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Statement of the Chairman
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
8 March 2013

**Construction of a new facility for the International Residual Mechanism for
Criminal Tribunals, Arusha branch**

(ACABQ report A/67/768; Secretary-General's report A/67/696)

Mr Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report (A/67/768) on the construction of a new facility for the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, Arusha branch.

In its report, the Committee commends the shorter project schedule, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 66/240 B, and the savings resulting from the use of in-house capacity for development of the conceptual design. The Committee also examined issues common to most construction projects, such as the provision of a contingency in the cost estimate, and the associated costs of a project. With respect to the contingency, the Committee reiterates that contingency provisions act as safeguards against unforeseen cost overruns. Any cost overruns should first be met from reductions identified elsewhere through efficiency measures, so as not to require a drawdown from contingency provisions.

Regarding associated costs, the Committee notes that potential associated costs for new furniture for the facility were not included in the current cost estimate. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to include information regarding associated costs as part of overall costs of future construction and refurbishment projects.

In conclusion, the Committee recommends that the Assembly authorize the activities related to all phases of the project and approve an additional assessment in the amount of \$1,500,000, of the appropriation of \$3 million for the construction of the facility, which remains to be assessed pursuant to A/RES/66/240 B.

I thank you, Mr Chairman.