

**United States Statement - 63rd UNGA Sixth Committee
Administration of Justice at the United Nations
October 6, 2008**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States takes seriously our work to create a more effective and efficient internal justice system for the United Nations. We are committed to ensuring the establishment of the new two-tier formal system by January 1, 2009, including a new United Nations Dispute Tribunal and a United Nations Appeals Tribunal. We are confident that the establishment of these bodies will have a significant positive impact on the transparency, efficiency, and accountability of the system.

We were pleased by the progress that the Sixth Committee has made on this item during the past year. While several issues still remain, we think that we have come a long way in creating a system that will stand the test of time.

We continue to believe that it will be of vital importance that the new system prove itself efficient and effective from its inception and that it inspire confidence from day one. We therefore maintain our view that the consideration of certain proposals be deferred until suitable experience is gained in the operation of the system. The United States will remain open to revisiting these proposals at an appropriate later date, but believes it will be easier to expand the system than to contract it in the future.

Furthermore, we must remain mindful that the system must be both legally effective and cost effective. In that regard, we recall that the Fifth Committee is the Main Committee entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and ultimately with those aspects of the Administration of Justice agenda item.

The United States has given further thought to the proper scope of the new system, and will be sharing ideas about possible alternative approaches to address the situation of individuals who are not United Nations staff.

In addition, the United Nations Dispute Tribunal should remain the sole body that takes evidence. Of course, we are always open to considering new proposals for bridging the differences between our ideas and those of others. We look forward to discussing this and other outstanding issues during the upcoming deliberations.

The United States looks forward to productive and fruitful discussions during the Working Group deliberations. We thank Mr. S. Ganeson of Malaysia for his wise guidance as chair of the Ad Hoc Committee. And we are grateful to Mr. Thomas Fischen of Germany for skillfully chairing the intersessional informal consultations on the draft statutes of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal.

Thank you.

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