

UNITED  
NATIONS

---



Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals

MICT/18

2 November 2017

Original: English

---

## **POLICY ON INTERPRETATION**

**(MICT/18)**

The Registrar of the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (“Mechanism”)

**Noting** the Statute of the Mechanism (“Statute”) as adopted by the Security Council under Resolution 1966 (2010) of 22 December 2010, and in particular Articles 15, 18, 19 and 31 thereof;

**Noting also** the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the Mechanism (“Rules”) as adopted pursuant to Article 13 of the Statute and as subsequently amended, and in particular Rules 3, 31 and 89 thereof;

**Having consulted** with the President;

**Issues** this Policy.

## **Article 1 Introduction**

This Policy governs the interpretation services provided by the Registry of the Mechanism (“Registry”) in accordance with the Mechanism’s Statute, Rules and other relevant documents.

## **Article 2 General Provisions**

1. The Registry shall provide interpretation services for all courtroom hearings. All such hearings shall be interpreted from and into English and French, as well as from and into the language of the accused or the convicted person. Interpretation may also be provided from and into an additional language when requested or when otherwise appropriate.
2. The Registry shall make available, upon request, interpretation services for all plenary sessions, deliberations and diplomatic seminars, as well as for meetings of the President, Prosecutor and Registrar requiring interpretation.
3. Interpretation for other meetings shall be provided upon request and subject to the availability of resources.

## **Article 3 Interpreters**

1. Interpretation services are provided by Mechanism staff interpreters and, if necessary, by qualified freelance interpreters.

2. All interpreters working for the Mechanism, whether they are staff or freelance, shall, at the beginning of their employment, make the Solemn Declaration by Interpreters and Translators as set out in Rule 89 of the Rules. All interpreters shall be provided a copy of, and be bound by, the Code of Ethics for Interpreters and Translators Employed by the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals.

#### **Article 4 Modes of Interpretation**

1. Interpretation is provided with the intention of facilitating communication. It does not represent a verbatim rendering of the proceedings in a different language. Interpretation services can be provided in simultaneous, consecutive and whispering (*chuchotage*) modes.
2. All courtroom hearings shall be interpreted in simultaneous mode.
3. The mode of interpretation for other meetings requiring interpretation shall be determined in consultation with the Language Support Services of the Mechanism and is subject to the availability of appropriate technical equipment.

#### **Article 5 Workload Standards**

1. Given the physical and mental fatigue caused by the sustained concentration required for interpretation, the normal simultaneous interpretation workload of interpreters working for the Mechanism should not exceed six hours a day, including lunch breaks, and 21 hours per week, in accordance with the established UN workload standards for interpreters.
2. For simultaneous interpretation, the minimum number of interpreters per language and per interpretation booth is two. For meetings with consecutive and whispered interpretation, it is possible to assign only one interpreter for meetings not exceeding two hours.