

*** CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY ***



Agenda item 136

Programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019

**Request for a subvention to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of
Cambodia (ECCC) (A/73/331)**

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by

**Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan
Acting Controller**

26 October 2018

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/73/331). This report outlines the substantive progress and results achieved by the Chambers under each of the judicial cases. It also addresses the continuing financial challenges faced by the ECCC in 2018 and provides the 2018-2019 revised requirements for both national and international components of the ECCC.

2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 72/262, authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed \$8 million to supplement the voluntary financial resources of the international component of the Extraordinary Chambers which were insufficient to cover the entire 2018 budget. The ECCC therefore had to continue implementing measures to avoid and defer expenses in order to maintain its most critical functions within the available resources.

3. Ensuring the successful completion of the Court's mandate is a critical consideration by the Secretary-General to again request a subvention for 2019 in the amount of \$9.7 million. The requested amount would address the estimated funding gap in 2019, and allow for a timely extension of personnel contracts, enabling them to fully concentrate on their judicial work to meet the proposed judicial timelines.

4. The report also highlights the end-of-service liabilities for judges, co-prosecutor and staff who are expected to serve beyond 2019. These represent additional resources that may be required should funding shortfalls risk the Court's continued operations in 2019. It also includes a request for the General Assembly to allow the full drawdown of the subvention starting in 2018 so that unutilized balances can be retained to rebuild the operating reserve, which was fully depleted in 2012 to meet staff costs required at that time.

5. The report also notes the need to develop a framework for the completion of the ECCC's work and for any necessary residual functions. Given the benefits other international tribunals had from the early identification of residual functions, the Secretary-General indicates his intention to undertake consultations in this regard.

6. While aggressive outreach and fundraising efforts will continue, the Secretary-General seeks the approval of the General Assembly for his proposals as set forth in paragraph 51 of the report before you.

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

Thank you.