

STATEMENT BY DR. NEERU CHADHA, COUNSELLOR, ON AGENDA ITEM 129:  
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 63<sup>RD</sup>  
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 06,  
2008

Thank You Mr. Chairman

I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Sixth Committee and also the bureau members on their election. My delegation assures you of its full cooperation and support.

To begin with, we wish to thank the Secretary General for his Report on updates on the activities of the Secretariat to prepare for the new internal justice system. We would also like to thank the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on Administration of Justice and coordinator of the intersessional informal consultations for all their efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

The staff members of any organisation are its most important resource and are entitled to expect an independent, impartial and efficient internal redressal mechanism.

Given the inadequacies of the present internal justice system, the General Assembly vide its Resolution 61/261 recommended the setting up of a new two tier independent, transparent, professionalized, adequately resourced and decentralized system of administration of justice as well as strengthening of the informal dispute resolution mechanisms; and vide its Resolution 62/228, it approved the framework of the new system which will be introduced on January 1, 2009.

We are pleased to note that a number of steps have been taken to prepare for the new system. The establishment of the Internal Justice Council,

which we understand is presently engaged in reviewing applications of judges for the future Dispute and Appeals Tribunals, would ensure independence, professionalism and accountability in the system of administration of justice.

We welcome the creation of the single integrated and decentralized Office of the United Nations Ombudsman for the United Nations Secretariat and funds and programmes that would ensure that the same standards and operating guidelines are applied in all UN Ombudsman Offices. The setting up of a Mediation Division within the office of the Ombudsman would further strengthen the informal system by providing an alternative avenue for dispute prevention and resolution. The Mediation Division will handle cases referred to it by the Ombudsman or pursuant to an order by the United Nations Dispute Tribunal. The settlement of disputes in internal, non-litigious proceedings would help promote mutual trust between the management and staff and preserve harmony in the Organisation.

To ensure optimal utilization, it is important that the availability of these alternative avenues for dispute settlement be widely publicized among UN personnel at all duty stations.

Mr. Chairman,

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Administration of Justice was convened during the last GA session for the purpose of examining the Statutes of the future Dispute and Appeals Tribunals. While the Committee made considerable progress, there has also been no agreement on several crucial issues.

The issues relating to transitional measures and scope are extremely relevant. The United Nations, has a duty to ensure that all members of its workforce, irrespective of their designation, have access to justice and no one is left without a remedy. The G77 has indicated its flexibility in this regard and is willing to look at various options and proposals. Similarly, we believe that legal assistance for staff should continue to be provided. Accordingly, we support the strengthening of the Office of Staff Legal Assistance.

Mr. Chairman

It is essential that an agreement is reached on all the pending issues at the earliest, so that an efficient and effective new internal justice system is in place by January 1 2009.

Thank You

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)