

## **Statement of the Chair of the Committee on Budget and Finance to the Assembly at its 6<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting, on 21 November 2016**

Your Excellency Mr Sidiki Kaba, President of the Assembly of States Parties,  
Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow colleagues from the Committee for their devotion and hard work in the course of the last two sessions.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the outgoing member of the Committee, Mr David Banyanka, for his work and commitment as a member of the Committee on Budget and Finance. Your professionalism and great dedication, including in your role as Chairperson of the Audit Committee, have been exemplary.

Please allow me to congratulate my colleagues on their re-election. I am looking forward to knowing the names of the newly elected members of the Committee. I would also like to thank our Secretariat for its outstanding work and support.

Mr President,

It is an honour to present the main outcomes of the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh session of the Committee on Budget and Finance.

Mr President,

I will now proceed with financial and budgetary matters.

### **Financial and Budgetary matters**

#### **1. Status of contribution**

The Committee noted with concern the large amount of total outstanding contributions of €34.16 million as at 15 September 2016.

The Committee stressed in this context again the importance of full and timely payment of contributions for the budget and the financial stability of the Court.

Failure by States Parties to meet their obligations may not only cause seriously liquidity shortfall and jeopardize the daily operations of the Court, but may also force the Court to request access to external credit sources.

#### **2. States in arrears**

The Committee observed that, as at 15 September 2016, 12 States Parties were in arrears. The Committee recommended that all States Parties in arrears settle their accounts with the Court as soon as possible.

Mr. President,

I will now proceed with the consideration of the 2017 proposed programme budget.

With regard to the Presentation and macro analysis, the Committee welcomed the implementation of the “One-Court” principle and the improvements made in relation to the budget process and the format of the budget document. At the same time, the Committee believes that these efforts are part of an on-going process that needs continuous strengthening. Thus, the Committee highlighted certain areas for improvement in the budget process and it will make further suggestions to the Court in this regard at its twenty-eighth session.

During its twenty-seventh session, the Committee considered the proposed programme budget of the Court for 2017 of a total amount of €147.25 million, excluding the interest and the principal repayment (instalments) for the host State loan of €2.99 million. This would represent an increase of €9.86 million (7.2 per cent) over the 2016 approved budget of €137.39. The total amount requested when adding the interest payment would amount to €150.24 million.

After reviewing the 2017 proposed programme budget and the justifications provided, the Committee recommended reductions to the proposed increases in the amount of €2.65 million.

### **3. Major Programme I: Judiciary**

The 2017 proposed budget for Major Programme I amounted to €13.2 million, representing an increase of €813 thousand, or 6.5 per cent, against the 2016 approved budget.

The Committee noted that €580 thousand (71 per cent) of this increase is due to the cost for the proposed increase of salary entitlements for the judges. The Committee concluded that the annual remuneration of judges would have to be considered by the Assembly as a policy matter. It is our understanding that discussions have taken place and that Assembly will provide guidance on this issue.

Also, and after rigorous examination of the assumptions of expected judicial developments, the Committee recommended total reductions in the amount of €105 thousand for MP I.

### **4. Major Programme II: Office of the Prosecutor**

The amount requested for 2017 in MP II was €46.3 million, which represented an increase of €3.0 million (7 per cent) against the 2016 approved budget.

The Committee recommended the Assembly to approve the 78 proposed conversions for the OTP, as they meet the requirements for conversions, while noting that such conversions resulted in a significant increase in the number of established posts.

Thus, and after thorough consideration of the resource requests, the Committee was of the view that in light of past expenditure patterns, the OTP could absorb some increases in staff costs.

The Committee accordingly recommended total reductions in the amount of €631.5 thousands in Major Programme II from its original proposed budget.

### **5. Major Programme III: Registry**

The Committee noted the Registry request for €79.6 million for its activities in 2017. This represents an increase of €6.8 million (9.4 per cent) against the 2016 approved budget.

The Committee recommended reductions in the amount of €1.53 million for Major Programme III. These reductions include decreases related to staff costs (about €720 thousand), legal aid for the defence (€141 thousand), legal aid for victims (€200 thousand), IT costs (€300 thousand), and travel (€139 thousand).

### **6. Other Major Programmes**

With regard to the other major programmes, total reductions amounted to €386 thousand.

### **7. Grand total reductions**

Thus, the Committee recommended reductions in the total amount of €2.65 million, which would imply an adjusted 2017 proposed programme budget of €144.6 million, which

represents an increase of 5.2 per cent (or €7.21 million) compared to the 2016 approved budget, excluding the instalments for the host State loan.

Mr President,

With regard to precautionary reserves,

## **8. Precautionary reserves**

The Committee carefully scrutinized the actual level of the precautionary reserves in light of the respective levels approved by the Assembly.

In order to ensure that such funds can fulfil their purposes and to guarantee the day-to-day operation of the Court, the Committee recommended the replenishment of the Contingency Fund in the amount of €1.21 million. The Committee also recommended a notional increase in the Working Capital Fund to a level of €11.6 million, thus representing one month of the Court's current expenditure.

The Committee believes that the precautionary reserves are an important tool for assuring and maintaining the financial stability of the Court.

Mr President,

I will now conclude my statement by saying that the Committee as an advisory body to the Assembly of States Parties will continue to provide recommendations based on the guidance given to it by them, and consider budgetary, financial and administrative matters on their technical merits, while the Committee is fully conscious that the approval of the budget is the result of an inter-governmental process.

I thank you for your attention.

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