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**MESSAGE MARKING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR RWANDA
Arusha, 4-7 November 2014**

Delivered by the United Nations Legal Counsel, Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares

Today's commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda affords us the opportunity to acknowledge the Tribunal's important achievements. The ICTR has fought impunity for the genocide in Rwanda. It has advanced accountability and given full voice to the victims.

When the Security Council adopted Resolution 955 in November 1994, Rwanda was a deeply wounded nation, having in freshest memory the horrifying systematic killing of more than 800,000 of its people.

At that time, the prospect of accountability felt far off. Yet over the past 20 years, the work of the Tribunal has made an indispensable contribution to delivering justice for these grave crimes. Painstaking investigations and judicial proceedings meeting high international standards have ensured that judgment has been reached in a wide array of its cases. In this effort, the Tribunal has developed landmark jurisprudence that will shape the development of international criminal justice for decades to come.

An international tribunal can only ever bring to trial a limited number of the most responsible perpetrators. In parallel with the Tribunal's work, Rwanda and numerous other States around the world have undertaken processes addressing the responsibility of others. Nor is that work over. The International Residual Mechanism in Arusha will maintain its focus on remaining fugitives and completing outstanding proceedings. National proceedings against other alleged perpetrators will also continue.

In Kigali on 7 April, at the 20th Commemoration of the Genocide in Rwanda, I stated that the Tribunal has demonstrated once again how justice is indispensable for sustainable peace. That is among the Tribunal's greatest legacies. I salute all whose work together over 20 years has showed the world the immense value of international criminal justice.