



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

STATEMENT

BY

**THE DELEGATION OF MOZAMBIQUE TO THE
SIXTH COMMITTEE**

ON THE

**AGENDA ITEM 144: ADMINISTRATION OF
JUSTICE AT THE UN**

**DURING THE 78th SESSION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 2023

Mr. Chair

The delegation of Mozambique associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Uganda on behalf of the African Group (AG).

We thank the Secretary General for his report regarding the functioning of the system of administration of justice at the UN for 2022, which includes a consolidated response to requests made by the General Assembly in its resolution 77/260.

Allow me to make some few remarks in my national capacity, as follows:

Mozambique underlines the importance of an independent, impartial, transparent and efficient system of the administration of justice at the United Nations.

Judges must be guided by these principles when adjudicating cases that are brought before them, both at the UN Dispute Tribunal and UN Appeals Tribunal. They must be immune to external influences of any kind and must also treat the parties equally, assuring them the due process.

Labour conflicts are inherent to the social nature of work and the UN, which employs a diversity of people from all over the world, does not constitute an exception to this phenomenon.

It is, therefore, important to have efficient and employee-centered mechanisms to resolve work-related disputes that also take into account the relevance of dignity at work.

In resolving work-related disputes, attention should be paid to informal mechanisms before resorting to litigation stage. This is a common pattern of the labor jurisdiction worldwide.

In this regard, we note with appreciation the importance given by the UN system of administration of justice to the use of mediation as an informal dispute resolution mechanism, as illustrated by the number of cases that were successful resolved through mediation in 2022. Besides being cost-effective, mediation saves time and avoids the typical strain of litigation.

We therefore commend the efforts of the Secretariat in advising and encouraging its use by managers to resolve cases filed before the Dispute Tribunal, as reported in the response to requests made by the General Assembly in its resolution 77/260, thus reducing the resource to unnecessary litigation.

We also note with appreciation the crucial role played by the Management Evaluation Unit, as the first step in the formal system of administration of justice, in providing resolution of disputes to staff members.

Mr. Chairman

The reduction in the number of the cases pending at the Dispute Tribunal in December 2022, comparing to the beginning of the same year is a positive aspect which is worth noting. We underline that the high productivity must be accompanied by the quality of the justice delivered.

Effectively, quality, alongside transparency contribute to the credibility of the Tribunal, in particular and of the system of administration of justice at the UN, in general.

In this matter, we welcome the launch of the Caselaw portal of the UN Tribunal, a resource with great value for litigants and the public, as illustrated by the frequency in which the portal has been accessed during the reported period, including the increase of the access in the present year. We take this opportunity to encourage further enhancements to be implemented in the future.

The transparency efforts made by the UN system of administration of justice by publicizing their decisions represents a fundamental component of access to justice. Indeed, access to justice does not only mean giving the people the opportunity to bring the cases to the Tribunal, but also enabling them with resources to access the jurisprudence of the Tribunal.

With regards to the responses to requests made by the General Assembly, through its resolution 77/260, we are pleased with the positive developments in multilingualism, with emphasis on the full operational capacity in French that is now available to the tribunals, for the first time.

The updating of the procedures for resolving disputes involving non staff personnel is commendable. Other aspects such as the UN efforts to promote protection against retaliation for reporting misconduct also deserves our appreciation.

Mr. Chairman

Harassment against female staff and racism in the work place are matters of great concern for our delegation, particularly in an organization such as the UN which employs people of different cultures, gender and sensibilities from all over the world.

We call for the respect for diversity and for the promotion of a non discriminatory, safe and just work place, with compliance with the UN core values.

I thank you!