



UNITED NATIONS DISPUTE TRIBUNAL

Case No.: UNDT/GVA/2025/027

Order No.: 86 (GVA/2025)

Date: 15 July 2025

Original: English

---

**Before:** Duty Judge

**Registry:** Geneva

**Registrar:** Liliana López Bello

GRIMES

v.

SECRETARY-GENERAL  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

---

**ORDER  
ON CASE MANAGEMENT**

---

**Counsel for Applicant:**

Me Carolin Alvermann

**Counsel for Respondent:**

WMO

## **Introduction**

1. On 27 May 2025, the Applicant, a Chief of Marine Services Section at the World Meteorological Organization (“WMO”), filed a motion for extension of time to file an application on the merits, pursuant to art. 8.3 of the Tribunal’s Statute and art. 19 of the Tribunal’s Rules of Procedure, due to a serious medical condition that is preventing her from assisting Counsel in the preparation of her case.

2. The Duty Judge granted the Applicant’s motion and extended her deadline to file an application on the merits until 4 July 2025.

3. On 2 July 2025, the Applicant filed a motion for suspension of proceedings or, in the alternative, for a new extension of time to file her application on the merits until 4 August 2025.

4. By email dated 4 July 2025, Counsel for the Applicant asked the Tribunal for an urgent decision on her motion for suspension of proceedings. The Registry promptly informed her in response that the matter had been brought to the attention of the Duty Judge, who would issue a decision in due course.

5. At 1:36 p.m. on 4 July 2025, Counsel for the Applicant filed an application on the merits entitled “DRAFT” without any supporting documentation. Subsequently, Counsel for the Applicant sent an email to the Registry informing that, to safeguard her client’s interest, she filed the “motion” in the e-filing system in a draft version, and requesting that her client be given an opportunity to correct said submission and send more annexes, as soon as she has recovered.

6. By notification dated 9 July 2025, the Tribunal instructed the Respondent to file his comments on the Applicant’s motion by 11 July 2025, which he did on 10 July 2025.

## **Consideration**

7. In support of her motion for suspension of proceedings, Counsel for the Applicant submits that further instances of alleged institutional harassment have resulted in a new administrative decision that has been the subject of a separate

management evaluation request, with the same factual and legal context as the ones in the instant case.

8. She asserts that, once this additional matter has gone through the management evaluation process, the two matters that are factually and legally intertwined may be joined or consolidated, pursuant to art. 18 of the Tribunal's Rules of Procedure. It is thus submitted that it would be in the interest of judicial economy and justice to suspend the proceedings in Case No. UNDT/GVA/2025/027, pursuant to art. 10 of the Tribunal's Statute, until the outcome of the management evaluation process in the second matter.

9. With respect to the alternative request for extension of time, Counsel for the Applicant submits that her client is on full-time Certified Sick Leave ("CSL") and unable to assist in finalizing the substantive preparation of her case.

10. In opposition, the Respondent requests the Tribunal to: (a) reject the motion for suspension of proceedings or extension of time; (b) issue a summary judgment on receivability without awaiting for his reply; or (c) in the alternative, serve the application as is and grant the Respondent time to file his reply.

11. The Tribunal recalls that the possibility of joining or consolidating any cases is at its full discretion, and will not make any determination in this regard until it has the opportunity to examine all of the filings. As it follows, the reason presented by Counsel for the Applicant does not warrant a suspension of the proceedings.

12. Similarly, an assessment on receivability cannot be made at this stage of proceedings because the Applicant has not even filed a complete application on the merits yet. The Respondent's request for a summary judgment is, therefore, premature and stands to be rejected.

13. In this connection, the Tribunal finds it appropriate to grant the Applicant's motion for extension of time due to her being on CSL and presently unable to assist Counsel in the preparation of her case.

14. Therefore, pursuant to the instructions of the Duty Judge, the Applicant's motion for suspension of proceedings is rejected, and her motion for extension of time is granted. The Applicant may re-file her application on the merits together with its supporting documents by the requested deadline.

15. However, Counsel for the Applicant is advised that, in the interests of justice, no further extensions will be granted on the foregoing basis.

### **Conclusion**

16. In view of the foregoing, it is ORDERED THAT the Applicant may file her application on the merits by **Monday, 4 August 2025**.

*(Signed)*

Judge Sun Xiangzhuang (Duty Judge)

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July 2025

Entered in the Register on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July 2025

*(Signed)*

Liliana López Bello, Registrar, Geneva