



THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Fifth Committee
Agenda Item 143
Financing of ITY

Check against delivery

STATEMENT

by
H.E. Mr. Milan Milanović
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Serbia
to the United Nations
17 December 2012

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to thank Ms. Maria Eugenia Casar, Assistant Secretary-General and Controller, for presenting the Secretary General's report on Financing the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing the report of the ACABQ.

As mandated by Security Council resolution 1966 (2010), the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia is requested to complete all its remaining work no later than 31 December 2014 and ensure a smooth transition to the International Residual Mechanism, which will commence functioning on 1 July 2013. We share the concern of the Board of Auditors that, given that the average trial time for cases between 2008 and 2011 was four and a half years, there is a risk that the two cases that commenced their pretrial proceedings on 3 June 2011 and 25 July 2011 will not be completed by the end of 2014, which may disrupt the Tribunal's transition to the Residual Mechanism. We concur with

the Board of Auditors recommendation that the Tribunal should have a consolidated action plan to manage the completion of its work before the closure of the Tribunal and share their concern that there is no such plan in place.

With regard to staffing levels we share the concern of the ACABQ that the total staffing levels at the Tribunal have not decreased significantly since the biennium 2006-2007. Furthermore, we recall that, in his proposed budget for the ITY for 2010-2011, the Secretary-General indicated that the Tribunal is expected to undergo a phased reduction in the staffing capacity during the biennium. At the beginning of the biennium, the total staffing of the Tribunal stood at 990 posts and positions, comprising 732 temporary posts and 258 positions funded under general temporary assistance. It was anticipated that, as trial activity decreased, a total of 399 posts and positions (186 temporary posts and 213 positions funded under general temporary assistance) would be progressively abolished over the two-year period, leaving a total staffing complement of 591 posts and positions. However, the total staffing of the Tribunal as of 31 December 2011 stood at 822 posts and positions, comprising 546 temporary posts and 276 positions funded under general temporary assistance. For the biennium 2012-2013 all 546 temporary posts were retained and 319 positions were funded under general temporary assistance. We, therefore, fully agree with the ACABQ's view that greater efforts should be made to streamline the Tribunal's staffing structure and with its recommendation that the Secretary-General should explore options for accelerating the abolition of positions funded under general temporary assistance.

Mr. Chairman,

Security Council resolution 1966 (2010) requested the Tribunal to complete its trial and appeals proceedings by 31 December 2014. The ITY should take all possible measures to complete its work as expeditiously as possible with the aim to facilitate the closure of the Tribunal. If the next budget proposal is to be presented for 2014-2015 it would be in contradiction with the relevant Security Council resolution. We, therefore, think that it is necessary that the next budget proposal be for 2014 only.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.