

*** CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY ***

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

Agenda items 135

**Proposal for the renovation of the North Building
at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago, Chile**

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by

Mr. Johannes Huisman, Director
Programme Planning and Budget Division

13 November 2019

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

I am pleased to introduce the Secretary-General's progress report on the renovation of the North Building at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago, Chile (A/74/330).

The present report provides an update of the project, since the approval by the General Assembly in its resolution 73/279 of the project's overall scope, maximum cost and implementation strategy. The report also presents the steps taken, through the use of solar energy, to achieve a "net zero energy" building to serve as a regional example of the Organization's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Upon completion of the renovation, the North Building will be a sustainable building and afford accessibility to persons with disabilities.

During the reporting period, all positions on the project management team have been filled. The team finalized the detailed technical specifications related to the scope of work of the architectural and engineering lead consulting firm bid tender. Periodic reviews of the risks are

conducted by the Global Asset Management Policy Service at Headquarters and the independent risk management consultant.

In summary, the North Building renovation project is progressing, and the project is foreseen to be completed as planned by the end of 2023. The estimated cost of the project remains unchanged at \$14,330,200 as approved by the Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

The General Assembly is requested to take note of the progress report, take note of the the revised cost plan and appropriate the amount of \$389,100 for project activities in 2020.