

- Before: Duty Judge
- Registry: Geneva

Registrar: René M. Vargas M.

# ABDELLAOUI

v.

# SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

# ORDER ON CASE MANAGEMENT

**Counsel for Applicant:** Self-represented

**Counsel for Respondent:** Adrien Meubus, LPAS, UNOG

Case No. UNDT/GVA/2022/038 Order No. 119 (GVA/2022)

## Introduction

1. By motion filed on 7 November 2022, the Applicant seeks a one-week extension of the deadline to file an application arising from comments that her Second Reporting Officer ("SRO") made in her 2021-2022 performance evaluation document.

2. By Order No. 107 (GVA/2022) of 10 November 2022, the Tribunal ordered that the Applicant may file an application on the merits related to the matter referred to in para. 1 above by 29 November 2022, and that the application shall include the Applicant's arguments on its receivability.

On 29 November 2022, the Applicant filed her application mentioned in para.
1 above.

4. On 30 November 2022, the Respondent filed a motion to strike confidential statements and documents included in the application and a motion for case management measures.

#### Consideration

## Motion to strike

5. The Respondent requests the Tribunal to order that several paragraphs in the application and several annexes to it be stricken from the record. In support of his request, he specifically argues that the Applicant has included in her application and its annexes information about statements made during a conflict-resolution process and about exchanges under the auspices of the United Nations Office of the Ombudsman and Mediation Services.

6. In accordance with the principle of equality of arms, the Tribunal will give the Applicant an opportunity to respond to the Respondent's motion to strike.

#### Motion for case management measures

7. The Respondent requests the Tribunal to order the Applicant to re-file an application that conforms to the formal requirements set out in its Practice Direction No. 4. In support of his motion, the Respondent submits that the application is 40 pages in length, well beyond the ten-page limit contained in the Tribunal's Practice Direction No. 4, and that it contains irrelevant myriad allegations.

8. The Tribunal notes that under sec. 6 of its Practice Direction No. 4, the application should not exceed 10 pages, in font Times New Roman, font size 12, line spacing of 1.5 lines. Moreover, pursuant to sec. 7 (a) of its Practice Direction No. 4, an application on merits should include "[a] succinct statement of the facts, matters and things relied on to prove the decision did not comply with the terms of appointment or contract of employment".

9. Having reviewed the application, the Tribunal finds that it is not in compliance with the requirements contained in sec. 6 and sec. 7 (a) of its Practice Direction No. 4, and that 40 pages of the application is excessive.

10. Noting that para. 2 of the Practice Direction No. 4 makes it clear that this Practice Direction is "subject to any direction given by a Judge in a particular case", considering that the Applicant was instructed to address receivability issues in her application pursuant to Order No. 107 (GVA/2022), the Tribunal finds it appropriate to instruct the Applicant to refile her application, which shall include a succinct statement of relevant facts and matters, and be a maximum of 15 pages, using font Times New Roman, font size 12 and 1.5 line spacing.

11. In line with the principle of equality of arms, the Respondent may file his reply, which is also to be a maximum of 15 pages, using font Times New Roman, font size 12 and 1.5 line spacing.

12. Pursuant to art. 19 of the Tribunal's Rules of Procedure,

## IT IS ORDERED THAT

13. By **Monday, 12 December 2022**, the Applicant may file her comments, if any, on the Respondent's motion to strike.

14. By **Monday**, **19 December 2022**, the Applicant shall refile her application pursuant to para. 10 above.

15. Noting that the Applicant is self-represented, the Tribunal encourages her to seek the assistance of the Office of the Staff Legal Assistance.

(*Signed*) Judge Teresa Bravo (Duty Judge) Dated this 5<sup>th</sup> day of December 2022

Entered in the Register on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of December 2022 (*Signed*) René M. Vargas M., Registrar, Geneva