

**Statement of the Chairman  
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)**

**2 December 2019**

**Progress on the replacement of office blocks A–J at the United Nations  
Office at Nairobi**

*ACABQ report A/74/7 (Add.15)*

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the report of the Advisory Committee on the progress on the replacement of office blocks A–J at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON).

The Advisory Committee notes that the report of the Secretary-General did not provide an updated project proposal, including refined information on scope, the maximum overall costs and on the implementation strategy, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 73/279.

The Committee is particularly concerned that the scope of the project may not be finalized before the end of 2020 and recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to present the full scope of the project for the approval of the Assembly in his next progress report,

including details on actual space requirements, and the number and specifications of the new buildings.

As regards the overall project schedule, the Advisory Committee notes with concern that a slippage of six months has already occurred and trusts that the Secretary-General will closely monitor and mitigate the risks so as to ensure that the project will be delivered within the scope, budget and timeline to be approved by the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

The Secretary-General proposes the introduction of flexible workplace strategies, however, the Advisory Committee considers that more information is needed before proceeding further, including a status update and information on any feedback from tenants on the three ongoing pilot projects on flexible workspace strategies, as well as agreements from the tenants whether they plan to implement flexible workplace strategies and whether they plan to provide the related financial resources.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, the Advisory Committee reiterates its recommendation that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to

establish a multi-year construction-in-progress account for UNON, as such accounts are already established for similar projects.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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