



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP  
BY MR. BROUZ COFFI, COUNSELLOR AT PERMANENT MISSION OF  
COTE D'IVOIRE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON AGENDA ITEM 144:  
FINANCING OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDUAL DURING THE  
FIRST RESUMED PART OF THE SIXTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY- FIFTH COMMITTEE**

**(New York, 8th March 2013)**

**Mr. Chairman,**

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group on this important agenda item in particular on the construction of the new facility for the International Residual Mechanism in Arusha.

The African Group would like to thank, Mr. Johannes Huisman, the Budget Director for introducing the Secretary-General's report A/67/696 as well as Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chairperson of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for introducing the related report (A/67/768).

**Mr. Chairman**

Effective and timely implementation of this construction project forms a major part of our interests. In this regard our Group welcomes steps taken so far in the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions on this item including 66/240 A and B in particular the completion of the conceptual design, project plan, overall cost estimates as well as shortening of the time for construction project in Arusha. The Group encourages Secretary-General to continue his efforts in this regard to ensure that the project is completed on time and within the resources approved by the Assembly without undermining quality and scope of the project.

The African Group appreciates the continued support of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania including on providing land and other support to this project, IRM and ICTR operations. The Group strongly believes that, effective involvement of the host country plays a key role of project implementation. In this regard we encourage the Secretary-General to continue his co-operation with the Host Country throughout the implementation of this construction project.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The African Group recalls paragraph 7 of the General Assembly resolution 66/240 B by which the assessment in the amount of US\$ 1.5 million was deferred pending consideration of the current Secretary-General's report. The Group is concerned that the Secretary-General's report did not include this key decision element. The Group strongly emphasizes on the need for implementation of any mandate given by intergovernmental bodies and in this regard we will seek clarification on this matter during the informal consultations.

The Group attaches great importance of the oversight and effective management of this construction project. Our Group concurs with the ACABQ recommendation on the need for OIOS to oversee this project just like the case of other capital projects, including in UNON and ECA. The Group will also be interested in receiving updates on the recruitment of the project manager.

The African Group notes that the revised budget for this project is now estimated at US\$ 8.79 million excluding the associated cost. The Group strongly believes that, the Committee should recommend the approval of the budget level to give the Secretary-General a clear guidance on the available resources for project implementation. We believe that, should variation occur, the Secretary-General should revert back to the General Assembly as per existing practice. The Group also supports the need for establishment of the multi-year account to facilitate expenditures of this project.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In conclusion, the African Group would like to assure you of our readiness to engage constructively for the speedy conclusion of this item.

I thank you.

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