

Statement of Mr. Stephen Mathias, Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs

**Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia
Verdict in the Appeal Judgement in Case 002/02
22 September 2022**

The pronouncement of the appeal judgement today in Case 002/02 is a significant achievement in the work of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC).

This case has addressed some of the most serious international crimes and the appeal judgement will most certainly have an important impact on the further development of international criminal law. This case is also noteworthy for the scope and breadth of the crimes charged. The trial judgement in Case 002/02 was the longest issued by the ECCC and the Supreme Court Chamber considered more than 1,800 grounds of appeal. The ECCC has once again demonstrated its capacity to conduct judicial proceedings in accordance with international standards.

This is an historic moment for the ECCC and international criminal justice more broadly. This judgement marks the final judgement at the ECCC and the completion of the judicial cases before the ECCC.

The Secretary-General has consistently underscored that there must be no impunity for the most serious international crimes. The delivery of today's judgement reflects the long-standing commitment on the part of the United Nations, the Government of Cambodia and the international community to guarantee justice for the Cambodian people for the horrific crimes committed during the Khmer Rouge regime. The delivery of today's judgment highlights that the international community is ready and willing to ensure accountability for the most serious international crimes even for crimes committed decades ago.

On Wednesday, I met with Deputy Prime Minister Bin Chhin, with whom I had a most constructive discussion about the residual work of the ECCC and the commitment of the United Nations to ensure an enduring legacy of the ECCC for the people of Cambodia. The residual functions are key to ensuring the investment of the international community in the ECCC, and in anchoring and preserving the Court's legacy in Cambodia.

I take this opportunity to thank the judges and staff of the ECCC for their commitment and dedication to the ECCC and urge the international community to continue to support the ECCC during its residual phase.