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Agenda item 131

**Financial reports and audited financial statements,
and reports of the Board of Auditors**

FIFTH COMMITTEE

**Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations
of the Board of Auditors contained in its report on the Strategic Heritage Plan of
the United Nations Office at Geneva (A/70/585)**

Statement by

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29 February 2016

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

I am pleased to introduce the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report on the Strategic Heritage Plan of the United Nations Office at Geneva

(A/70/585), which is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/216 B of 23 December 1993.

Of the 8 recommendations made by the Board of Auditors, the administration has accepted 7, which deal inter alia with: development of project and change control materials, risk management, donations and voluntary contributions policies, governance and procurement. The administration partially agrees with the remaining recommendation which concerns cost estimation methods. We have provided additional information and clarifications on the Board's recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General.

The Administration expresses its sincere appreciation to the Board for its comprehensive audit of the Strategic Heritage Plan, and in particular the spirit of cooperation with which it conducted the audit. We are very pleased with the Board's overall finding that there is nothing to inhibit the project approval at this time.

The Administration also appreciates the efforts made by the Board to advance and accelerate the timeframe for the audit to help ensure that its report is available for consideration in the approval process for the Strategic Heritage Plan project.

Colleagues from the Strategic Heritage Plan team in Geneva (via videoconference), as well as from the Department of Management here in New York,

will be available during the informal consultations sessions to respond to the questions the distinguished Delegates of the Committee might have regarding the report of the Secretary-General.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.