



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

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STATEMENT

by

H. E. MR. FELIX ALIE KOROMA
Deputy Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone
to the United Nations

on Agenda Item 136:

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2018-2019

**REQUEST FOR A SUBVENTION TO THE RESIDUAL SPECIAL COURT FOR
SIERRA LEONE AT THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY-SECOND SESSION
OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York, 13th November, 2017

Check Against Delivery

Mr. Chairman,

I am delighted to deliver this statement, on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019, particularly regarding the request for a subvention to the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone. Since this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor, let me congratulate you on your election as Chair of this Committee and, through you, the other members of the Bureau. I wish to assure you of the fullest support and cooperation of the Sierra Leone delegation in the execution of your mandate.

I would like to further express my appreciation to Mr. Johannes Huisman, Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts for introducing the Secretary-General's report contained in document A/72/384 and Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing the related report on this important agenda item.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

In accordance with the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the United Nations of August 2010, the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone (RSCSL) was established with the mandate to carry out the continuing legal and administrative obligations of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) which, as you are aware, successfully completed its mandate and closed on 31st December, 2013. Those obligations include among others, conduct of proceedings on cases for contempt of court, the conduct of review proceedings; the protection and support of witnesses; the supervision of the enforcement of sentences; as well as the maintenance, preservation and management of the archives of the Special Court. As I speak to you, high profile persons convicted by the Special Court are currently serving prison sentences and are under the supervision of the Residual Special Court.

Mr. Chairman,

The Agreement provides that the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone should be funded by voluntary contributions from the international community, which have proven insufficient and unpredictable. Consequently, the dire financial difficulties have posed serious challenges to the operations of the Court.

In the attempt to address its financial constraints, the Residual Special Court and its Oversight Committee have been preoccupied with annual fundraising endeavors. During this year, the principals of the Court held fundraising activities in New York, The Hague and Addis Ababa, where diplomatic briefings were held, with a combined total of 64 diplomatic missions represented and engaged in a sensitization drive with the appeal for funding support. To complement the efforts of the Oversight Committee, the Government of Sierra Leone and

officials of the Residual Special Court, the Secretary-General wrote to all Member States of the United Nations in April this year, appealing for financial support for the Court.

Mr. Chairman,

Notwithstanding our concerted efforts described in the foregoing, I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to inform that the Residual Special Court received \$150,000.00 for 2017. No contributions or pledges have been received towards the Court's 2018-2019 total biennium budget of US \$5,931,800.

Owing to the very low-level response to the fundraising outreach, a subvention from the United Nations will be required for the next biennium. In this regard Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to implore the distinguished delegates to consider the Secretary-General's total resource requirements of \$5,931,800 for the biennium 2018-2019, for the operations of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Mr. Chairman,

Taking into consideration that subvention is only a temporary measure, the Government of Sierra Leone will continue to work closely with Member States and other development partners to preserve the legacy of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, by promoting accountability as well as ensuring a long-term sustainable means of funding the Residual Special Court while maintaining its judicial independence and independent legal personality.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, while we continue to explore the possibilities of securing a long-term sustainable funding mechanism, let me state that it is our view that, the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT) in The Hague should continue to provide logistical and administrative support to the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone on a cost-reimbursable basis.

Finally, let me seize this opportunity to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to Member States for their continued support to the work of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone.

I thank you for your attention.