



Report on the Construction of a new facility for the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, Arusha Branch

**Introductory statement to the
Fifth Committee of the General Assembly**

by

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Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

I am pleased to introduce the Secretary-General's report (A/72/734), the seventh report on the construction of a new facility for the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (Mechanism), Arusha branch, which provides an update on the defects liability period of the project since the issuance of the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/71/753).

The project began in January 2012, seven months prior to the actual launch of the Mechanism. The land on which the facility is located was generously donated by the United Republic of Tanzania at no cost to the United Nations. Works were substantially completed on 1 December 2016, and staff moved into the premises on 5 December 2016.

Since the date of substantial completion and throughout the present reporting period, the Mechanism has continued to make full use of the office building, which has been fully occupied by our staff ever since we moved to the premises. In addition, the courtroom building is fully functional and equipped, and prepared to host trials and other judicial proceedings. The entire facility is an attractive environment in which to work.

There have been some delays in completing some of the remaining minor corrective works. In order to bring the project through to final completion, a dedicated Project Manager

was recruited, and, following protracted negotiations with the contractor, I am pleased to report that final works on site have since progressed expeditiously. Completion of these works is now planned for the end of April 2018. The Mechanism's own assessment is that 75% of the punch-list items have now been completed, which is to be confirmed during inspection by the Architect in April 2018 as required under the contract.

During the year of occupancy, the project team has recorded design related deficiencies. The most significant one pertains to the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system (HVAC) presently installed on the premises. The output does not meet the air quality, temperature range and humidity standards required by the Mechanism in the archives building. The project team has explored workable solutions, which will likely entail replacement of some of the currently installed equipment. Following negotiations, the architect has agreed to provide the necessary design rectification input at no extra cost, and has already provided the most significant parts of the redesigned schematic drawings on which the remediation work will be based.

The initial assessment indicates that the currently available amount of project funds will suffice for the supply and installation of the equipment required to remediate the HVAC system in the Archives building. It is expected that any additional costs stemming from the remediation of the defective design work in the HVAC system or other systems would be recouped from the architect and the contractor.

It is anticipated that the corrective HVAC works will be completed in September 2018, after which time the project will be considered closed.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, I am pleased to report that, despite the delays experienced, the project remains within the approved budget of \$8.8 million, inclusive of the contingency provision. To date, the contingency has a projected remaining balance of \$416,981, and any unused contingency will be returned to Member States at the completion of the project.

The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) recently concluded its third audit of the project, which covered the immediate post-construction phase.

As we bring the project to a close, I would like to note, with appreciation, the continued support of the Host State of the United Republic of Tanzania, the technical

guidance of the Office of Central Support Services, the Office of Legal Affairs and other Secretariat Departments, the efforts of Mechanism staff with the assistance of the ICTY prior to its closure. We will provide comprehensive information on the outstanding project items (defects remedy and exercise of contractual remedies) in the final progress report.

The General Assembly is requested to take note of progress made on the project during the reporting period.

Together with members of my team, as well as the Office of Central Support Services here in New York, we will be available to answer questions of the committee during informal consultations immediately following this meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates.

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