

STATEMENT BY DR. PRADIP CHOUDHARY, COUNSELLOR, ON AGENDA ITEM 142
– 'ON ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AT THE UNITED NATIONS' AT THE SIXTH
COMMITTEE OF THE 64TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 05, 2009

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Sixth Committee and also the members of the Bureau 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 the Outcome of the Work of Joint Appeals Board and Statistics on the Disposition of Cases and Work of the Panel of Counsel. We would also like to thank the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Administration of Justice and coordinator of the inter-sessional informal consultations for all their efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

We also welcome the Report of the Secretary General concerning the approval of the Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal, as finalized by the judges of the two Tribunals, for the consideration and adoption by the General Assembly during the current session and my delegation assures you of its cooperation and constructive engagement in this matter.

Mr. Chairman,

We are very pleased to note that in March 2009 the General Assembly appointed five judges to serve on United Nations Dispute Tribunal and seven judges for the United Nations Appeals Tribunal. We are honoured and pleased to inform you that Justice Kamaljit Singh Garewal from India has been appointed to serve on the United Nations Appeals Tribunal. I take this opportunity to congratulate all of them on their appointment. I am sure that the appointment of judges to these Tribunals would help bolster the World body's system of dealing with internal grievances and disciplinary cases with professionalism and accountability.

I am confident that with the Disputes and Appeals Tribunals in place from 1 July 2009, the United Nations new two-tier formal administration of justice system would address work related disputes in an independent, transparent, impartial, efficient and effective manner. I am also confident that the new justice system along with strengthened ombudsman and mediation services will effectively promote speedy resolution of conflicts between the staff and the management, ensuring mutual trust, harmony and understanding.

Mr. Chairman,

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Administration of Justice was convened from 20 to 24 April 2009 pursuant to the General Assembly decision 63/531. While there is considerable progress in the work of the Committee, still there remain some crucial outstanding issues, including the scope of the new system of the administration of justice; legal assistance to staff and the question whether the staff associations may file applications before the United Nations Dispute Tribunal.

Mr. Chairman,

In resolution 63/253, the General Assembly has decided that interns, type II gratis personnel and volunteers (other than United Nations Volunteers) should have the possibility of requesting an appropriate management evaluation but would not have access to the United Nations Dispute Tribunal or the United Nations Appeals Tribunal. This is an acknowledgement of the principle of management evaluation as the key component of the new system of administration of justice.

Mr. Chairman,

In our view all members of the UN workforce should have access to justice, irrespective of their designation or nomenclature. We are flexible in this matter and willing to look at various proposals and options that may be put forward in the days to come. We support strengthening of the Office of Staff Legal Assistance as we believe

that the continued availability of legal assistance in this matter would ensure that no one is left out without recourse. We hope that the new system of administration of justice would remain consistent with the outcome of the reform of human resources within the United Nations System.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)