Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

8 March 2017

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

(ACABQ report A/71/812, related report A/71/753)

Madam Chairperson,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on the construction of a new facility for the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, Arusha branch (A/71/812).

The Advisory Committee notes the substantial completion of the facility and looks forward to the full completion of the project within the 12-month post-occupancy phase, which began on 1 December 2016. In this context, the Committee urges timely completion of all repairs to the items included in the project's punch list and notes that any related cost implications for the Organization should be avoided to the extent possible.

At the end of 2016, total expenditures for this project amounted to $8.3 million, with an additional estimated expenditure in 2017 of $1.0 million. The Committee notes that delays in the project had reduced earlier estimated savings and stresses that the United Nations should not bear the responsibility for paying any direct or indirect costs resulting from the delays and damages. The attribution of responsibility in this regard has not yet been determined and will be addressed in an ongoing assessment exercise. The Committee also looks forward to the finalization of the third and final Office for Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) audit of post-construction phase activities (see para 10). The Committee reiterates the requirement that all remaining unused contingency funds should be returned to Member States at the conclusion of the project (see para 14).

Given the outstanding items mentioned in the report, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to submit a final progress report for consideration at its 72nd session.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.