

STATEMENT BY MR. SONGELAE SHILLA, MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY AT THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM 153: PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDUAL MECHANISM FOR CRIMINAL TRIBUNALS FOR 2021, AT THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY- FIFTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FIFTH COMMITTEE

(New York, 14th December, 2020)

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on agenda item 153: proposed budget for the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals for 2021.

My delegation would like to thank Mr. Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan, the ASG, Controller, Office of Programme Planning, for presenting respective reports on the subject matter. We also thank Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, Chair of the ACABQ for delivering the Committee's related report. My delegation also takes note of the report of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of the Mechanism as delivered at the beginning of our session.

The delegation of Tanzania joins others in appreciating the outstanding work and leadership of Mr. Olufemi Elias, the Registrar who finished his term at the end of June this year. We also take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Abubacarr Tambadou as the new Registrar, and head of the Mechanism and we look forward to his leadership in advancing excellent work done by his predecessor, in particular those related to strengthening the Arusha Branch.

Mr. Chairman,

The Tanzania delegation aligns its statement with the remarks delivered by the African Group and the Group of 77 and China and we have few elements to add in our national capacity.

At the outset, the United Republic of Tanzania re-affirms our unconditional support to the work of Mechanism and multilateralism and that the consideration of the details of the proposed budget for the Mechanism is at the center of our attention.

My delegation notes the overall level of the proposed budget for 2021 which reflects a negative real growth compared to the mandated activities and development in the ground. My delegation has carefully studied the proposals and we find that while there have been efforts to maintain mandate delivery at the difficult time of Covid-19 pandemic, the proposal before us still has failed to address key issues raised by my delegation and this Committee in the previous years.

The proposed budget before us continues to reflect serious imbalance of resources between the Hague and Arusha branch to the extent that, now mandated activities for Arusha are proposed to be budgeted in The Hague including the budget requirement for the recently arrested fugitive, Mr. Felicien Kabuga.

My delegation notes that a number of administrative and support functions continue to be heavily allocated outside Arusha despite the decision by the General Assembly to dedicate administrative and leadership functions in Arusha- which also match with the heavy workload. My delegation will be interested to learn the rationale for this noncompliance.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to the arrest of Mr. Felicien Kabuga, we welcome the effort of the Mechanism and would like to emphasize the position of Tanzania which has been communicated to the Mechanism in different fora, that, this case is mandated to take place in Arusha branch as one of the residual function of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. We will find it difficult if the delay in the transfer of Mr. Kabuga to Arusha continues to persist.

We are of the strong view that the term temporary transfer has expired, taking into account that Arusha and entire Tanzania remain the most Covid-19 free country in the world to address the question of health risk. If the UN staff can travel to Arusha, what makes such a big difference to the fugitive.

We believe the Mechanism will take advantage of the open Tanzania sky and availability of direct flights between the Netherlands and Arusha to facilitate Mr. Kabuga's immediate transfer for his trial. This will among others provide an opportunity for parties who are located in the region to participate and witness the trial process.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to staffing and recruitment, the delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania fully supports the plan for bringing gender balance and equitable geographical representation in the Mechanism. We appreciate the effort which was deployed in the previous three years to bring more local female security personnel in the Arusha Branch and we look forward to the strengthened effort in these gains. Tanzania will be interested to learn the effort to sustain and advance these gains in this budget proposal. We will also be interested to learn the efforts to advance women participation in the professional and higher categories.

Mr. Chairman,

We have taken note with interest the comments by the Advisory Committee on the need for sound nationalization plans for posts and positions. My delegation, as has been supportive of this initiative, we find it timely from this budget year to initiate the process particularly in Arusha branch. Our delegation will propose specific language to initiate the process in the context of our informal negotiation. It is our position that by the end of next budget submission at least 50% of the administrative and other support functions need to be under nationalization plan so as to lower the cost of operation and bring efficiency and effectiveness in mandate delivery.

Lastly, on the agenda, my delegation recalls paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 74/272 and is interested to receive updates on the Secretary-General's effort to bring the matter related to settlement of accounts with contractors into the swift conclusion. We would like to know whether this matter have been implemented.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman, allow me to reassure you of Tanzania readiness to engage constructively on the negotiation of this agenda item with a view to contributing to consensus in a timely manner.

I thank you.