



UNITED NATIONS DISPUTE TRIBUNAL

Case No.: UNDT/GVA/2025/048
Order No.: 114 (GVA/2025)
Date: 6 October 2025
Original: English

Before: Duty Judge

Registry: Geneva

Registrar: Liliana López Bello

RAFIQ

v.

SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**ORDER
ON CASE MANAGEMENT**

Counsel for Applicant:

Self-represented

Counsel for Respondent:

Nisha Patel, AS/ALD/OHR, UN Secretariat

Introduction

1. By an application filed on 21 July 2025, the Applicant contests the recovery of the amount paid to him as Education Grant in relation to his dependents for the period from 2018 to 2022.
2. By Order No. 95 (GVA/2025) of 8 August 2025, the Tribunal granted the parties' joint motion and referred the case for mediation to the Mediation Division, Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services ("UNOMS"). The proceedings were suspended until 8 September 2025.
3. Upon the parties' request, the proceedings were further suspended until 6 October 2025 by Order No. 106 (GVA/2025).
4. On 6 October 2025, the Regional Ombudsman, on behalf of the parties, requested an additional extension of time for mediation until 13 October 2025 and a further suspension of the present proceedings.

Consideration

5. Art. 15.5 of the Tribunal's Rules of Procedure provides:

The time limit for mediation normally shall not exceed three months. However, after consultation with the parties, where the Mediation Division considers it appropriate, it will notify the Registry that the informal efforts will require additional time.

6. The Tribunal recalls that the proceedings in the present case have been suspended since 8 August 2025 for the purpose of allowing the parties to engage in mediation.
7. Noting that the General Assembly has consistently encouraged alternative dispute resolution, the Tribunal commends the parties for their continuous settlement discussions and urges them to engage in good faith, with the assistance of UNOMS, towards having this matter resolved amicably.
8. However, the Tribunal also notes that any additional requests for further suspension will not be viewed favorably.

Conclusion

9. In view of the foregoing, it is ORDERED THAT:

- a. The motion for extension of time is granted;
- b. The proceedings before the Tribunal in this matter are further suspended during the mediation process until **Monday, 13 October 2025**, for the purpose of allowing the parties to engage in mediation;
- c. If a mediation agreement is reached within this period, the parties or the Mediation Division shall inform the Tribunal accordingly without delay, and the Applicant shall confirm to the Tribunal, in writing, that his application is withdrawn; and
- d. If no settlement agreement can be reached within the prescribed period, the parties or the Mediation Division shall inform the Tribunal, which will resume proceedings in the matter, unless otherwise requested and decided. The Respondent's reply shall, therefore, be filed by **Monday, 10 November 2025**.

(Signed)

Judge Sean Wallace (Duty Judge)

Dated this 6th day of October 2025

Entered in the Register on this 6th day of October 2025

(Signed)

Liliana López Bello, Registrar, Geneva