



*Permanent Mission of*  
**Malaysia**  
*to the United Nations*

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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. KAMAL BAHARIN OMAR  
REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA  
ON AGENDA ITEM 137  
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AT THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE SIXTH  
COMMITTEE OF THE SIXTY SECOND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
MONDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2007  
NEW YORK**

Mr. Chairman,

As this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor, I would like to join the other delegations in congratulating you and the other members of the Bureau on your election. I am confident that the work of the Sixth Committee will proceed expeditiously and meet the assigned goals under your able leadership.

2. My delegation commends the effort taken by the Redesign Panel in forming and formulating a new administration of justice in the United Nations to enhance the efficiency of the Organisation. We are committed in ensuring that the recommendations and its costs implication are thoroughly considered in order to achieve a more effective system of internal justice that conforms to the needs of the Organisation.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The Redesign Panel Report concluded that the current system of the administration of justice within the United Nations is outmoded, dysfunctional and inconsistent, thus a comprehensive reform is much applauded. There could be no issue of greater importance for the management of the Organisation than that there should be an efficient, independent and effective system of its internal justice.

4. My delegation recognizes that the existing Panel of Counsel which was formally established in 1984 and entrusted to provide legal assistance and representation to United Nations staff members in proceedings within the internal justice system is extremely under-resourced and is not professionalized. Hence, we support the proposal for a professional Office of Counsel to be established in the United Nations staffed by persons with legal qualifications, at the minimum, qualifications recognized by the courts of any Member State. The personnel should serve on a full-time basis and be properly resourced.

Mr. Chairman,

5. The Redesign Panel recommends a decentralized, streamlined and ultimately cost-efficient system of internal justice for the United Nations. This new system will be professional and independent and if well-resourced, will both reduce conflicts within the Organisation through more effective informal dispute resolution and ensure the expeditious disposal of cases in the formal justice system. The objective of decentralization is to ensure that staff members serving in field operations, who constitute the majority of staff, are effectively covered by the internal justice system. My delegation is therefore of the view that the proposal merits due consideration.

Mr. Chairman,

6. My delegation recognizes that the exercise of redesigning the administration of justice requires additional resources to the Organisation. This exercise will contribute considerable efficiency benefits to the justice system as a whole as opposed to the current internal justice system which, due to its complicated and lengthy processes, cause significant hidden costs. However we join the concerns of Member States that have taken the floor on the issue that this exercise will incur substantive additional costs to the United Nations and consequentially to Member States. Hence, the costs implication will have to be considered thoroughly before a final decision is made with regard to the implementation thereof. In addition, my delegation hopes that decisions will be made in full consultation with all Member States.

Thank You, Mr. Chairman.