

STATEMENT

ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY MR. MÁRCIO BURITY, THIRD SECRETARY AT PERMANENT MISSION OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON AGENDA ITEM 147: FINANCING OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA FOR THE BIENNIUM 2016-2017 DURING THE MAIN SESSION OF SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY - FIFTH COMMITTEE

(NEW YORK, 19 DECEMBER, 2017)

Mr. Chairperson,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Africa Group on agenda items 147 and 148 in particular on the Second performance report on the budget of the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY) 2016- 2017, and Second performance report on the budget for the biennium 2016- 2017 and proposed budget for the biennium 2018- 2019 of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals.

At the outset, the Africa Group associates itself with the Statement made by Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and would like to thank Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant Secretary-General, Controller as well as Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), for introducing respective reports on these agenda items.

Mr. Chairperson,

This Group wishes note that the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunal (IRM), realized savings as a result of the strengthening of the US Dollar against the Euro and the Tanzanian Shilling, as well as a decrease in the level of inflation and the absence of trials at Arusha during the biennium 2016- 2017.

The Africa Group wishes to also express concern over the continued reliance on The Hague branch without proper Justification which includes the proposed movement of staff to a more expensive duty station while not

taking advantage of the availability of a new building which is yet to be optimally utilized in Arusha and thereby undermining the purpose of the decision to close and replace the ICTY with the Residual Mechanism.

We wish to request the Secretary General to continually explore options of utilizing low cost duty stations in order to realize budget efficiencies.

The Group does not concur with the Advisory committee's recommendation, which is against giving the Secretary-General the required resources and rather requesting him to submit a revised budget.

The Group wishes to state that the decision to withhold the planned resources will compromise the timely implementation of the programs of the Mechanism and instead proposes that the revised information be provided in the context of supplementary information.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion, we assure you of our commitment to engage constructively on these important agenda items.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson