

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ROSE MAKENA MUCHIRI
AMBASSADOR/ PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KENYA TO
UNON AND UNEP, NAIROBI ON AGENDA ITEMS 138: PATTERN OF
CONFERENCES AND 141: JOINT INSPECTION UNIT, AT THE FIFTH
COMMITTEE DURING THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY-FOURTH
SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

(New York, 13 November 2019)

Mr. Chair

1. I wish from the outset to thank Mrs. Megayla Ulana Austin, Chair of the Committee on Conferences (COC) and Mr. Cihan Terzi, Chair of the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), for introducing their respective reports. I also take this opportunity to thank the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management, Mr. Movses Abelian and Mr. Gopinathan Achamkulangare for introducing their respective reports.
2. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative from the State of Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We wish to however make some additional remarks.
3. My delegation acknowledges with deep appreciation the good work undertaken by the Committee on Conferences during its substantive session held in September this year which culminated to the production of its report and the proposed draft resolution for consideration by the General Assembly. As host of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Kenya highly values the presence of the Duty Station

4. More significantly, UNON plays an important role in Africa in view of the fact that it is the only UN Headquarters in the global south that hosts the global headquarters of UN organizations: the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. In this regard, UNON is mandated to provide conference services to the two organizations. In addition, the UNON conference centre provides a full range of conference facilities to the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes based in Nairobi.
5. The deteriorating condition and limited capacity of the conference centre are affecting the Secretariat's ability to service these calendar bodies headquartered in Nairobi and the other major international meetings and conferences held there. The conference rooms are substandard and therefore currently underutilized. However, UNON is obliged to host these governing bodies of UNEP and UN-Habitat. The participation and complexity of hosting the Environment Assembly (UNEA) has increased at every session, surpassing five thousand accredited participants in its fourth session in March 2019 and is expected to continue to grow. Projections for UNEA indicate that by UNEA-5 the number of people expected will be over 7000
6. Mr Chair, it has been in the interest of Member states to receive concrete proposals outlining measures to be implemented to address the deteriorating conditions and limited capacity of the conference services facilities in Nairobi. This desire is reflected in the current draft resolution as well as the previous General Assembly resolutions on Pattern of Conferences.
7. Following the Pattern of Conference report in 2018, the General Assembly, in its resolution 73/270 on Pattern of Conferences,

highlighted the urgency for upgrades to the conference centre and requested the Secretary-General to provide detailed information regarding the possible renovation works to address these conditions.

8. My delegation therefore welcomes the Secretary General's report contained in document A/74/471 titled "***Addressing the deteriorating conditions and limited capacity of the conference services facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi***" and looks forward to its introduction in December, 2019.
9. I wish to reiterate the Government of Kenya continued support and collaboration to successfully to actualize this dream of upgrading the duty station to the expected standards and to be at par with the other three UN Headquarters.
10. We call upon all delegations to extend their usual support to the Secretary General in this noble objective.
11. Thank you