

**Agenda item 148**

*Financing of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals*

**Proposed budget for 2022 for the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal  
Tribunals (A/76/411)**

**Financial performance report on the budget of the International Residual  
mechanism for Criminal Tribunals for 2020 (A/76/370)**

**FIFTH COMMITTEE**

**Statement by  
Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan**

**Assistant Secretary-General, Controller**

**10 December 2021**

Chair, distinguished delegates,

I am honoured to introduce the financial performance report on the budget of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals for 2020 (A/76/370), and the proposed budget for 2022 (A/76/411).

Let me start with the performance report on the budget for 2020. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has impacted the implementation of the 2020 budget.

As a result of the global health crisis, the Mechanism adapted to new ways of working, including working remotely to ensure business continuity and the safety of staff and those involved in judicial proceedings. Court proceedings were temporarily suspended, and a number of activities postponed to later in the year. Notwithstanding, the Mechanism was able to continue proceedings on the *Mladić* appeal case, and the *Stanišić and Simatović* retrial both in The Hague, and on the *Nzabonimpa et al.* contempt case in Arusha, as well as to commence pretrial preparations in the Kabuga case. The performance report includes a surplus of \$3.5 million gross (\$2.3 million net) for 2020.

The year 2021 has seen the conclusion of three key courtroom proceedings both in The Hague and Arusha. At the Hague branch, the Appeal Judgement in the *Mladić* case and the Trial Judgement in the retrial against *Stanišić and Simatović* were delivered in June 2021. At the Arusha branch, the Trial Judgement in the contempt case against *Nzabonimpa et al.* was also pronounced in June 2021.

The conclusion of these key courtroom proceedings enables the Mechanism to downsize its staffing levels, while retaining resources for the remaining judicial activities in 2022. The Mechanism undertook a thorough review of the resources required for 2022 based on the judicial calendar of proceedings, the resulting projected workload and related support requirements, and in full consideration of the recommendations of ACABQ and the General Assembly.

In light of the conclusion of key trial activities and a lower anticipated trial workload in 2022, the Mechanism significantly reduced its overall staffing levels under general temporary assistance with commensurate reductions in support and administrative functions. For 2022, Mechanism proposes a reduction of 103 general temporary assistance positions compared to 2021. A further reduction would jeopardize the Mechanism's ability to address, in a timely fashion its ongoing workload and the further completion of judicial activities. In addition, the reduction would impact the operation of the two branches of the Mechanism in The Hague and Arusha, especially for the trial against Mr. Kabuga and the support to national jurisdictions.

The overall resources proposed for 2022 amount to \$93,970,300 (before recosting), reflecting a decrease of \$3,549,600 (or 3.6 per cent) compared with the appropriation for 2021. The decrease mainly reflects the completion of judicial activities and also takes into account build back better efforts to use virtual platforms for the conduct of meetings or trainings to the extent possible or feasible. It should be noted that a large proportion of the Mechanism's operational expenditures are not scalable and are largely non-discretionary, especially with regard to the operation of detention facilities, premises and utilities, as well as case-related defence counsel fees. Therefore, the proposal with regard to non-staff-related requirements has been kept largely at maintenance level, and further reductions would impact the timely delivery of the substantive programme.

Thank you, Chair and distinguished delegates. My team and I stand ready to respond to any questions you may have on the proposal.

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