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البعثة الدائمة لدولة إريتريا لدى
الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE STATE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

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**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF ERITREA
SIXTH COMMITTEE
78TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 144: “ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE”
11 OCTOBER 2023, NEW YORK**

Chair,

Eritrea aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished delegate of Uganda who spoke on behalf of the African Group.

I wish to thank the UNSG for his reports on agenda item 144: “Administration of Justice” contained in document A/78/156 on administration of justice at the United Nations; and A/78/170, on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services; and that of the Internal Justice Council in document A/78/121.

Chair,

Where an international civil servant is expected to meet the highest aspirations of the peoples of the world, it is crucial that there is a work environment that every UN staff member feels included, valued and respected, with an internal justice system that fairly and effectively addresses concerns in the workplace. The UN Charter is clear in its article 101 (3) and the UN Staff Regulations 1.1 and 1.2 that call for all staff members to uphold high standards, including treating their colleagues with dignity and respect. In this regard,

an independent, transparent, professionalized, adequately resourced and decentralized system of administration of justice for resolution of work-related disputes at the United Nations will remain an important overarching foundation for the administration of the justice system in the United Nations.

Both the formal and informal formats, as an integral part of the internal justice system, offer UN staff members the option on which avenues they feel comfortable enough to embark upon and confide their concerns. In this regard, the Office of Staff Legal Assistance has an important role in providing legal assistance and guiding UN staff on how and where to take their cases, including providing all the necessary information to those who opt to be self-represented to successfully file a case and to have a fair and satisfactory outcome.

Chair,

GA resolution 77/260 requested the SG to explore informal resolution, including mediation, as a first step, where feasible, prior to filing a formal complaint. Yet, according to the report before the Committee, it remains underutilized. Recommendation number 8 by the Internal Justice Council, in this connection, should be pursued in which the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services would establish cooperation with other successful mediation offices in the United Nations system in order to improve and strengthen the Division of Mediation in the best interests of staff and the Organization.

With respect to the formal system, the Internal Justice Council makes several recommendations, including a call for the Sixth Committee to endorse recommendation number 7. The recommendation entails launching of a pilot programme wherein the Council, the Dispute Tribunal and the Appeals Tribunal work together to develop recommendations for expanding the use of judicial mediation in the formal system, by drawing upon the existing authorities, such as case management hearings. This would be an important contribution to the internal system of justice for all staff of the UN system.

More importantly, one of the persistent and pervasive challenges the organization faces is the systemic racism and racial discrimination which raises a concern for many delegations, and this needs to be uprooted and eliminated. The SG in his report on the administration of justice at the UN has outlined the commendable measures he has put in place to address racism at the workplace to promote dignity for all in the UN system.

In conclusion, my delegation takes note with appreciation of the serious efforts made by all UN staff members and the institutions set up to improve the internal justice system by providing staff members the justice they deserve in an impartial, accessible and accountable manner, without delay or fear of retaliation.

