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**Fifth Committee**

**Summary record of the 22nd meeting**

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 11 December 2018, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Ms. Bird ..... (Australia)  
*Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative  
and Budgetary Questions:* Mr. Sene

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

**Agenda item 148: Financing of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals**  
(A/73/491 and A/73/620)

1. **Mr. Ramanathan** (Acting Controller), introducing the first performance report of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals for the biennium 2018–2019 (A/73/491), said that the report indicated adjustments required as at the end of the first year of the biennium, owing to variations in the rates of inflation and exchange, standard costs and vacancy rates assumed in the calculation of the initial appropriation. The revised estimates for the Mechanism reflected a reduction of \$303,500 compared with the approved budget of \$196 million for the biennium, resulting from decreases attributable to changes in vacancy rates and exchange rates, partly offset by increases in standard costs and inflation.

2. **Mr. Sene** (Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/73/620), said that the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the proposed revised appropriation for the Mechanism for the biennium 2018–2019 in the amount of \$195,720,600, reflecting an overall net decrease of \$303,500 compared with the initial appropriation authorized by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/258 B.

3. **Mr. Alsayed** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group noted the proposed revised appropriation for the Mechanism as well as the findings contained in the report of the Board of Auditors on the Mechanism for the financial year ended 31 December 2017 (A/73/5/Add.15). Timely implementation of the Board's recommendations was essential.

4. By its resolution 72/258 B, the General Assembly had approved a revised budget for the Mechanism as a result of gaps identified in the initial budget proposal. The delay in the approval of the required resources for the Mechanism might nevertheless have undermined the timely fulfilment of its mandate. Also pursuant to that resolution, a post at the D-1 level had been established to strengthen administrative functions in Arusha. The Secretary-General must fill that post as a matter of priority. Any changes in mandates related to approved resources, including decisions on the location of posts, were the exclusive prerogative of the General Assembly, and the Secretary-General must ensure compliance in that regard.

5. The different functions of the President, Prosecutor and Registrar of the Mechanism, as codified in its Statute, existed in order to ensure the efficient implementation of its mandate. Each of those officials must act within the scope of his or her individual mandate.

6. **Ms. Nalwanga** (Uganda), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the Group supported the Secretary-General's proposed revised appropriation for the Mechanism. The Group commended the Mechanism's efforts to implement its budget, in particular to fill the vacant posts and positions approved in July 2018. She would seek further information on the status of efforts to fill the D-1 post to be based in Arusha and expected that those efforts would be conducted in a timely manner, taking into account the need for gender balance and equitable geographical representation. The Group also commended the Mechanism for organizing an annual International Organizations Open Day in Arusha, which provided an opportunity for international and regional organizations, government departments, the general public and members of academia to gain an understanding of the core work of the Mechanism and of other international organizations based in Arusha. She expressed the Group's appreciation to the outgoing President of the Mechanism for his contribution to its work and to international criminal justice in general. The Group hoped that his successor would continue to ensure effective cooperation between the Mechanism and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania.

**Agenda item 141: Human resources management**  
(continued)

*Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Rules*  
(A/73/378 and A/73/622)

7. **Ms. Lopez** (Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on amendments to the Staff Regulations and Rules (A/73/378), said that the amendments included in the report would lay the foundation for a streamlined and decentralized framework for delegation of authority which, in turn, would make the Organization less bureaucratic and accelerate decision-making, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General on management reform (A/72/492). The overarching objective of the review, conducted pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 72/266 A and B, of the human resources policy framework, including the Staff Regulations and Rules and all administrative issuances, had been to make those policies more concise and easier to read and understand for managers and staff. The resulting simplified

framework would reduce the need for policy advice and interpretation; enable managers to exercise their delegated authority; minimize bureaucracy; accelerate processes; enhance transparency; and strengthen the accountability of managers, outcomes that supported the Secretary-General's management reforms. The report (A/73/378) was the result of broad coordination with human resources policy experts and practitioners within the Office of Human Resources Management and throughout the Secretariat and the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, as well as with staff representatives.

8. **Mr. Sene** (Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/73/622), said that the changes proposed by the Secretary-General were extensive, covering a range of aspects of the regulatory framework for human resources management. Some of the proposed amendments reflected the impact of various General Assembly resolutions relating to salaries and conditions of service for staff, in accordance with the recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission; the Advisory Committee considered those changes to be unproblematic. However, the Advisory Committee considered that the report included policy amendments that should have been proposed in the Secretary-General's reports on human resources policy reform; changes that appeared to contradict the understanding that general principles pertaining to human resources were to be set out in the Staff Regulations, while more detailed provisions were to be reflected in the Staff Rules and related administrative instructions; proposed language establishing exceptions that introduced increased discretion and a degree of ambiguity; and editorial and presentational changes that might have policy implications. The Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to submit a refined report on amendments to the Staff Regulations and Rules, presenting separately those amendments required to ensure consistency with the Assembly's decisions on human resources matters. The Advisory Committee was also of the view that, in future reports, the rationale for all proposed changes should be stipulated more clearly.

*The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.*