



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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STATEMENT

BY

**H.E. MR. AMADU KOROMA
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

ON AGENDA ITEM 134:

**PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM
2016-2017, REQUEST FOR SUBVENTION TO THE RESIDUAL
SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE AT THE MAIN PART OF
THE SEVENTIETH SESSION OF FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY-**

NEW YORK, 16TH DECEMBER 2015

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chairman,

Let me first of all warmly congratulate you on your election as Chair of the 5th Committee for this session as well as the other members of the bureau. We commend you for the skillful manner in which you have handled the affairs of the Committee.

My delegation is very pleased to participate in the deliberation of this important agenda item 134: Proposed Programme Budget for Biennium 2016-2017, in particular request for a subvention to the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone (RSCSL). Also, my delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Representative of the Republic of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on this important agenda item.

We wish to express our appreciation to Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant Secretary-General and Controller of the United Nations Department of Management for introducing the report of the Secretary-General and Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chairman of the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions for introducing the related report on this agenda item.

Mr. Chairman

The Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone (RSCSL) was established by an Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone in August 2013 to carry out the ongoing legal obligations of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), which successfully concluded its task and was closed on 31st December, 2013.

The RSCSL is mandated to carry out judicial and non-judicial functions:

The judicial functions include those activities mandated by the RSCSL Statute that arise from time to time such as the review of convictions and acquittals, the conduct of contempt of court proceedings and the provision of defence counsel for the conduct of proceedings.

Furthermore, certain judicial activities will arise from the non-judicial functions of the RSCSL. For example, witness variation matters arising from the protection of witnesses is a judicial aspect of witness protection; requests for information from prosecution authorities in other jurisdictions may involve judicial aspects as well.

The non- judicial functions include all activities that need to be carried out at all times, irrespective of whether or not the RSCSL is conducting trials or appeals. These include among others, the provision of protection and support for witnesses and victims; the supervision of enforcement of sentences; the maintenance, preservation and management of archives; the response to requests for access to evidence by national prosecution authorities; and response to requests by national authorities with respect to claims for compensation.

Mr. Chairman,

It is however important to note that, the RSCSL cannot deliver on its present mandate without the required resources. In that regard, the Government of Sierra Leone has been working in collaboration with other partners to address the funding gaps of the Court. In May this year, the Secretary-General wrote to all Member States of the United Nations appealing for financial support for the Court. The Oversight Committee and Court Officials have held more than 80

fundraising meetings. Despite our concerted efforts, only few positive responses have been received thus far.

Mr. Chairman,

If this court fails to deliver on its mandate due to lack of adequate funding, this may constitute serious negative consequences.

We should bear in mind that the Special Court has served as a model and inspiration for other international judicial institutions in respect of its landmark judicial decisions. Its legacy and achievements would be put at risk if it should meet an untimely closure as a result of the lack of a sustainable means of funding.

Also, the victims of conflict, the courageous witnesses who testified before the Special Court as well as the people of Sierra Leone will lose faith not only in international justice system but also in Sierra Leone's national justice system. Any loss of confidence will have a detrimental effect on the post-conflict peacebuilding progress made so far, particularly when Sierra Leone is moving firmly towards economic development and democratic stability.

We must also mention that, given the profile of persons convicted by the Special Court, including a former Head of State, who are currently serving prison sentences under the supervision of RSCSL, it is in the best interest of international peace and security in general, and the West African sub-region in particular, that the Court be guaranteed financial sustainability to carry out its mandate fully.

Mr. Chairman,

In the light of the foregoing, we wish to conclude on the note that, securing sustainable means of funding for the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone remains a top priority for the Government of Sierra Leone as this will save the Court from an untimely closure. The Government of Sierra Leone will therefore continue to work with Member States and other major stakeholders to achieve this goal.

In the interim, Sierra Leone would like to implore the distinguished delegates of this Committee to consider the request by the Secretary-General for a two year funding for the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone in the amount of **\$6,034,800**.

Let me use this opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation to those who have made generous voluntary financial contribution voluntary financial contributions to the Court.

I thank you for your attention.