

\*\*\* CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY \*\*\*



**Agenda Item 136**

**Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019**

**Request for a subvention to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of  
Cambodia (ECCC) (A/72/341)**

**FIFTH COMMITTEE**

**Statement by**

**Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas  
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller**

**2 November 2017**

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce the Secretary-General's report on the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) (A/72/341). This report outlines the substantive progress and results achieved by the Chambers under each of the judicial cases. It also addresses the continuing financial challenges faced by ECCC in 2017 and provides the estimated requirements for ECCC for the national component and the United Nations component, also called the international component of the Extraordinary Chambers, for the biennium 2018-2019.

2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 71/272, authorized the Secretary-General, as an exceptional measure, to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed \$11 million to supplement the voluntary financial resources of the international component of the Extraordinary Chambers for the year 2017. This amount was based on the pledging shortfall, as it stood then, for the international component.

3. The commitment authority, combined with voluntary contributions, was insufficient to cover the entire 2017 budget. To address the funding shortfall of about \$2 million, the Court has introduced several management measures, including a recruitment freeze for vacant positions, exempted only for positions that are absolutely necessary for the uninterrupted continuation of the legal proceedings.

4. The Secretary-General shares the concern expressed by the ACABQ on the persistent funding challenges and the ongoing need for intensifying fund-raising efforts so that the work of the Chambers can be brought to a successful conclusion. The Secretariat has worked closely with the Principal Donors Group (PDG) in New York and the Friends of the ECCC in Phnom Penh to raise voluntary contributions throughout the year, for both the international and national components. While the efforts undertaken have resulted in renewed support from existing and previous donors, it has not resulted in any significant broadening of the donor base.

5. The Court has prepared the budget for the biennium 2018-2019, for the first time using the results-based approach. The proposed budget has been endorsed by the Steering Committee of the ECCC and will be submitted to the Group of Interested States for consideration. The budget for 2018-2019 shows a significant decrease compared to the current biennium, due to cost-saving measures instituted in 2017 and the conclusion of the investigations in cases 003 and 004 in 2018. At the same time, voluntary contributions in 2018 are also projected to reach a lower level than 2017.

6. Ensuring the successful completion of the Court's mandate is a critical consideration by the Secretary-General to again request a subvention for 2018. The requested subvention would address the estimated funding gap to meet the budgetary requirements of the ECCC in 2018, including the extension of staff contracts, to enable them to fully concentrate on their judicial work so as to meet the proposed judicial timelines.

7. While aggressive outreach and fundraising efforts will continue, the Secretary-General seeks the approval of the General Assembly for an appropriation for a

subvention for the international component of the Extraordinary Chambers in the amount of \$10.4 million for 2018, taking into account the projected voluntary contributions of about \$8.5 million.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, I look forward to the discussions on this item.

Thank you.