

**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY – SIXTH COMMITTEE**

**ITEM 129:**

**ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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PERMANENT MISSION  
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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chairman

Only a few weeks remain before the new system of administration of justice at the United Nations will enter into force. While much preparatory work remains to be done for us to achieve that goal, it is still a realistic target, thanks in particular to the hard work of the Secretariat, and thanks to the energy devoted to this topic by the Fifth and the Sixth Committee. Our gratitude goes to Mr. Thomas Fitschen of Germany who very ably guided the intersessional discussions.

Without going into the substance of the outstanding issues, we would like to underline that the Sixth Committee has no other option but to finalize the work on the Statutes swiftly, in order to allow the Fifth Committee to take up all remaining issues before the closing of the General Assembly's main session in December. We call on all partners at the negotiating table to keep our ultimate goal in mind, which is to establish an independent, transparent, professional, adequately resourced and decentralized system of administration of justice by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. That system must ensure that United Nations personnel have full access to justice in accordance with relevant international human rights standards. The ultimate effect of such a reform will be improved staff morale and accountability, which in turn will enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the organization as a whole. As for the much-debated issue of the scope of the system, we would like to reiterate our support for a solution which does not ultimately lead to discrimination among UN personnel with similar tasks and responsibilities on the basis of the nature of their contract.

In order to finalize our work in the course of this session, a number of compromises will have to be made by all sides. Furthermore, we will have to revisit the functioning of the new system very soon after its inception. We look forward to constructive deliberations with all delegations on this important issue.

I thank you.