



**Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States**

**By**

**Ms. Simona Popan, Counsellor, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations**

**at the Sixth Committee**

**on the Agenda item 147:  
"Administration of justice"**

**United Nations**

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environment is essential to ensuring the organisation - at the Headquarters and elsewhere - delivers on its objectives.

*Secondly*, we note the **disparity of treatment between staff and non-staff personnel** in terms of access to the formal and informal justice system. While we welcome the continuation of the pilot project that provides access to the services of the Office of Ombudsman and Mediation Services for non-staff personnel, we should indeed, as suggested in the report, consider regularizing the pilot project and expand the mandate of the Office to include non-staff personnel. Regarding remedies available to non-staff personnel, we encourage continuing the discussions on ways to provide non-staff personnel with access to fair and effective mechanisms for resolving work-related disputes. In that regard, we welcome the examination of a potential collaboration between the UN and a neutral entity that would undertake the role of vetting arbitrators, maintaining the arbitrator rosters, appointing arbitrators and providing certain administrative functions during an arbitration between the UN and non-staff personnel (as advanced in the report). We believe that all categories of staff should have access to justice and to effective remedies. At the same time, we need to look at the root causes of such disputes and address them upstream.

*Thirdly*, we note that last year, due to the pandemic, we did not consider the **Rules of Procedure of the UNDT and UNAT**. We express readiness to consider them this year.

Last but not least, we express our appreciation to the Office of Staff Legal Assistance, the Ombudsman and Mediation Services, and the Management Evaluation Unit for their steadfast work and efforts to improve the efficiency and transparency of administration of justice within the UN.

I thank you Mr./Madam Chair.