



UNITED NATIONS DISPUTE TRIBUNAL

Case No.:	UNDT/NY/2025/018
Order No.:	080 (NY/2025)
Date:	29 August 2025
Original:	English

Before: Duty Judge
Registry: New York
Registrar: Isaac Endeley

STRAITON MULLIN

v.

SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

ORDER
ON CASE MANAGEMENT

Counsel for Applicant:

Hilda Ojiambo, OSLA

Counsel for Respondent:

Nicole Wynn, AS/ALD/OHR, UN Secretariat

Nisha Patel, AS/ALD/OHR, UN Secretariat

Introduction

1. The Applicant is a staff member with the Division of Healthcare Management and Occupational Safety and Health (“DHMOSH”) in the Department of Operational Support (“DOS”) at United Nations Headquarters in New York. By application dated 16 June 2025, she contests “the decision of the Administration rejecting her claim for compensation to the Advisory Board on Compensation Claims (“ABCC”) under Appendix D” of the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations. The claim for compensation is related to an alleged service-incurred illness and the Applicant submits that there were “procedural irregularities in the ABCC process, such as bias of the decision-maker”.

2. On 17 July 2025, the Respondent filed a reply in which he contends that “[t]he contested decision was procedurally correct” and that it was “neither biased nor tainted by bias”.

Considerations

3. Pursuant to art. 19 of the Rules of Procedure of the Dispute Tribunal, the Tribunal may at any time issue any order or give any direction which appears to be appropriate for the fair and expeditious disposal of a case and to do justice to the parties.

4. The Tribunal notes at the outset that considerable portions of the application and reply are dedicated to describing the strained working relationship between the Applicant and her DHMOSH colleagues who were involved in making the medical determination regarding her claim before the ABCC. In that connection, the Tribunal recalls that the General Assembly has repeatedly reaffirmed that the informal resolution of conflict is a crucial element of the system of administration of justice. Having considered the issues arising in this case, the Tribunal is of the view that the case may be amenable to informal and amicable resolution. The Tribunal therefore considers it appropriate to provide the parties with an opportunity to resolve the case informally.

5. Accordingly, the parties are encouraged to attempt informal resolution of the disputes either through the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services or via *inter partes* discussions. Should the parties decide to attempt informal resolution of the matter, they shall promptly inform the Tribunal thereof and may seek a suspension of the proceedings.

6. If the parties do not agree to enter into informal settlement discussions, the Tribunal will instruct the Applicant to file a rejoinder addressing the issues raised in the Respondent's reply.

7. In light of the above,

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

8. By **3:00 p.m. on Friday, 26 September 2025**, the parties are to file a jointly signed statement informing the Tribunal whether they agree to attempt informal resolution. If so, they may request a suspension of the proceedings.

9. If the parties do not agree to attempt informal resolution, by **3:00 p.m. on Friday, 10 October 2025**, the Applicant is to file a rejoinder to the Respondent's reply. The rejoinder should be a maximum of five pages using font Times New Roman, font size 12 and 1.5 line spacing.

10. Upon receipt of the above-referenced submission, the Tribunal will issue relevant directives for further case management.

(Signed)

Judge Francis Belle

Dated this 29th day of August 2025

Entered in the Register on this 29th day of August 2025

(Signed)

Isaac Endeley, Registrar, New York