



## Statement

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REGISTRAR

Arusha, 1 July 2015

### Remarks at the Cornerstone Ceremony for the Mechanism's Premises in Arusha

**Mr. John Hocking**

**United Nations Assistant Secretary-General,  
Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia  
and the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals**

Your Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Honourable Chief Justice of Tanzania, Honourable Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation of Tanzania, Excellencies, Fellow Principals of the Mechanism and ICTR, Judges, dear guests from the United Nations Headquarters and distinguished regional and local representatives, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

People of Arusha, people of Rwanda and people of the world – This building is yours.

People of Arusha, hili jengo ni lenu! – This building is yours.

This building is made in Arusha, for Arusha and for the world. It is made with local labour, local materials, local construction methods, but draws on the lessons learned in United Nations projects worldwide. This building is local, but its message is global.

It reminds us that impunity is no longer acceptable and accountability is demanded, no matter how powerful the perpetrator, or how helpless the victim. That perpetrators of genocide and gross violations of human rights must and can be brought to justice has been proved in Arusha, at what has now become one of this city's icons, the ICTR.

The seeds of accountability harvested by the ICTR, and by its sister Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, fertilised international, local, and mixed tribunals, and have sparked investigations in all corners of the world. Yet, these seeds have not left Arusha.

These green hills will continue to offer fertile soil for the ideals of justice and the rule of law, not only through the Mechanism, but also the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption, the African Institute of International Law and other institutions which will follow.

People of Rwanda – This building is also yours.

The victims have been waiting and hoping. They have been waiting that all those considered responsible for the Genocide against the Tutsi appear before a court of justice. They have been hoping that they will not be forgotten.

Three years ago we, the Mechanism, pledged that the work of the ICTR will not remain unfinished. The search for fugitives has intensified. Victims and witnesses have received support, protection, medical care. Their voices, without which justice is hardly possible, have been preserved and protected. Convicted persons are serving their time in full respect of human rights. National courts are engaged in domestic trials related to the genocide in Rwanda. The first Mechanism appeal judgement has been delivered.

Encouraged by the work done, humbled by the support received, and unwavering by the challenges ahead, we, the Mechanism, reaffirm today our commitment.

This building will support our operations for as long as necessary. The courtroom will host fair and expeditious trials, the archives will be secure yet accessible, and the latest infrastructures will connect us to the world and the world to us.

People of the world – This building is yours.

Perhaps you have never visited Arusha, or maybe you have only limited knowledge of what occurred in Rwanda in 1994. Yet, this building is yours too.

If you know that a child is orphaned merely because of her bloodline – this hurts you.

If you know that a man loses a limb just because of his ethnicity – this affects you.

If you know that a woman is raped simply because of a word on her identity card – this shocks you. You are compelled to act.

In this building, we will find instruments to stave off similar atrocities. 2 million pages of archives, 20,000 trial exhibits, and over 27,000 hours of footage from judicial proceedings, will teach us to recognize the early signs of mass violence, will serve as a powerful deterrent, and, impressed in our memories, will urge us to replace silence with activism.

This building is yours: build it, support it, use it.

Build it – Fellow United Nations colleagues in New York, The Hague and Arusha, from its first sketch on an excel spreadsheet by an ICTR archivist, you have owned this project, thank you. Ridge and Partners, your design has captured the lean structure of the Mechanism and the solemnity of its mandate. Jandu Plumbers, it is now in your experienced hands to bring this design to life.

Support it – Member States, thank you for your investment in this construction and in the Mechanism. Your Excellency, President Kikwete, your commitment to this project and the Mechanism has permeated from the highest offices to all involved, be it our Tanzanian staff, local government, utility companies, security or prison officers.

Use it – No matter where or who you are, our physical and virtual doors are open to you all.

May Lakilaki bring good fortune to the Mechanism, Arusha and the world.

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