

STATEMENT BY MR. KATLEGO BOASE MMALANE, FIRST SECRETARY AT THE PERMANENT MISSION OF BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON AGENDA ITEM 149, IN PARTICULAR ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDUAL MECHANISM FOR CRIMINAL TRIBUNALS FOR 2020 AT THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY- FOURTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FIFTH COMMITTEE

(New York, 18th December, 2019)

Mr. Chairman,

1. At the outset allow me to thank Mr. Olufemi Elias, Assistant Secretary-General and Registrar of the Mechanism for introducing the Secretary-General's proposed budget for the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRM) contained in document A/74/355 as well as the Second Performance report for the biennium 2018-2019 contained in document A/74/566.
2. The Group would also like to thank Mr. Cihan Terzi, Chair of the Advisory Committee for introducing the related report contained in document A/74/593.
3. The African Group aligns itself with the statement just delivered by the Representative of the State of Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and wish to add the following.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Let me start by thanking the Governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Kingdom of The Netherlands for hosting and supporting the work of the Residual Mechanism.
5. The African Group would like to take this opportunity to renew our strong commitment in support of the Mechanism in delivering the given mandate. We take note of the progress made in budget and mandate implementation for the biennium 2018-2019 as presented in the Second performance report.
6. The Group notes that the proposed final appropriation presents anticipated level of under expenditure in the amount of US\$ 8.6 million as a result of changes in the inflation rate and exchange rate assumptions as well as other operational factors.

7. The Group further appreciates the information contained in the Report of the Board of Auditors and the updates on the implementation of the recommendation and in this regard we encourage the Residual Mechanism to continue its effort to implement all the outstanding recommendations.

Mr. Chairman,

8. The African Group notes that in the year 2020, other than ongoing activities related to *witness protection, preservation of archives, supervision of the enforcement of sentences*, the Residual Mechanism will also focus its mandated activities on the trial of the one contempt case and tracking of the remaining fugitives of the ICTR which represent increased workload and resource requirements for the Arusha Branch.

9. The Group notes and supports the proposed requirements for the Mechanism for the year 2020 in the amount of US\$ 103 million before re-costing (or 106 million after re-costing) for the implementation of mandated activities which represent a net increase of US\$ 5.6 million compared to base resources for 2019.

10. We have taken note that, the increase is necessitated by the increased judicial activities particularly in the Arusha branch.

11. The African Group is of the strong conviction that the Mechanism must be provided with the full resources it requires to conduct its mandated judicial activities. The Group is further convinced that from a financial perspective, the provision of sufficient resources to the Mechanism in 2020 will reduce future financial requirements, while failure to do so would only increase the Mechanism's financial requirements in the future.

Mr. Chairman,

12. Turning to the Mechanism support to Residual Special Court of Sierra Leone, the African Group continues to be of the strong view that, part of the sustainable financial solution is to house the Court in Arusha facilities while ensuring the independence of each of the entities and therefore we look forward for updates on steps taken on this matter in the context of informal consultations.

13. The African Group has difficulty in understanding some of the recommendations of the ACABQ with regards to reductions in resource requirements. The Group conveys with the Secretary General that adequate financing of the mechanism is of critical importance due to the

role of the Mechanism in international Law and security. We would therefore seek to engage to allocate appropriate and adequate resources to the mechanism taking into account its unique nature as well as ongoing liquidity challenges.

Mr. Chairman,

14. I would like to conclude by expressing the African Group willingness to work constructively with other delegations in order to reach timely conclusion of this important agenda item.

I thank you.