

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICA GROUP BY FELIX EBOA  
EBONGUE, COUNSELOR, PERMANENT MISSION OF  
CAMEROON  
ON AGENDA ITEM 138: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET  
2021: REQUEST FOR SUBVENTION TO THE RESIDUAL SPECIAL  
COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE (RSCSL)  
NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 20, 2021**

**Mr. Chair,**

1. The Africa Group wishes to thank **Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan**, Controller and Assistant Secretary-General and **Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong**, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), for introducing their respective reports.
2. The Group commends the work of the Residual Special Court in preserving and promoting the legacy of the SCSL, especially with the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the end of the Civil War in Sierra Leone.
3. The Group recalls the agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone on the establishment of a Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, with the understanding that the expenses of the Court are to be borne by voluntary contributions from the international community.
4. The Group however notes with concern the financial situation of the Court since 2015, as the Court has not received sufficient voluntary contributions for its operations, thus its reliance on subventions from the regular budget of the United Nations. The unavailability of sufficient voluntary contributions makes it difficult for the Court to effectively execute its mandates.

**Mr. Chair,**

5. The RSCSL in carrying out the residual functions of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) continues to actively monitor and support 72 witnesses within and outside of Sierra Leone, maintain on record 41 witnesses with low threats levels, supervise the enforcement of sentences and monitoring of conditional early release, management and preservation of archives, responds to requests for information and evidence from national prosecuting authorities and the conduct of *ad hoc* judicial and administrative proceedings from time to time.
6. The Group welcomes the proposal of the Secretary-General to grant a subvention for the RSCSL in an amount of **US\$2,919,300** for the Court to fulfill its obligations from 1 January to 31 December 2022, with the understanding that any additional voluntary contribution received would reduce the utilization of the funding provided by the United Nations and should be reported in the financial performance report on the Programme budget for 2022.
7. The COVID-19 pandemic has adversely affected the fundraising efforts of the Court and its Oversight Committee during the year, making it very difficult for the Court to execute its mandate in 2021.
8. In this very hostile environment, the African Group pleads for a sustainable funding mechanism that will guarantee predictability of funds in order to enable the Court to perform its residual functions and preserve the legacy of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

**Mr. Chair,**

9. The Africa Group pledges to engage constructively in the deliberation of this important agenda.
10. I thank you Mr. Chair.

