

Progress report on the implementation of a flexible workplace at United Nations Headquarters: Addendum

Fifth Committee

Introductory statement

By

**Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan,
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller,**

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Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

I am pleased to introduce the addendum to the Secretary-General's fifth annual progress report on the implementation of a flexible workplace at United Nations Headquarters (A/75/342/Add.1 and Corr.1), which is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/253.

The Administration has undertaken research into the post-COVID-19 pandemic workplace, obtained information on staff preferences for the use of flexible working arrangements from surveys organized by the United Nations Staff Union in New York, and obtained more accurate cost estimates.

Under the uncertain circumstances associated with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Secretary-General proposes that the project be closed out in 2021 and that lessons learned, applicable best practices and any further reconfiguration of workspace be incorporated into plans under consideration to address the emerging needs of the new work modalities that will prevail post-pandemic.

The General Assembly is requested to take note of the report and approve an additional appropriation of \$608,000 for 2021 to close out and undertake an independent evaluation of the project, and to request the Secretary-General to submit his next report to the Assembly at the main part of its seventy-seventh session.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.