

Oral Report of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the extension of the implementation period of the subvention to the Special Court for Sierra Leone

Mr. Chairman,

The Advisory Committee has considered the request contained in a letter dated 5 April 2012 from the Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone addressed to the President of the General Assembly for the extension of the implementation period of the approved subvention beyond 31 July 2012. The request has also been referred to the 5th Committee for consideration under document A/C.5/66/16.

The Advisory Committee recalls that the Special Court for Sierra Leone was established under an agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone, which would be terminated by agreement of the parties upon completion of the judicial activities of the Special Court. The Committee further recalls that it had recommended, in its report A/66/7/Add.19, that the Assembly approve, as an exceptional measure, a subvention of up to \$9,066,400 for the period from 1 January to 31 July 2012, on the basis that any regular budget funds appropriated for the Special Court will be refunded to the United Nations at the time of the liquidation of the Court, should sufficient voluntary contributions be received. The General Assembly, in Section IX, paragraph 12 of its resolution 66/247, authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in respect of the Court in an amount not to exceed \$9,066,400. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that as at 30 April 2012, an amount of \$4,760,600 had been expended from the approved subvention. The Committee trusts that the Special Court will continue to exercise prudence in the utilization of its resources

The Registrar, in her letter to the President of the General Assembly, indicates that the Special Court's operation may be extended beyond 31 July 2012, which would incur additional budgetary requirements. The Registrar further indicates that the Court is managing its budget in order to achieve savings, which could be used in the period following 31 July 2012, and that the Court is also engaged in fundraising activities to assist in meeting its needs to the end of the Court's judicial activities. The Registrar requests an extension of the implementation period of the subvention, but states that the Court is unable to confirm a deadline, due to the nature of the judicial process.

The Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, including with the Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The Committee was informed that the sentencing hearing in the case of Mr. Charles Taylor would be held on 30 May 2012, and the appeals process would begin immediately upon the delivery of the sentencing judgment. The Committee was also informed that the Completion Strategy of the Special Court would be reviewed at a Plenary of Judges meeting to be held between 28 May and 1 June 2012, and that this meeting is expected to provide a clear timeline for completion. The Committee was further

informed that the Registrar will continue to undertake fundraising activities to finance the operation of the Court, as well as the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone. The Committee recalls its stated expectation that the Management Committee, the Registrar and other senior officials of the Court will intensify their efforts to fund its activities through voluntary contributions.

The Advisory Committee has no objection to the proposed extension of the implementation period of the subvention beyond 31 July 2012.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.