

*** CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY ***



Agenda Item 135

Proposed programme budget for 2020

**Request for a subvention to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of
Cambodia (ECCC) (A/74/359)**

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by

**Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller**

2 December 2019

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce the Secretary-General's request for a subvention to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) (A/74/359). The report also outlines the substantive progress and results achieved by the Chambers under each of the judicial cases. It addresses the continuing financial challenges faced by the ECCC in 2019 and provides the 2020 requirements for both national and international components of the ECCC.

2. Despite the extensive fundraising efforts undertaken by the United Nations Secretariat in coordination with the Steering Committee of the ECCC, voluntary contributions received so far by the international component of the ECCC coupled with the commitment authority approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 73/279, have been insufficient to cover the entire 2019 revised budget. The ECCC has therefore implemented further measures to avoid and defer expenses in order to maintain its most critical functions within the available resources. These measures include freezing of

recruitment against vacant posts unless hiring is absolutely necessary for the uninterrupted continuation of judicial proceedings, as well as other measures in areas such as travel, operating expenses and contractual services. For 2019 these measures are projected to result in a cost reduction of some \$2.5 million, or 15.6% of the approved budget of \$16 million for the international component, and the measures are expected to continue into 2020.

3. The commitment authorities approved by the General Assembly have been crucial in allowing the United Nations to continue to provide the support to the ECCC to ensure accountability for the crimes committed by the Khmer Rouge between 17 April 1975 and 6 January 1979. In this regard, I am pleased to note the observations made by the OIOS during its latest audit of the Extraordinary Chambers (A/74/281, paras 24 to 26), in which the OIOS recognized that the provided support allows *due process* and *rule of law* standards to be upheld in what is a very demanding undertaking anywhere in the world.

4. While aggressive outreach and fundraising efforts will continue, in light of the above, the Secretary-General seeks the approval of the General Assembly of an appropriation for a subvention for the international component of the Extraordinary Chambers in the amount of \$8.5 million for 2020, taking into account the projected voluntary contributions of about \$5 million.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, I look forward to the discussions on this item.

Thank you.