

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP
BY MRS. CAROLINE NALWANGA MAGAMBO, COUNSELOR,
PERMANENT MISSION OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM 148: FINANCING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL RESIDUAL MECHANISM FOR CRIMINAL
TRIBUNALS, PROGRESS TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION OF
THE NEW FACILITIES IN ARUSHA AT THE FIRST PART OF
THE RESUMED SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTH
COMMITTEE (NEW YORK, 12 MARCH 2019)**

13 March, 2019

Madam Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 148: Financing of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, on the progress towards the construction of the new facilities in Arusha.

The African Group would like to take this opportunity to renew our appreciation to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for the continued support to the work of the International Residual Mechanism, including the invaluable support extended to the project for the construction of new facilities in Arusha.

We would also like to thank Mr. Olufemi Elias, Assistant Secretary-General, and Registrar of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals and Mr. Mr. Cihan Terzi, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing

their respective reports on this agenda item. The African Group aligns itself with the remarks by the representative of the State of Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Madam Chair,

The African Group has taken note of the eighth progress report of the Secretary General on the construction of new facilities for the Mechanism in Arusha which outlines a number achievements as well as some challenges encountered since the issuance of the previous report.

The African Group welcomes the progress made including the review and rectification of the punch-list items which are now scheduled for completion in the first quarter of this year.

We also note that expenses related to 10% of the remaining punch-list work estimated at US\$ 80,100 as pointed out by the Advisory Committee will be deducted from the Contractor and closed formally.

The Group will be interested in receiving updates on these matters during our informal consultations.

The Group notes with concern that, remediation of the HVAC system arising from design error by the Architect is taking longer than expected and is resulting in the delay of the project close-out- now scheduled for completion mid this year.

We further note that the remediation work has necessitated a charge of additional amount of US\$ 280,000 from contingent provision. The Group

is interested in understanding the actions taken against the Architect in compliance with the contractual obligations.

Madam Chair,

The Group takes note of the frequent change of the project management team and that the Mechanism had to acquire temporary expertise from the Economic Commission for Africa to support the project.

The Group trusts that, the administration will analyse the cause of the high turn-over of the managers in the construction projects as well as document lessons learnt and best practises for application, as appropriate to the other capital projects.

Madam Chair,

The African Group has taken note of the information related to the project expenditure, use of contingency and recovery of direct and indirect costs and we would like to encourage the Secretary General to continue to ensure that the project is completed within approved overall resources.

The African Group would like to reassure you of our continued commitment to engage positively on this agenda item with a view to concluding it as soon as possible.

I thank you.