



**Seventy-third session main part:
Agenda item 136. Programme budget biennium 2018-2019**

**Fifth Committee of the General Assembly
8 November 2018**

**Sixteenth annual progress report on the implementation of the
capital master plan (A/73/317)**

**Statement by
Mr. Christian Saunders, Assistant Secretary-General for
Central Support Services, Department of Management**

Madame Chair, distinguished delegates,

I am pleased to introduce to you today the Secretary-General's Sixteenth Annual Progress Report on the Capital Master Plan (CMP), A/73/317 submitted in accordance with the requests contained in resolutions 57/292 and 70/239.

Since the General Assembly last took up this issue during the 72nd session, following the final completion of all construction works including punch-lists and commissioning achieved in August 2017, all administrative tasks required to close out the contracts were completed by March 2018 with the exception of a number of invoices which are subject to the two ongoing arbitration cases.

I am pleased to advise that the cost of all construction and close-out activities is being met from within the existing approved resources for the capital master plan project. The financial position of the project remains consistent with the projection presented in the previous, fifteenth annual progress report.

In this regard, the total approved funding for the capital master plan project and the final cost of completion is \$2,150.4 million. This amount comprises appropriations for the original project scope of \$1,876.7 million, donations of

\$14.3 million, interest income and the plan's working capital reserve amounting to \$159.4 million and the \$100 million funding for the enhanced security upgrades.

Substantial benefits have been realized from the capital master plan. Energy consumption for the whole of 2017 was reduced by 55% compared with the pre-CMP baseline levels of 2006. Though also dependent on fluctuating weather patterns, energy consumption data for the first six months shows we are on track to maintain this low level of energy use for 2018.

The two arbitration cases brought by the construction management company are still on-going, and the Office of Legal Affairs, with the help of outside legal counsel, is vigorously defending the interests of the Organization in these matters.

In March and April of this year, the Board of Auditors reviewed the CMP for the financial year ending 31 December 2017 with its findings being outlined in its report (A/73/5 (Vol. V)). The Board made a number of recommendations and suggestions for improvements. All the recommendations have been accepted and work is underway on their implementation. During the audit, the Board also closed four recommendations from previous periods leaving twelve recommendations from prior periods are under implementation.

As I conclude, I would like to note, in particular, part of the conclusion of the Board of Auditors current CMP report, where drawing on the Secretary-General's report – the Board stated that *“the CMP provided a newly renovated facility that is accessible to all individuals, energy efficient, free of hazardous materials and compliant with the building, fire and safety codes of the host city and that meets all reasonable, modern-day security requirements”*.

In this context, Madame Chair, distinguished delegates, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Secretary-General, to reiterate our gratitude for the strong political and financial support of Member States throughout this important project.

Thank you, Madame Chair.