



**Before:** Judge Sun Xiangzhuang

**Registry:** Geneva

**Registrar:** René M. Vargas M.

BECK

v.

SECRETARY-GENERAL  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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**ORDER  
ON CASE MANAGEMENT**

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**Counsel for Applicant:**

Robbie Leighton, OSLA

**Counsel for Respondent:**

Rebecca Britnell, UNHCR

## **Introduction**

1. The Applicant, a Senior Data Policy Officer at the P 4 level serving at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (“UNHCR”) in Copenhagen, is contesting the decision dated 2 August 2022 by the Medical Section of UNHCR to not approve certified sick leave (“CSL”) beyond 22 December 2021.
2. By email dated 6 September 2022 to the Medical Service Board, the Applicant requested an extension of time to seek review of the determination dated 2 August 2022.
3. On 3 October 2022, the Applicant requested management evaluation of the contested decision.
4. On 7 February 2023, the Applicant filed the instant application.
5. On 21 February 2023, the Deputy High Commissioner decided to uphold the contested decision.
6. On 13 March 2023, the Respondent filed his reply.
7. By Order No. 14 (GVA/2024), the Tribunal instructed the Applicant to file a rejoinder by 7 March 2024, and encouraged the parties to consider amicable settlement reverting to it with a response by 14 March 2024.
8. On 7 March 2024, the Applicant filed his rejoinder.
9. On 14 March 2024, the parties filed a joint statement requesting the suspension of proceedings pending ongoing informal settlement discussions.

## **Consideration**

10. In their motion, the parties submit that they have agreed to enter into informal settlement discussions, and request a suspension of the proceedings for a period of two weeks, until 28 March 2024, pending the outcome of the ongoing negotiations.

11. The Tribunal takes note of this and recalls that the General Assembly has consistently encouraged alternative dispute resolution.

12. Having examined the case record and guided by arts. 15.3, 15.4 and 15.5 of its Rules of Procedure, the Tribunal finds it is in the interest of justice to give the parties sufficient time to focus on their settlement efforts by suspending the proceedings as requested.

### **Conclusion**

13. In view of the foregoing, it is ORDERED THAT:

- a. The proceedings before the Tribunal in this matter be suspended during the parties' informal settlement discussions until **Thursday, 28 March 2024**; and
- b. If an informal settlement agreement is reached within this period, the parties shall inform the Tribunal accordingly without delay, and the Applicant shall confirm to the Tribunal, in writing, that his application is withdrawn; or
- c. If no settlement agreement can be reached within the prescribed period, the parties shall inform the Tribunal by **Tuesday, 2 April 2024**.

*(Signed)*

Judge Sun Xiangzhuang

Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024

Entered in the Register on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024

*(Signed)*

René M. Vargas M., Registrar, Geneva