

*** CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY ***



Agenda Item 134

Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

**Request for a subvention to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of
Cambodia (ECCC) (A/71/338)**

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by

**Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller**

20 October 2016

Madam Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce the Secretary-General's report on the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) (A/71/338). This report is a follow up to the Secretary-General's progress report A/70/403, and outlines the substantive progress and results achieved by the Chambers under each of the judicial Cases. This report also addresses the continuing financial challenges faced by the ECCC in 2016 and provides the revised estimated requirements for ECCC, for the national component and the United Nations component also called the international component of the Extraordinary Chambers, for the 2016-2017 biennium.

2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 70/248, authorized the Secretary-General, as an exceptional measure, to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed \$12.1 million United States dollars to supplement the voluntary financial resources of the international component of the Extraordinary Chambers for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2016. This amount was based on the pledging shortfall, as it stood then, for the international component for 2016.

3. As concerns the international component, while to date, the full amount of \$12.1 million authorized by GA has been drawn upon, together with the voluntary contributions received in 2016, based on the pledges received, we estimate that the use of the commitment authority approved by the GA will eventually be limited to about \$10.9 million at the end of 2016.

4. As indicated in paragraph 33 of the Secretary-General's report before you today, the commitment authority was instrumental in enabling the Secretariat to issue contract extensions until 31 December 2016 for staff of the international component and as a source of funds if voluntary funding falls short. These are critical requirements so that the salaries and expenses of personnel can be met on time and without any disruption to the work of the Chambers. The commitment authority provided the Secretariat with the means to take management decisions which allowed staff to fully focus their energies on the timely delivery of the Court's programme of work. As noted in paragraph 1 of the report, the Court continued to be engaged at full capacity, with trial, appeal and judicial investigation proceedings advancing simultaneously.

5. The Secretariat has worked closely with the Principal Donors Group (PDG) in New York and the Friends of the ECCC to raise voluntary contributions throughout the year, for both the international and national components. Ambassador David Scheffer, the Secretary-General's Special Expert to the United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials, under the guidance of the PDG, has developed a fund raising strategy, seeking support from key governments for both international and national components.

These efforts have supported the Royal Government of Cambodia in securing almost the entire estimated budget in 2016 for the national component.

7. The Secretary-General seeks the approval of the General Assembly for an appropriation for a subvention for the international component of the Extraordinary Chambers in the amount of \$16.2 million for 2017. While aggressive outreach and fundraising efforts will continue, an appropriation will allow the Secretariat to issue timely staff extensions for one year covering 2017.

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates, I look forward to the discussions on this item.

Thank you.