



## Statement

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**PROSECUTOR**

Arusha, 1 July 2015

### **Laying of the Cornerstone for the MICT Premises,**

**Lakilaki, 1 July 2015**

**Statement by**

**Justice Hassan B. Jallow,  
Chief Prosecutor UNICTR & UNMICT, Under Secretary-General, United Nations**

**Mweheshimiwa Rais wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania, Ndugu Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete**

**Honourable Chief Justice**

**Honourable Ministers**

**Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon and Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs of the United Nations, Mr. Stephen Mathias**

**Honourable President of the Mechanism, Judge Meron, Registrars Hocking and Majola of the MICT and the ICTR respectively**

**Your Excellencies**

**Colleagues at the MICT and the ICTR,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Office of the Prosecutor of the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals, and on my own behalf, I welcome you all to the laying of the cornerstone for this state-of-the-art building which will house the Arusha Branch of the Residual Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals. Karibuni. We are indeed extremely appreciative that His Excellency the President has taken time off from his very busy schedule to be with us here today. Today's occasion is symbolic in many ways: it marks another important chapter in the legacy of the *ad hoc* tribunals, as well as symbolising the beginning and growth of something new - the international criminal justice system. It marks a new and historic phase in the system.

As we prepare to close the ICTR this year, we continue building a new institution – the Mechanism - to carry out residual functions of the ICTR & the ICTY. We hope that the world, and particularly the Africa region, given its presence on the continent, will take advantage of the enormous academic and other research as well as historical potential of this facility.

It is my fervent hope too that this site here in Lakilaki will very soon be the venue for the trial of the three remaining fugitives that the Mechanism has inherited from the ICTR. My office has strengthened its

tracking capacity and adopted new measures in the search for these fugitives and will intensify its efforts to bring them to justice. Such efforts will however only yield positive results with the cooperation of all states.

On an occasion such as this therefore, it is fitting that I call on and remind all States of their obligation to cooperate with the Mechanism in the arrest and transfer of the fugitives for trial. Their arrest will not only assist in bringing closure for the victims of the terrible tragedy that befell Rwanda in 1994, but will also strengthen our resolve to ensure that there is no safe haven for perpetrators of mass atrocity crimes.

I wish to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication to this project, particularly the Registrar of the Mechanism, Mr. John Hocking, and his team and President Meron for taking the lead in this effort. We are indeed grateful to all of you and to the U.N. Secretariat as well as member states and to the officials of the Government of Tanzania for getting this project off the ground.

Finally, I wish to convey our appreciation to the Government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania for being such great hosts to the ICTR over the years and now to the Mechanism. Mr. President, the growing reputation of Arusha as Judicial Capital of Africa is testament to the commitment of the Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania to the cause of international law, peace and justice. The international community will continue to rely on this goodwill from Tanzania.

We look forward to this city, this country, continuing to play a crucial role in the global struggle for justice, for accountability and for peace. For many of us, Arusha has been home for the past several years largely due to a very hospitable government, local authority, and local community who have welcomed us and made us feel at home. The Mechanism will also strive to be your good guest.

Asanteni Saana.

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