



UNITED NATIONS DISPUTE TRIBUNAL

Case No.: UNDT/NBI2025/016
Order No.: 26 (NBI/2025)
Date: 6 March 2025
Original: English

Before: Duty Judge
Registry: Nairobi
Registrar: Wanda L. Carter

ABDOU

v.

SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**ORDER
ON THE PARTIES' JOINT MOTION
TO SUSPEND PROCEEDINGS**

Counsel for Applicant:

Jason Biafore, OSLA

Counsel for Respondent:

Nisha Patel, AS/ALD/OHR, UN Secretariat

Nasuru Magomu, AS/ALD/OHR, UN Secretariat

Introduction

1. On 20 February 2025, the Applicant, a former FS-4 Close Protection Officer at the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali filed an application contesting his separation from service.
2. The Respondent's reply is due on 24 March 2025.
3. On 4 March 2025, the parties filed a joint motion requesting the Tribunal to suspend the proceedings until 3 April 2025 and extend the deadline for filing the Respondent's reply to 2 May 2025 on the ground that they are making good faith efforts to resolve the matter informally.

Consideration

4. The Tribunal commends the parties for attempting to resolve this case and encourages their discussions to continue.
5. However, their settlement efforts should not impact these proceedings, and certainly not to the extent of granting a six-week extension of the time to file a reply. If anything, the reply should help in settlement discussions as the Respondent's position will be on the record, known to all parties, and taken into account in analysing their likelihood of success if the case does not settle.

Conclusion

6. In view of the foregoing, it is ORDERED THAT:
 - a. The motion to suspend proceedings is DENIED; present proceedings before the Tribunal are suspended during the parties' settlement discussions until **Thursday, 3 April 2025**;
 - b. The Respondent shall file his reply on 24 March 2025 in accordance with art. 10 of the Rules of Procedure; and

c. If a settlement agreement is reached, the parties shall inform the Tribunal accordingly without delay, and the Applicant shall confirm to the Tribunal, in writing, that his application is withdrawn.

(Signed)

Judge Sean Wallace (Duty Judge)

Dated this 6th day of March 2025

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

(Signed)

Wanda L. Carter, Registrar, Nairobi