

**Fifth Committee of the General Assembly  
6 March 2014**

**Report on the construction of a new facility for the International Residual  
Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, Arusha branch**

**Statement of John Hocking, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General,  
Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and  
Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals**

Mechanism has identified the design requirements of the new facility primarily in-house. Relevant offices within the Secretariat, including the Department of Safety and Security, and the Office of Information Communication Technology, are providing high-level advice to ensure that the overall strategic objectives of the Organisation are incorporated into the design. The Office of Legal Affairs has provided legal support and drafted key legal documents for the project. The Registrar of the Mechanism wishes to extend his appreciation to all of these stakeholders as they continue to contribute to the success of this project.

The Mechanism and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania have continued their excellent collaboration over the last year and the Registrar expresses his sincere gratitude to the Government for its tireless efforts to make this project a success. On 5 February 2014 the United Nations and the Government of Tanzania signed the agreement for the land that has so kindly been offered at no cost to the United Nations. Steps towards the agreement's practical implementation have already begun.

The General Assembly has appropriated the entire budget for the project - \$8.787 million. In its resolution 66/240B, it initially appropriated \$3 million. A special multi-year account was authorised in resolution 67/244B. On 27 December 2013, the General Assembly approved by resolution 68/257 the budget of the Mechanism for the biennium 2014-2015, including the remaining \$5.79 million for the construction project. The Registrar of the Mechanism thanks the Member States for this support.

Contract negotiations with the architectural firm concluded last month, and the contract between the United Nations and Ridge and Partners LLP for the provision of professional architectural and engineering services for the design and construction of the new Arusha facilities became effective on 26 February 2014. An introductory meeting between the Mechanism and the successful firm was held yesterday, 5 March, in Arusha. Ridge and Partners, an established firm based in the United Kingdom, will join efforts with its sub-consultant, F.B.W. Group, an architectural and engineering firm operating out of Kampala, Uganda, with a focus on East Africa. The requirement of a business presence in Africa was a key requirement in the selection process, in line with the General Assembly's encouragement to include local knowledge and capacity in the implementation of the project. Both Ridge and Partners and F.B.W. Group are United Nations-registered vendors. A past joint project of these two firms is the British High Commission in Kampala. The Registrar is confident that Ridge and Partners will be able to effectively transform the conceptual de

As you can see, the Mechanism has made excellent progress over the last year, and additional key milestones will be met in 2014 - the architectural and engineering design firm will develop a detailed design for the facility and produce tender documents for construction. The sourcing of the construction firm is anticipated to begin in the first half of this year.

This construction project is of crucial importance to the Mechanism. The premises will be the new home of the Arusha branch. It will equip the Mechanism with the infrastructure it needs to carry out its heavy responsibilities, which include ensuring that the ICTR's legacy and achievements in the field of international criminal justice are carried forward to future generations. The Registrar of the Mechanism remains firmly committed to completing the construction of the new premises of the Arusha branch within the overall timeline and budget approved by the General Assembly, secured by a strong governance regime with full accountability.

Thank you for your ongoing support of this critical project.