

Statement of the Chairman
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1 December 2015

**Progress in the construction of new office facilities at the Economic Commission
for Africa in Addis Ababa, and update on the renovation of conference facilities,
including Africa Hall**

(ACABQ report A/70/7/Add. 21)
(Related report of the Secretary-General: A/70/363)

Mr Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on the progress in the construction of new office facilities at ECA, and update on the renovation of conference facilities, including Africa Hall.

With regard to the renovation of Africa Hall, the Advisory Committee considers that keeping the project on schedule is critical and stresses the need to ensure continuous monitoring of its progress by the project governance mechanisms. The Committee also recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that any change that affects the scope of the project be presented for the consideration of the General Assembly.

The Secretary-General estimates the cost for stages 3 to 5 of the project at \$56.9 million for the period from 2015 to 2021. Subject to its recommendations on the project contingency and further review of annual budget performance and cost estimates, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed amount as the maximum overall cost for stages 3 to 5 of the project. The Committee also recommends approval of seven additional positions proposed within the project governance structure. The recommendations entail an appropriation of \$13,438,600 under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

Regarding the Visitors' Centre proposed as part of the Africa Hall renovation project, the Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide further details, including the cost projections for its start-up, maintenance and operations, the related estimates for revenue generation and the overall benefits anticipated for the Organization.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.