

**MICT**

UNITED NATIONS

Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals

The Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals ("MICT" or "Mechanism") was established on 22 December 2010 by the United Nations Security Council to continue the jurisdiction, rights, obligations and essential functions of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda ("ICTR") and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia ("ICTY") after the completion of their respective mandates. The MICT has two branches, one in Arusha, Tanzania, and one in The Hague, Netherlands.

STATEMENT

PROSECUTOR

(Exclusively for the use of the media. Not an official document)

Arusha, 25 November 2016

Official Opening Ceremony of the New Premises of the MICT Arusha Branch Serge Brammertz, Chief Prosecutor UN Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals 25 November 2016

Vice President, Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman, dear Colleagues

I am pleased to join you today to officially open the new facility of the MICT.

Over the past two decades, the ICTR, Rwanda and the international community, working together, achieved important steps towards justice.

The Rwandan genocide was one of the most tragic events in modern history, and the ICTR held accountable many of the senior military and political leaders most responsible for it.

The MICT is continuing that work today. My Office is committed to undertaking all efforts to locate, arrest and bring to trial the remaining eight fugitives. Three fugitives will be prosecuted by the MICT, and five by Rwandan authorities.

We are undertaking significant steps to strengthen our search for these fugitives. My Office has deepened our cooperation with Interpol and the African Prosecutors Association. We have also reinforced our tracking team with staff who have specialized expertise.

Because it is what the victims need and deserve, we want to see fugitives stand trial in this courtroom in the not too distant future. In Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, the victims share the same desires: to see those responsible for the crimes against them brought to justice, and to know the fate of their loved ones.

Rwandan authorities are also pursuing more than 500 fugitives of their own. My Office will continue to support their efforts to secure greater justice.

By enabling access to our evidence collection and expertise, we will also continue supporting prosecutions for the Rwandan genocide in courts around the world.

At the same time, the opening of the new MICT facility here, in Arusha, the African city of justice, is an important opportunity to promote and support accountability for international crimes more broadly.

With two decades of experience, we now know that justice is best served closer to the affected communities. Today, national judiciaries around the world play an increasingly important role in accountability for international crimes. At a moment when international justice is a topic of much discussion, one essential step forward must be to reinforce national capacities.

My Office is already working to support our African partners in their fight for justice. As just one example, we conducted this summer in Nairobi a six-day advanced training focusing on the prosecution of sexual violence crimes in conflict. It was attended by 30 prosecutors and other practitioners from Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

We plan to conduct a similar training next year in Kigali, to continue passing along international experiences to help improve national prosecutions.

This new facility can therefore be a place for capacity-building and research. National prosecutors can gather here with their international colleagues to share experiences and lessons learned. Students from across Africa can come here to learn more about international law and the fight against impunity.

Ultimately, this should be a space for education. What I have learned during my career as an international prosecutor is that education is decisive to promote reconciliation and prevent future crimes.

What has been established in the courtroom must be taught in the classroom. We must teach future generations the dangers of genocide ideology so they do not have to suffer as Rwanda did. And they need to know the truth so they can firmly reject genocide denial at all times and in all places.

As prosecutors, our job has been to shine a light on what has been hidden and establish facts based on the evidence we have gathered. I remain hopeful that this work, while not perfect, can help contribute to reconciliation and a more peaceful future.

To conclude, my Office is firmly committed to completing its remaining work as expeditiously as possible. And working together, we can ensure that accountability goes forward not only in The Hague and Arusha, but also in national courts in Africa and elsewhere in the world.

I very much look forward to working with all of you in achieving our shared goals.

Thank you.

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