



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING
AGENDA ITEM: ICTY/ICTR

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STATEMENT

by

H.E. MR. FEODOR STARČEVIĆ
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

New York, 3 December 2009

Mr. President,
Distinguished members of the Security Council,

First of all, let me express the gratitude of Serbia to the President and the Prosecutor of the ICTY, Judge Patrick Robinson and Mr. Serge Brammertz, for all the efforts and professionalism they invested in presenting their reports.

My country is highly appreciative of the fact that the essence of their reports, more than ever before, is in full accord with Serbia's own assessment of the level of cooperation that has been reached. Judge Robinson and Mr. Brammertz have recognized, in its entirety, all the efforts that Serbia is making to comply with its legal and moral obligations. The efforts and commitments of the services engaged in tracking and apprehending the remaining fugitives have been recognized in a manner that confirms my country's political will and capacity of its institutions to complete successfully the remaining tasks.

Mr. President, there are no impediments to Serbia's cooperation with the ICTY at this time. Requests for assistance with regard to the provision of documents, witness protection and access to the State archives are handled expeditiously. Most importantly, the efforts to locate and apprehend Ratko Mladić and Goran Hadžić continue unabated. Search for these individuals is being conducted on an everyday basis and the Government institutions of the Republic of Serbia are constantly taking all possible measures in order to bring the two remaining fugitives to justice. That would go a long way to alleviating the legacies of the past, some of which have hamstrung the recovery of Serbian society, as well as other societies in the region, for a long time. Also, the resolution of this one last remaining problem will confirm Serbia's willingness to face the truth about the events of the last decade of the twentieth century and the crimes perpetrated during the armed conflicts in the former Yugoslavia. It will also demonstrate its maturity and readiness to punish those responsible for the crimes, regardless of their nationality and regardless of the nationality of the victims.

Mr. President,

Serbia continues to support the ICTY Completion Strategy in its entirety and has maintained its communication with the responsible authorities on this issue during the preceding months. Serbia's position on the potential residual mechanism and the future residual functions was submitted to the Security Council in October 2008 and March 2009. I would like to reiterate Serbia's high and lasting interest in these issues and to inform the Security Council that we remain at its disposal for possible future discussions on the matter in order to contribute to the resolution of these important questions.

In conclusion, Mr. President, allow me to reiterate once again Serbia's commitment to full cooperation with the ICTY. The reports presented to the Council today affirm this commitment and witness to the success of the joint efforts to bring this cooperation to a successful end.