

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP OF BY MRS. CAROLINE NALWANGA MAGAMBO, COUNSELOR AT THE PERMANENT MISSION OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM 148: THE FIRST PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDUAL MECHANISM FOR CRIMINAL TRIBUNALS FOR THE BIENNIUM 2018-2019, DURING THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FIFTH COMMITTEE  
(New York, 11 December 2018)**

**Madam Chair,**

I have the pleasure to speak on behalf of the African Group on agenda items 148 First performance report for the IRM. The Group aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Egypt on Behalf of the G77 and China.

The group would like to thank the would like to thank Mr Chandru Ramanathan, Acting Controller of the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts as well as Mr. Babu Sene the vice - Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), for introducing respective reports.

**Madam Chair,**

The group has taken note of the information related to the proposed revised appropriation in the amount of 195.7 million dollars representing a reduction of 300 thousand dollars due to technical adjustments taking into account the variations of budgeting assumptions related to changes in exchange rates, inflation rates, standard staff costs, vacancy rates among other factors. We wish to express our support for the Secretary General's proposal in this regard.

**Madam Chair,**

While we are mindful that this session is dedicated to the performance report, we would like to take this opportunity to flag-out a few elements of keen interest to the Group.

First, we would like to commend the Mechanism's dedicated efforts related to budget implementation in particular filling the vacant posts and positions that were approved in July, this year. In this regard, we will be interested to learn about the status of the recruitment for the post of Director of Administration (D1), which was approved to be based in Arusha in order to address administration gaps identified by the General Assembly. We expect that all efforts will be made to ensure a timely recruitment taking into account gender balance and geographical representations in the Mechanism. We intend to follow this matter in the context of informal consultations.

Our Group would like to also commend the Mechanism for some of its innovative ideas such as the setting up and organization of an annual Arusha International Organizations Open Day. This concept has given an opportunity to bring together International and Regional organizations, government departments as well as the general public, and in particular, students and others in academia to experience and gain an insight and understanding of the core work of the Mechanism,. We would like to encourage the continued efforts of the Mechanism in this regard.

**Madam Chair,**

On a special note allow me, on behalf of the group to extend the appreciation of my delegation to Mr. Theodore Meron, the outgoing President of the Mechanism for his outstanding contribution to the work of the Mechanism and international criminal justice in general

over the years and we look forward to welcoming his successor, Mr. Carmel Agius. It is our hope and expectation that under the new leadership, the ongoing cooperation between the Mechanism and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania shall be further enhanced.

In conclusion, allow me to reassure you of group's readiness to engage constructively on this item with a view to concluding it in a timely manner.

I thank you Madam Chair

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