

**STATEMENT MADE ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY
MR. BROUZ COFFI, COUNSELLOR AT THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF COTE D'IVOIRE TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
ON AGENDA ITEM 134: REPORT ON OVERSEAS PROPERTY
MANAGEMENT AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN PROGRESS, IN
THE FIFTH COMMITTEE DURING THE MAIN PART OF THE 66TH
SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(NEW YORK, 21ST OCTOBER, 2011)**

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 134 in particular construction of additional Office facilities at the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON), progress in the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa (ECA), Strategic Heritage Plan of the United Nations Office at Geneva and Feasibility Study on the United Nations headquarters accommodation needs 2014-2034.

2. African Group would like to thank Mr. Warren Sach, Assistant Secretary General for Central support services for introducing various reports related to this agenda item. The Group would also like to thank Mr. Collen Kelapile, Chairman of the ACABQ, for introducing the Committee's related report. The Group aligns itself with the statement just delivered by the representative of Argentina on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The African Group strongly believes on the importance of good maintenance and rehabilitation of all the Organization's facilities worldwide.

4. Turning to the UNON, the Group welcomes with satisfaction the progress made in the completion of the construction of the additional Office facilities. We commend the Secretary-General and his team for the excellent work

done in this regard. We also commend the Government of the Republic of Kenya, the Host Country, for facilitating the completion for this important project.

5. The Group would like to emphasize the need for routine maintenance and management of this new Office space and other facilities at UNON.

Mr. Chairman

6. Turning to the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Group notes that the project has started and has first experiencing a delay of six months and now scheduled for completion at the end of 2012.

7. We have also noted the development in the procurement including the additional floor and the elevators.

8. The Group will be keen to learn on some specific issues related to security, car parking and discrepancies in the architectural and construction design and other related matters.

Mr. Chairman,

9. The African Group has also noted with satisfaction the efforts undertaken to renovate the facilities at the ECA, specifically we would like to note with appreciation the initiatives underway by the ECA, UNESCO and African Union in renovating the Africa Hall, one of the unique historical symbol of Africa history. We believe that the renovation of this Hall will really make “a momentum to Modern African History” on the occasion of fiftieth anniversary of the Economic Commission for Africa and beyond.

10. We would like to emphasize that the rehabilitation and renovation takes full account of all the historical aspects of the Hall.

11. The Group once again thanks the Government of Ethiopia, the Host Country, for the key role played in facilitating this important project in Addis Ababa.

Mr. Chairman

12. Turning to the strategic plan of the United Nations Office at Geneva and the Feasibility study on the United Nations headquarters accommodation needs for 2014-2034, the Group will be keen to learn on the specific details of these projects proposals during the informal consultations.

13. In conclusion, the Group would like to assure you our readiness to participate in constructive deliberations on this agenda item.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

