; and A/79/121 - Report of the Internal Justice Council on administration of justice at the United Nations.

3. Sierra Leone continues to underline the importance of an independent, impartial, transparent, and professional system of administration of justice at the United Nations operating in accordance with relevant rules of international law and due process , which is viewed as a reflection on WKH RUJDQLVDWLRQ·V ZLGHU FR

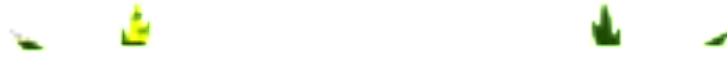


shown a decrease in recent years. We commend the Office of Staff Legal Assistance for the key role it has played as a filtering mechanism for the early resolution of cases at the management evaluation stage and before the Dispute Tribunal. We note that *'the Office of Staff Legal Assistance achieves a significant number of informal settlements before and at all stages of litigation, both with and without the assistance of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services'* (para. 100).

6. In further reference to the formal system of justice, we note that in 2023 the Dispute Tribunal did not make any referrals for accountability.

7. Mr Chair, referrals for accountability by the Tribunals are a key tool for holding UN officials accountable. This mechanism is critical when viewed alongside the fact that by and large, UN officials do not assume any form of personal culpability for wrongful administrative decisions. Rather, it is the organisation that, as defendant in proceedings before the Tribunal, is held responsible and financially liable for administrative wrongdoing, ultimately

assessed to member states. R



to the use of any of the remedies under Article 10 (5) of the statute of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal, which was not envisaged by the General Assembly. Further, insisting on separation of the staff member regardless of the positive outcome of their application at the Tribunal is a form of reaffirming the wrongful administrative decision and as such denies the opportunity for true accountability.

10. My delegation takes this opportunity to thank the current Council which concludes its mandate in November 2024.

Mr. Chair,

11. Sierra Leone welcomes the informal resolution of applications and recognises that a key goal of any informal justice system is to avert recourse to formal litigation and recalls that in establishing the Office of the Ombudsman and Mediation Service, the General Assembly had this primary purpose in mind.

12. Sierra Leone therefore further welcomes the view reaffirmed by the General Assembly in its resolution 78/248, that *“the informal resolution of conflict is a crucial element*

*of the system of administration of justice, [emphasizing]
that all possible use should be made of the informal system*



the heads of entities and senior leaders to foster a harmonious workplace and commend the Office for its advancements in these areas.

15. Let me conclude, Chairperson, by stressing Sierra / H R Q H continuing support for a robust and effective system of administration built on integrity, fairness, humane work ethics, and that advances organisational accountability.

16. I thank you.