

**REMARKS BY AMB MARTIN KIMANI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON AGENDA ITEM 138: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR 2022: ADDRESSING THE DETERIORATING CONDITIONS AND LIMITED CAPACITY OF THE CONFERENCE SERVICES FACILITIES AT THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT NAIROBI AT THE MAIN PART OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE DURING THE SEVENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**(NEW YORK, December 15, 2021)**

**Mr. Chair,**

1. I have the honor to speak on Agenda Item 138: in relation to addressing the conditions and limited capacity of the conference services facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi.
2. We wish to express our sincere appreciation to Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan, Controller, Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget and Finance, for introducing the Secretary-General's report on this agenda item. We also thank Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), for presenting the Advisory Committee's related report.
3. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Ambassador Boubacar Diallo, the G77 coordinator, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Guinea to the United Nations, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Cameroon on behalf of the African Group.
4. As the host country, the Kenyan supports the Secretary General's proposal to address the conditions and limited capacity of the conference services facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi. Kenya attaches

great importance to the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) sector and this project, once actualized will play an important role in contributing to the important goal, especially in the realm of advancing multilateralism.

5. In the recent past, a number of UN conferences in Nairobi due to inadequate conferencing facilities had to be held in facilities outside the UN at a significantly higher cost than would otherwise have been the case.
6. Kenya welcomes the possibility of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) under UNEP holding their meetings in Nairobi using the improved conference facilities. This will greatly reinforce the position of UNEP as the global environmental hub of the UN system.
7. It is in our interest that, as the host country, we ensure that health and safety requirements are met in all international conferences hosted in Kenya. In this regard, we wish to unequivocally support the Secretary General's recommendation for option B which provides for key considerations associated with modern conferencing. This option will also meet the prescribed standards meant to provide accessibility for people with disabilities.
8. Kenya welcomes the proposal that the conference facility is premised on achieving as far as possible, net zero carbon emissions, in alignment with several Sustainable Development Goals as well as supporting the efforts towards energy-efficient facilities that reduce energy consumption and use of non-renewable material resources. This goal is well aligned with our national priorities, particularly our efforts in embracing green building technologies which make use of alternative energy sources.
9. Kenya takes note of considerations of environmental sustainability made in the Secretary General's proposal. Proposed use of solar panels to

generate renewable energy will make use of year-round supply of ample sunshine levels. Considerations for rainwater harvesting, retention and reuse will help in protecting the country's water resources by efficiently using recycled water.

**Mr. Chairman,**

10. Kenya notes that COVID-19 has brought in new demands and standards in international conferencing. We trust that the expanded and renovated conference facilities will take into consideration emerging needs, best practices and lessons learnt brought about by COVID-19 especially at the design and implementation stages.
  11. The Government of Kenya will continue with its investments to improve the infrastructure within the Gigiri area to improve access to the UNON premises. Kenya is conscious of the commensurate increase in the services capacity for water and power for the expanded conference facilities. This requirement dovetails with our aspirations espoused in the Country's long term economic blue print, the Kenya Vision 2030. In this regard, the relevant Government agencies dealing with key infrastructure programmes and projects such as water and electricity supply have been informed of this need and requested to factor it in their future planning.
  12. In conclusion, the Government of Kenya expresses deep appreciation to the Secretary General for presenting this proposal to the General Assembly for consideration. It is our firm believe that the member states take a timely and consensual decision on the proposal to allow the Secretary General embark on its immediate implementation.
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10. My delegation is open to constructive discussions during the informal consultations on this matter.
  11. I Thank you.