

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY MR. MOHAMED TRAORE, SECOND COUNSELOR AT THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALI ON AGENDA ITEM 141: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR 2021: REQUEST FOR A SUBVENTION TO THE RESIDUAL SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE, AT THE MAIN PART OF FIFTH COMMITTEE DURING THE SEVENTY- FIFTH SESSION OF UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**(NEW YORK, 08 DECEMBER 2020)**

**Mr. Chair,**

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 141: programme budget for 2021: request for a subvention to the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone.
2. The Group 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.
3. The African Group aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Guyana on behalf of the G77 and China and would like to make few additional remarks.

**Mr. Chair,**

4. At the outset, the African Group wishes to reiterate its strong support to the work of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone.

5. The African Group commends the in-

Court and hampers the efforts undertaken by the stakeholders. The current funding arrangements is posing serious challenges to the continued sustainability of the court, threatening the effective implementation of its mandate.

10. The Group stresses that proper funding and financing of the Special Court in Sierra Leone is an important aspect for adjudication, and elevating efforts should be intensified not only to seek voluntary contributions, but, more importantly, to provide sustainable funding mechanism for the Court, including through.

11. In that regard, the African Group appreciates the different options presented by the Secretary General, which include a combination of assessed contributions from Member States and the provision of logistical and administrative support to the Court by the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals.

**Mr. Chair,**

12. Central to RSCSL's mandate is the prosecution of perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, violations of international humanitarian law, and other crimes under relevant Sierra Leonean law. Furthermore, the Court is tasked with witness and victim protection and support, supervising the enforcement of sentences and monitoring of conditional early release, responding to requests for information and evidence from national prosecuting authorities, and managing and preserving archives.

13. The Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone continues to monitor and provide support to over 100 former witnesses of the Special Court located in various regions of Sierra Leone and other countries. The presence of the Special Court in Sierra Leone will continue to be an important pillar of resolving disputes and promoting criminal justice.

14. Officials of the Residual court are at present responsible for supervision and enforcement of sentences of nine detainees, serving terms that range from 15 to 52 years in Rwanda and