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Agenda Item 153
Proposed budget for 2021 of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals
(A/75/383)

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by

Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller
14 December 2020

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

I have the honour to introduce the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed budget for 2021 for the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (Mechanism) as contained in document A/75/383.

The year 2020 is marked by two major developments impacting the Mechanism's workload and resource requirements for 2021. First, the Covid-19 pandemic had led to delays in judicial proceedings both in The Hague and Arusha. While it was anticipated that such activities would be winding down in the course of 2020, the global outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting international travel restrictions coupled with preventive measures taken at the national levels have restricted the Mechanism's ability to move forward with the completion of such activities.

Second, the arrest of Felicien Kabuga on 16 May 2020 and his transfer to the custody of the Mechanism on 26 October 2020, will result in a trial before a Trial Chamber at the Arusha branch. His initial appearance before a Judge of the Mechanism took place on 11 November 2020.

The resource proposals of the Mechanism are based on the judicial calendar and resulting judicial activity and related support requirements. For 2021, the anticipated conclusion of proceedings in The Hague leads to reduced requirements, while the increased judicial activity in Arusha, especially on the Turinabo et al. and the Kabuga cases, resulted in an increase in requirements. Overall, the budget proposal for the Mechanism remains constant.

The proposed resource requirements for 2021 amount to \$97,194,000 gross, reflecting an increase of \$269,500. The proposed budget includes a total of 187 posts and other staffing requirements for ad hoc functions for 2021.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, I thank you for your consideration of the proposal and we look forward to supporting you in addressing any questions you may have.
Thank you.