



**UNITED NATIONS  
OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS**

**Signing of the Headquarters Agreement for the Arusha Branch of the International  
Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals**

**Remarks**

by

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26 November 2013, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a very great pleasure to be here today to sign the headquarters agreement for the Arusha branch of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals. While the Residual Mechanism has already commenced its functions in Arusha, the signing of this Host Country Agreement reflects the ongoing commitment of the United Nations and the Government of Tanzania to putting in place the foundations necessary to ensure the long-term success of the Residual Mechanism.

I would therefore like to first thank all of you who have organized today's important occasion, but also the Government of Tanzania for its excellent cooperation with the United Nations and for its agreement to host the Residual Mechanism. I would also like to express our gratitude to the the Government for its decision to provide land in Arusha in order that the Residual Mechanism may have suitable premises to carry out its functions.

I should also extend thanks the Government of Rwanda for its continuing cooperation during the life of the ICTR and now with the establishment of the Residual Mechanism.

Throughout their nearly 20 years, the ICTY and the ICTR have helped to change the face of international criminal justice.

They have made monumental contributions to substantive and procedural international criminal and international humanitarian law—from establishing that the crimes of rape and sexual violence may constitute genocide, to the legal criteria for distinguishing between international and non-international armed conflicts, to the protection of victims and witnesses.

In establishing the Residual Mechanism, the Security Council “reaffirmed its determination to combat impunity for those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law”, making clear that the conclusion of the mandates of the ICTY and ICTR must not result in impunity. The Residual Mechanism is responsible for a broad range of important tasks. These include the trial of current fugitives and contempt cases; protection of witnesses, review of judgments; referral of cases to national jurisdictions; and the supervision of the enforcement of sentences.

The Residual Mechanism serves as a reminder that the work of the ICTY and ICTR are not yet done, but also as a reminder of the international community’s commitment to ending impunity and ensuring accountability. I want to assure you that the Secretary-General and my Office are committed to providing all the support that we can offer to provide for a continued smooth transition for the Residual Mechanism.

The Residual Mechanism has a vital role to play in this age of accountability. The Headquarters Agreement signed today by the United Nations and the Government of Tanzania provides the legal foundation for the Residual Mechanism to discharge its mandate with comprehensive legal protection in place. As with the ICTR, the generous support of the Government of Tanzania has been crucial to ensuring the establishment of the Residual Mechanism.

The Government of Tanzania has been a long-standing support of of international criminal justice for three decades.

As a long-term partner of the United Nations and the international community in this endeavour, Tanzania's dedication and leadership in this area is to be commended. I, together with my Office, look forward to continuing our committed partnership together in order to fully preserve and ensure the continuing achievements and legacies of these international tribunals through the Residual Mechanism.

Thank you very much.