

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

12 March 2019

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

(ACABQ report A/73/763; related report: A/73/718)

Madam Chair,

I am pleased to introduce the report of the Advisory Committee (A/73/763) on the construction of the premises of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, Arusha branch.

The Advisory Committee notes with concern that delays have again been incurred during the closeout phase of the project and that, for the second consecutive year, the project was not completed.

Emphasising the importance of proactive and sustained project ownership and management, the Committee recommends that the Secretary-General monitor more closely and more proactively the closeout phase of this project, to ensure that outstanding remediations and other activities be implemented without further delay and within the revised timelines and approved resources.

The Committee trusts that the next report of the Secretary-General will be the final report for this project. The Committee recommends that the final report contain, among others, comprehensive information on accountability for the delays as well as information on the contractual remedies exercised and on the costs recouped from the architect and the contractor.

In this respect, the Committee again stresses that the United Nations should not bear the responsibility for paying any direct or indirect costs resulting from design defects and delays attributable to its contractual partners.

Thank you, Madam Chair.