

<Kindly Check Against Delivery>

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY  
MR. JUSTIN KISOKA, MINISTER COUNSELOR AT THE PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON  
AGENDA ITEM 146: FINANCING OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDUAL  
MECHANISM, CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW FACILITIES IN ARUSHA  
BRANCH, DURING THE FIRST RESUMED PART OF THE SEVENTIETH SESSION  
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY- FIFTH COMMITTEE**

**(New York, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016)**

**Thank you Mr. Chairman,**

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 146: Financing of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals –in particular progress in the construction of a new facility for the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, in Arusha.

Allow me to thank Mr. Craig Boyd, Director, Facilities and Commercial Services Division, Office for Central Support Services as well as Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the Advisory Committee for presenting the respective reports on this agenda item.

The Group align itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the Kingdom of Thailand, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and we have few additional comments to make.

The African Group would like to convey its deep appreciation to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for the continued support to the project and the work of Tribunal and Residual Mechanism.

The Group would also like to commend the Mechanism for its effort related to the implementation of the project and other cost saving initiatives including in the area of travel as we will benefit from the use of VTC instead of Official travel to New York and we would like to encourage the continued efforts in this regard.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Group has taken note with encouragement the detailed information related to the progress on the construction of new facilities of the Residual Mechanism in Arusha.

We note with appreciation the work undertaken including those related to construction of temporary and then permanent access roads, connection of power and water utilities as well as internet connections infrastructures by the host government at no cost to the United Nations.

It is the African Group expectation that cost for these key elements will be documented for future references. We encourage the Mechanism to work with host authorities to facilitate the said exercise as appropriate.

With regard to the project schedule and funding, the African Group notes with concern the delay related to implementation of the construction as a result of topographic errors by the Architect with the new estimated completion time in May, 2016. The Group strongly encourages all efforts be made to ensure the project is completed within the new estimated time and of course within overall budget.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The African Group also notes that the delay will lead to the extension of rental at the current premises and expect that the Mechanism will take step to ensure timely arrangements are in place to avoid disruption of the activities of Mechanism and Tribunal.

The Group has also taken note information related to oversight coverage by the OIOS and is our expectation that the Office will continue to ensure close monitoring and oversight coverage of the project and advise the managers as appropriate. We have also taken note of the information related to risk register and regulatory framework and we look forward for detailed deliberations on these issues during our informal consultations.

We will also pay close attention on a number of issues outlined in the report including those related to value engineering, lessons learned and best practices, transfer of furniture and assets.

In conclusion, the African Group would like to assure you of our commitment to engage positively with the aim of concluding this item in a timely manner.

**I thank you, Mr. Chairman.**