

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP
BY BROUZ COFFI OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF COTE D'IVOIRE TO
THE UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM 130: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR
THE BIENNIUM 2012-2013, REQUEST FOR A SUBVENTION TO THE SPECIAL
COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE, AT THE MAIN PART OF THE SIXTY-SEVENTH
SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY
(New York, 18 December 2012)**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group on this important agenda item 130 in particular the request for a subvention to the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

At the outset, the African Group would like to thank the Assistant Secretary-General, Controller, María Eugenia Casar for introducing the report of the Secretary General related to the request for a subvention to the Special Court for Sierra Leone contained in document A/67/606. We would also like to thank the Chairperson of the ACABQ, Mr. Collen Kelapile for introducing the ACABQ's related report contained in A/67/648.

Mr. Chairman,

The African Group recalls that by its resolution 1315 (2000), the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to negotiate an agreement with the Government of Sierra Leone with a view to creating an independent Special Court with the primary objective of prosecuting persons who bore the greatest responsibility for the commission of crimes against humanity, war crimes and other serious violations of international humanitarian law, as well as crimes under relevant Sierra Leonean law committed within the territory of Sierra Leone.

Consequently, an agreement was signed the 16 January 2000 between the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone on the establishment of a Special Court for Sierra Leone. Article 6 of the Agreement stipulates that: "Should voluntary contributions be insufficient for the Court to implement its mandate, the Secretary-General and the Security Council shall explore alternate means of financing the Special Court."

Mr. Chairman,

The African Group values greatly the constructive and useful work carried out by the Special Court for Sierra Leone and commends the significant progress made by the Court in the implementation of its given mandate.

The African Group notes that the Secretary-General has informed the Security Council that despite 95 fundraising meetings held in year 2012 by the Special Court across capitals and diplomatic missions, as well as 154 fundraising letters, it is still impossible for the Special Court to secure voluntary contributions to complete its given mandate.

The Group also notes that there currently exists a real possibility of the Special Court running out of funds and we are concerned that that the Special Court will not be able to complete its given mandate including the appeal in its final case. This situation is unacceptable and Member States must take a collective action to ensure the Special Court implements its given mandate in full and without delay.

Mr. Chairman,

The African Group notes the Special Court will experience a shortfall in contributions in the amount of US\$921,156 as at the end of 2012, as well as, US\$13,078,844 for year 2013, and that given the current funding situation of the Special Court, and with a view to avoiding a potential collapse of the Court's operation, the Secretary-General has requested a subvention in the amount of US\$ \$14,000,000 for the completion of the Special Court's activities for the period through 31 December 2013.

The African Group strongly supports the proposal by the Secretary-General and will push for quick adoption of a decision to provide the required resources to enable the Court to complete its judicial proceedings in accordance with its given mandate

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, the African Group would like to restate its determination to work constructively to conclude this important agenda item.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.