



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

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STATEMENT

by

H. E. ALHAJI FANDAY TURAY
Permanent Representative

at the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Agenda Item: 138
**“REQUEST FOR SUBVENTION TO THE RESIDUAL SPECIAL COURT FOR
SIERRA LEONE”**

New York, 19th November 2021

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Mr. Chairman,

1. The delegation of Sierra Leone respectively aligns this statement with the Statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of the Republic of Guinea, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and the Republic of Cameroon on behalf of the African Group.
2. My delegation takes this opportunity to congratulate you, on your election as Chair of the Fifth Committee and other members of the Bureau and assures you of our continued support throughout your tenure.
3. We commend the Secretary-General for his report on this agenda item contained in document **A/76/329**, being an outcome of General Assembly resolution 75/253 and takes note, with appreciation, his request for additional subvention in the amount of **\$2,919,300** for the operation of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) in 2022.
4. My delegation would like to thank **Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan**, Controller and Assistant Secretary-General and **Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong**, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for introducing their related reports.

Mr. Chairman,

5. The General Assembly in resolution 75/253 authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed \$2,537,00 to supplement the voluntary financial resources of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone from 1 January to 31 December 2021 and on that note, Sierra Leone is pleased to highlight the key issues contained in the report which are: the extent to which savings was made to the commitment authority; actions taken to institute transparency; accountability and efficiency of 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 **\$2,919,300** to enable the Court in following through its mandate and annual programme of work for 2022.

Mr. Chairman,

6. As the Committee is aware, the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone (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, “after announcing the final judgement in the case of Charles Ghankay Taylor, the ninth and final person prosecuted in the Special Court”.
7. The RSCSL is mandated to carry out judicial and non-judicial functions, of which some have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic: The judicial functions include those activities mandated by the statute of the RSCSL that may arise from time to time such as, 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. Moreover, as required in article 18 of the Statute of the Residual Special Court, the Witnesses and Victims Protection and Support Office continues to actively monitor and provide active monitoring and support to 72 witnesses in Sierra Leone, as well as to those located outside Sierra Leone, and maintains updated information on witnesses through regular contact. The RSCSL continues to implement protective measures such as relocation and provision of critical assistance to vulnerable witnesses.
9. The non-judicial functions include activities relating to the preservation and management of the archives; responses to requests for access to information by national prosecution authorities; requests for family visits.
10. For the second year, we note with concern how the COVID-19 pandemic has abruptly affected the expected outcome of fundraising activities geared towards soliciting voluntary contributions from Members States. Regrettably, even though about 58 fundraising bilateral meetings have been held in 2021, the

funding situation of the Residual Special Court remains dire, with minimal prospects for future voluntary contributions.

11. In the light of these difficulties, the funding situation of the Residual Special Court remains a serious concern for the Government of Sierra Leone. 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 predictable financing arrangement that will ensure full functioning of the RSCSL and 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.

Mr. Chairman,

12. Under the circumstances highlighted, as requested by the Secretary-General, my delegation kindly entreats the General Assembly to approve a subvention in the amount of \$2,919,300 to cover expenses for non-judicial and judicial activities for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2022 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.
13. 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.
14. **I thank you for your attention.**