The United Nations Security Council established the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (Mechanism) with the mandate to take over essential continuing functions of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

The Functions of the Mechanism

- **Tracking and Prosecution of Remaining Fugitives**
  - Eight persons accused by the ICTR are still at large. Three are expected to be tried by the Mechanism, five by Rwanda.

- **Judicial Proceedings**
  - The Mechanism may conduct retrials; appeals proceedings from ICTR, ICTY and Mechanism cases; trials for contempt and false testimony; and review proceedings.

- **Cases Referred to National Jurisdictions**
  - The Mechanism monitors five cases referred by the ICTR to national courts.

- **Protection of Victims and Witnesses**
  - Responsibility for the protection of thousands of victims and witnesses in proceedings before the ICTR, ICTY and Mechanism.

- **Enforcement of ICTR, ICTY, or Mechanism Sentences**
  - Supervising the enforcement of sentences pronounced by the ICTR, ICTY, and Mechanism.

- **Assistance to National Jurisdictions**
  - Responding to requests for assistance from national jurisdictions, including Rwanda, States of the former Yugoslavia, and other countries.

- **Preservation and Management of Archives**
  - Responsibility for managing the ICTR, ICTY, and Mechanism archives, including preservation and access.

**Timeline**

- **1993**: ICTY established
- **1994**: ICTR established
- **2010**: Mechanism established
- **1 July 2012**: Mechanism Arusha branch opened
- **31 Dec. 2015**: ICTR closed
- **31 Dec. 2017**: ICTY closed
- **1 July 2013**: Mechanism Hague branch opened
- **The Security Council reviews the progress of the work of the Mechanism every 2 years**