



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY MS. SONDRA CHEONG, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON AGENDA ITEM 152: ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AT THE UNITED NATIONS, AT THE FIFTH COMMITTEE DURING THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**(NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 2, 2020)**

**Mr. Chair,**

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on agenda item 152 entitled: Administration of Justice at the United Nations.

2. At the outset, the Group of 77 & China would like to thank Ms. Alayne Frankson-Wallace, Executive Director, Office of Administration of Justice, Ms. Shireen Dodson, United Nations Ombudsman and Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for their respective reports. The Group also welcomes the related report of the Internal Justice Council.

**Mr. Chair,**

3. The Group of 77 and China attach great importance to the internal system of justice as an independent, transparent, professionalized, and decentralized system of administration of justice for resolution of work-related disputes at the United Nations, that is aimed at ensuring respect for the rights and obligations of staff members and the accountability of managers and staff members alike.

4. The Group reiterates that a decentralized system of administration of justice that is adequately resourced, consistent with the relevant rules of international law, the principles of the rule of law, and due process is necessary for effective management of the human resource which is the most valuable asset of the Organization.

5. The Group in this regard takes note of the report of the Secretary-General contained in A/75/162 and the consolidated responses contained therein in response to the requests made by the General Assembly in its resolution 74/258 concerning the outreach strategy, the policy on protection against retaliation and a culture of accountability among others. We also note the proposed

amendments to the rules of procedure of the Appeals Tribunal and the Dispute Tribunal, as well as the proposed conditions of service and appointment requirements for the Internal Justice Council, contained thereto. We will critically analyze these proposals during the informal consideration of this agenda item.

**Mr. Chair,**

7. The Group of 77 & China welcome the efforts being made to reduce the case backlog in different duty stations. The Group notes that the case disposal by the United Nations Dispute Tribunal increased by 36% from 285 in 2018 to 389 in 2019, and judgments issued increased from 128 in 2018 to 159 in 2019, which represents a 24% increment. We note the contribution the half-time judges have had in this respect. We encourage the Secretary-General to continue these efforts and ensure that cases and work-related disputes are disposed of within the stipulated time frame.

8. The Group also reiterates the importance of the informal dispute resolution processes in the Organization. The informal resolution of conflicts is a crucial element of the system of administration of justice, and the use of this system should be encouraged whenever possible in order to avoid unnecessary litigation. Of course, without prejudice to the basic right of staff members to access the formal system, should they so choose.

9. The Group also welcomes the report of the Internal Justice Council containing recommendations aimed at improving the performance, operational efficiency, and transparency of the administration of the justice system at the United Nations. We look forward to considering these recommendations during the informal discussions.

10. In conclusion, Mr. Chair, the Group, assures you of our commitment to engage constructively on this important agenda item.

I thank you