

**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

**REGISTRAR**

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

Arusha, 25 November 2016

## Opening of the New Premises of the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals

*Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 25 November 2016*

Together we built  
by  
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

In January 2012 I was alone, the only staff member of a new institution that had yet to be built. But little by little people joined me and together we built. Together, we built this iconic building. Together, we built an institution for justice. Together, we built partnerships in Tanzania and beyond.

We built this building. In 18 months, Lakilaki transformed from a green hillside into this facility. An exemplary project for the United Nations. Finished within budget, with strongly praised project management, and an irreproachable safety, ethical and environmental record.

On our official documents I am the project owner, but truly, the success of this project lies in its many owners. So many of you embraced this project as your own and worked as one. The melting pot of all your diverse contributions radiates from every corner of this facility. In this courtyard, justice under a tree is also a symbol for international justice. Wood from Tabora and limestone from Iringa coexist with specialized technology. United Nations global knowledge meets the wisdom passed on from generation to generation. It was 20 years ago that our contractor Mzee Jandu built the first courtroom of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. His nine year old nephew looked on from the wings. Today, no longer a boy, Kamalpal Jandu, stepped into his uncle's shoes. He took centre stage and built us this court.

We worked together, each with our own irreplaceable contribution. Without the generosity of Member States, this building would not exist. Without Tanzania, we would not have this land, the access road, and connections to water, electricity and the internet. From former President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete to His Excellency President John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, Chief Justice Mohamed Chande Othman, from former Minister of Foreign Affairs Bernard Kamillius Membe to Minister Augustine Philip Mahiga, and the ambassadors, Tuvako Manongi, Celestine Joseph Mushy, Irene Mkwawa Kasyanju and Baraka Luvanda, and the partners at the regional and district level, our Host State has been the backbone of this project from day one until today. Your Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, Madame Vice President, you being with us today is yet another testament to Tanzania's unwavering support.

Be it through setting the project off to a good start, or navigating through legal meanders and procurement paths, the offices of the United Nations Headquarters, particularly the Office of Central Support Services and the Office of Legal Affairs, supported us throughout.

Our facility is more secure, more connected, and more fitting to our operations, because we could rely on the expertise of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the Mechanism's Principals and staff.

Unique features, like the courtroom mirroring a Maasai hut, would have remained just a sketch if not for the mastery of our architects, Ridge and Partners, and they would have not come to life without Jandu's 200 women and men. Working under the equatorial sun and torrential rains, you have infused this project with your hard work and passion - the hard work and passion which come from the resolve to build a new landmark in East Africa.

Everyone who visited our site has been mostly impressed by the same thing: the Tanga stone paving of our courtyard. Tanga stones are obviously beautiful and widely used in the region, so I asked myself what made ours so special? Audrey Hon, my Project Manager. She rejected that Tanga stones had to be conventional and that they had to be either rectangular, or square, or uncut. She gave them different sizes and put them together into a pattern that we had never seen before. And that is just what Audrey does. She does not see people for what they ought to be, but for what they can be and what they can achieve together. She saw no United Nations, no Host State, no contractor, no architect, she only saw people and she brought us all together, and together we built this building. We exulted together when the lights came on in the compound for the first time. We suffered together as important shipments were delayed. And whenever I called Audrey and heard in the background the voice of Ambassador Mushy infusing energy into the contractor, subcontractors, architects and the United Nations towards the finish line, I was struck anew that we are one team.

Together we did not just build a building. We built an entire new institution, the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals. In the last five years, we cared for witnesses and victims. We

protected the rights of convicts and accused. We made records of historic judicial proceedings more accessible than ever before. We helped domestic courts in their trials as they continue to pursue the fight against impunity for Genocide and atrocity crimes, and we are ready to hold our own trials of the three ICTR accused who remain at large, here in this courtroom. At the Mechanism, we are minimal in numbers, but great in diversity and together we achieved this and much more.

And we did not just build an institution. We built partnerships in East Africa and beyond. As we built a centre of archival excellence, we shared our lessons learned. As we enforced sentences, we shared our knowhow. And as we went about our work, we shared with the community that hosts us.

I started my journey in Arusha alone. Today, as I say goodbye to Tanzania, the embrace of hundreds of you bids me farewell. To the hundreds of you who worked together as one, I thank you. *Nashukuro sana. Pamoja tumejenga jengo, pamoja tumejenga taasisi mpya, pamoja tumejenga ushirikiano. Pamoja tumejenga, kwani umoja ni nguvu.* Together we built a building, an institution, and partnerships. Together we built, and together, may we continue to build hope. *Pamoja tuendendelee kujenga tumaini.*

*Asanteni sana.*

Thank you.

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