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**Agenda items 135**

**Progress on the Replacement of Office Blocks A-J at  
the United Nations Office at Nairobi**

**FIFTH COMMITTEE**

Statement by

Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan  
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller  
2 December 2019

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

1. The Secretary-General's report, A/74/343, highlights the progress made during the reporting period on the project implementation for the replacement of office blocks A-J at the United Nations Office at Nairobi.
2. The updated project schedule foresees project completion in 2023, with project closeout continuing into 2024. Despite some minor redistribution of costs between 2020 and 2021, the total projected project cost of \$66.26 million remains unchanged.
3. The project has progressed well during the reporting period. The design on the early works component of the project is well-advanced and a request for proposal to solicit the services of a professional design firm for the flexible workplace strategies was issued in May 2019. The new building component will deliver a right-sized building (or buildings) that meets UNON's space needs after the demolition of the ageing blocks A-J and the introduction of the

flexible workplace strategies component. Project management was also strengthened, with the appointment of the Project Manager (at the P-5 level) as well as the successful recruitment of the other key positions in the dedicated project team, which were filled in late 2018 and early 2019.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

4. In considering the report before you, the General Assembly is requested to approve the establishment of a multiyear construction-in-progress account for the project, approve the roll-over of the unspent balance from 2019 to 2020 and appropriate an amount of \$10,490,100 for planned project activities in 2020.

5. The completed project will ensure safe, accessible and modernised office accommodation and operational facilities for all UN entities requiring secure office space in Nairobi and will ensure that no further significant investment in office space will be needed for a minimum of 20 years.

I thank you.