REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

Statement

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STATEMENT TO BE MADE BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AFTER THE PRESENTATION OF ICTR AND ICTY REPORTS

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I thank you Mr. President, for giving me the floor.

I wish also to thank the Principals of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) as well as the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT) for the presentation of their respective reports.

Allow me to remind at the outset that the examination of these reports by the UN General Assembly comes a few months after the 20th commemoration of the 100 days of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda, but also a few days before the 20th anniversary of the creation of ICTR through resolution 955 (1994) of the Security Council.

Mr. President,

My delegation commends efforts deployed by both tribunals (ICTY and ICTR) for a successful completion of their activities and the handover of remaining activities to the MICT, in conformity to pertinent resolutions of the Security Council. We take this opportunity to express our satisfaction over ICTR's recent judgments in three cases: Édouard Karemera and Mathieu Ngirumpatse; Ildéphonse Nizeyimana; and Callixte Nzabonimana.

We particularly commend ICTY and ICTR for their contribution to International Criminal Justice, notably through the fight against impunity for genocide and other heinous crimes against humanity and through a rich Jurisprudence that will continue to serve International Criminal Justice. We take this opportunity to remind our strong request, backed by all five States of the East African Community, that archives of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda be hosted by Rwanda, in order to bridge the distance-gap between ICTR's justice and genocide victims.
In relation to the report of the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT), we note with satisfaction that both the Arusha-branch and the branch located in The Hague are fully operational, and we appreciate the commendable support from Principals and key staff of ICTY and ICTR. However, our deep concern lies in the fact that no tangible progress has been registered in the tracking of remaining genocide fugitives indicted by ICTR, notably the three key genocide suspects Felicien Kabuga, Augustin Bizimana and Protais Mpiranya.

We take this opportunity to remind the key provision of Security Council resolution 2150 which urges UN member States "to cooperate with the ICTR, the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals and the Government of Rwanda in the arrest and prosecution of the remaining nine ICTR-indicted fugitives, and further calls upon States to investigate, arrest, prosecute or extradite, in accordance with applicable international obligations, all other fugitives accused of genocide residing on their territories, including those who are FDLR leaders".

In relation to the monitoring of ICTR cases referred to national jurisdictions, under Rule 11 bis of the ICTR statutes, it is worth highlighting that, while the cases of Jean Uwinkindi and Bernard Munyagishari, transferred to Rwanda in April 2012 and July 2013 respectively, are under trial and pre-trial proceedings before Rwandan courts, the cases of Laurent Bucyibaruta and Wenceslas Munyeshyaka, transferred to France in November 2007 are scheduled to be tried by French Courts in 2015 and 2016. We are therefore extremely concerned by this inconceivable delay of proceedings in cases referred by the ICTR to France. We hereby remind the saying that "justice delayed is justice denied".

As the ICTR and ICTY clearly established that a genocide was committed in Rwanda and in Srebrenica respectively, we hereby reiterate our call on all, including political actors, to fight against the scourge of genocide denial, which is an insult to the victims and an obstacle to long-term reconciliation. The fight against genocide denial includes, among other things, refraining from the use of terminologies conveying mixed messages such as "the
Rwandan genocide" which gives a pretext to revisionists of all kinds as well as scholars from Western Countries, to mislead the general public stating that the genocide that occurred in Rwanda was perpetrated against a national group, Rwandans, killing each other. We call on each and everyone to redress the situation and use the terminology established by the ICTR in Akayesu Case, and referred to in Security Council Resolution 2150: "genocide against the Tutsis, in which Hutus and others who opposed genocide were also killed".

In conclusion, Mr. President, let me reiterate that while we commend the work of ICTY and ICTR, we also urge them to deploy every effort to achieve successfully their mandates, in conformity with pertinent resolutions of the Security Council.

Thank you Mr. President!