Statement at the 75th General Assembly Sixth Committee Agenda Item Number 152: Administration of Justice Julian Simcock, Deputy Legal Adviser United States Mission to the United Nations October 15, 2020

We would like to thank the Secretary-General, the Internal Justice Council, and the

The United States appreciates the efforts of the UN Dispute Tribunal (UNDT) and UN Appeals Tribunal (UNAT) to continue their work through the difficult working conditions posed by the global pandemic and to make further progress on the reforms that have been the focus of Through the use of virtual hearings and conferences, the important work of these institutions has continued unabated. We hope that this spirit of creative adaptation will continue and translate into opportunities for further efficiency and resiliency in the future. Likewise, we thank the Office of the Administration of Justice, the Office of UN Ombudsperson and Mediation Services, and the Management Evaluation Unit and Office of Staff Legal for their dedication and adaptation during this challenging year.

We welcome the continued progress made to reduce the backlog of cases before the tribunals, which is critical to delivering justice and maintaining the credibility of the system. We note that the UNDT must continue to focus on surmounting this lingering challenge.

We continue to appreciate the work of the Office of the UN Ombudsperson and Mediation Services, which provided an opportunity for neutral dispute resolution to thousands of staff, despite the challenges of budget constraints and the unique stresses posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Management Evaluation Unit and Office of Staff Legal also continued important work in helping to resolve requests before they reached the litigation

 dimension of transparency. We welcome the recent efforts to educate those in the UN system about the tribunals and other available dispute resolution procedures and hope that more will be done to expand such awareness.