

*** CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY ***

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

Agenda item 141

**Addressing the Deteriorating Conditions and Limited Capacity of the
Conference Services Facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi
(A/75/716)**

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by

Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller
5 March 2021

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

1. I am pleased to introduce the Secretary-General's report on "Addressing the deteriorating conditions and limited capacity of the conference services facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi" (A/75/716).
2. This report is presented pursuant to General Assembly resolution 74/263, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to conduct a needs assessment and explore options that maximize efficiency and cost-effectiveness, taking into consideration the future needs for conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, and to submit a report to the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session.
3. UNON hired a consultancy firm to conduct the needs assessment which included an analysis of modern conferencing trends, such as remote access, hybrid conferencing modalities and sustainable events, and was undertaken within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The study also included a review of alternative conferencing options available within Nairobi.
4. Based on the study, two scalable options for renovation and construction (option A and option B) are proposed which would meet the immediate and projected

additional capacity requirements of the conference facilities at UNON to support the UN Environment Assembly, the UN-Habitat Assembly as well as other associated meetings in Nairobi.

5. Option A would meet the immediate and short-term projected capacity requirements for events with 7,000 in-person participants. Option B would meet longer-term projected capacity requirements, as an expansion of Option A, for events with 9,000 in-person participants. The implementation period of the project would be between 5 and 7 years.

6. The General Assembly is requested to take note of the report, approve the establishment of a temporary post of Project Coordinator (P4), appropriate an amount of \$494,000 for 2021, and also take note of the intention of the Secretary-General to present next steps to the General Assembly at the main part of its 76th session.

Thank you
