



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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STATEMENT

BY

**H.E. MR. AMARA S. SOWA
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

AT THE 78TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(FIFTH COMMITTEE)

AGENDA ITEM 134:
**“REPORT ON THE USE OF THE COMMITMENT AUTHORITY
AND REQUEST FOR A SUBVENTION TO THE
RESIDUAL SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE”**

NEW YORK, 9TH NOVEMBER 2023

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

1. The delegation of Sierra Leone respectively aligns this statement with the Statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of the Republic of Cuba, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and the Republic of Uganda on behalf of the African Group.
2. My delegation takes this opportunity to congratulate you, Chair, on your election to lead the work of the Fifth Committee, and the other members of the Bureau, and assures you of our continued support throughout your tenure.
3. We commend the Secretary-General and thank Mr. **Chandramouli Ramanathan**, Controller and Assistant Secretary-General for introducing the reports **A/78/363** and **A/78/7/Add.12**, and takes note, with appreciation, the Secretary General's request for additional subvention in the amount of **\$2,968,300** for the operation of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone (RSCSL) in 2024.
4. We also thank **Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong**, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary

Questions for his report and note the recommendations contained therein.

Chair,

5. Cognizant of the continuing challenges posed by the current funding arrangement of the Residual Special Court, Sierra Leone notes with appreciation key issues highlighted in the current report, which are: the extent by which savings was made to the commitment authority; actions taken to institute transparency; accountability and efficiency in the use of the commitment authority; efforts made to secure additional voluntary contributions to the court; and crucially, a request for an additional subvention in the tune of **\$2,968,300** to enable the Court in following through its mandate and annual programme of work for 2024.

6. As the Committee is aware, the RSCSL was established by an Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone in August 2010, "*to carry out essential functions of the Special Court for Sierra Leone*" (SCSL); which completed its mandate and closed on 31st December 2013.

7. The RSCSL mandated to carry out judicial and non-judicial functions, continues as part of its judicial mandate, to support witness protection, actively monitoring and providing support to 72 witnesses in Sierra Leone, as well as to those located outside Sierra Leone, supervising the enforcement of sentences and the monitoring of conditional early release, responding to requests for information and evidence from national prosecuting authorities and the management and preservation of archives. In addition, the Court conducts ad hoc judicial and administrative proceedings from time to time.
8. Regrettably, even though about **47** fundraising bilateral meetings have been held and more than 30 additional meetings are envisaged to be held in 2023, the funding situation of the Residual Special Court remains dire, with minimal prospects for future voluntary contributions.
9. In the light of these difficulties, the funding situation of the Residual Special Court remains a serious concern to the United Nations, the Government of Sierra Leone, and the Oversight Committee. Securing a sustainable funding for the court continues to be a huge challenge and so therefore, the delegation of Sierra Leone reiterates its call for a consistent financing arrangement that will ensure the

continued preservation of the legacy of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which is an important element of the Residual Special Court and its contribution to the development of international criminal justice.

Chair,

10. Under the circumstances highlighted, as requested by the Secretary-General, my delegation kindly entreats the Fifth Committee to recommend to the General Assembly to approve a subvention in the amount of **\$2,968,300** to cover expenses for non-judicial and judicial activities for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2024 for the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, in the hope that any voluntary contributions received during that period would reduce the utilization of the funding provided by the United Nations.

11. In conclusion, let me seize this opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation to Member States for their continued support to the work of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone.

12. **I thank you.**