



**Agenda item 138
Proposed programme budget for 2022**

**Progress on the renovation of the North Building at the
Economic Commission for Latin America and the
Caribbean in Santiago
(A/76/323)**

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by

Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller
19 November 2021

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

1. I would like to introduce the Secretary-General's report on progress on the renovation of the North Building at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago, Chile, submitted pursuant to section XI of General Assembly resolution 75/253 A. The objective of the project is to dismantle the existing North Building envelope and reconstruct it by reutilizing its current structure and recycling demolished materials to attain a code-compliant, safe, and efficient office building while extending its useful life by 40 to 50 years. The report, which is the third progress report on this project, provides an update on the project since the issuance of the previous progress report of the Secretary-General. It also includes information on services performed by the lead consulting firm on the final design of the project, which allows for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, on risk management and mitigation measures, on sustainability and energy efficiency updates and on procurement activities related to the construction contract tendering process for the construction phase of the "net zero" building. The project is proceeding within the approved budget of \$14,330,200 and according to schedule, with construction to be completed by 2023.

2. The design stage has successfully concluded, complying with the objectives regarding seismic mitigation measures, energy efficiency strategies and compliance with industry codes and health and safety standards. Three dimensional models of the existing structural components and reinforcement were generated to ensure seismic and structural reinforcements according to updated seismic codes, including the coverage of non-structural elements during a seismic event, thereby safeguarding the lives of the building occupants. The tendering process for general construction along with other project components is currently ongoing. Active monitoring of the international and local markets is also ongoing to identify possible fluctuations caused by the current global pandemic. Close and regular coordination with the lead consulting firm, the independent risk management consultant, as well as the regularly scheduled meetings with the Stakeholders Committee have been maintained.

3. ECLAC's project team has continued to work closely with the Global Asset Management Policy Service (GAMPS) in New York. It has actively monitored the implementation of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) following their audit report of March 2018 regarding risk management (including anti-fraud measures), governance structure and procurement activities, energy efficiency and the reduction of the environmental impacts of the new building.

4. Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, mitigation measures have been put in place and space usage has been adapted to ensure the safety and wellbeing of staff and visitors, including both technical and spatial considerations to significantly reduce the risk of infection spread among building occupants, improving natural ventilation in conjunction with efficient performance- driven Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC).

5. The proposed actions to be taken by the General Assembly are set out in section VII of the report. The Assembly is requested to take note of the report and approve an appropriation of \$5,590,100 for 2022.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.