



**Agenda item 138**  
**Proposed programme budget for 2023**

**Progress in the renovation of Africa Hall at the Economic  
Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa (A/77/339)**

**FIFTH COMMITTEE**

Statement by

Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan  
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller  
21 November 2022

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished delegates,

1. I am pleased to introduce the Secretary-General's seventh report on the progress in the renovation of the Africa Hall at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa., The report provides an update on the project since the last progress report of the Secretary-General (A/76/308).
2. The re-solicitation of the contract for the main renovation works of the Africa Hall was successfully completed during the reporting period, with the construction contract awarded in August 2022. The project is now forecast to be substantially completed in June 2024, instead of May as was anticipated when drafting the report, which is nine months later than forecast in the previous progress report. With value engineering measures and a shortened implementation time frame agreed with the contractor for the main works, it is however anticipated that the project will still be completed within the approved maximum overall budget of \$56.9 million.
3. As requested by the General Assembly, ECA has been working on obtaining voluntary contributions from Member States. To note, ECA participated at EXPO 2020 in March, showcasing the Project and meeting with potential donors, and a groundbreaking ceremony of the Africa Hall Project was organized last month, which

served as an opportunity to sensitize Member States on the importance of contributing financial and material resources to the project.

4. The proposed actions to be taken by the General Assembly are set out in section VIII of the report of the Secretary-General.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Agenda item 138**  
**Proposed programme budget for 2023**

**Addressing the Deteriorating Conditions and Limited Capacity of the Conference  
Facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (A/77/367)**

**FIFTH COMMITTEE**

**Statement by**

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

**21 November 2022**

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

I am pleased to introduce the fourth report of the Secretary-General on addressing the deteriorating conditions and limited capacity of the conference services facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi.

The report provides an update on the additional work that was undertaken from 1 January through 31 August 2022, following the issuance of the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/76/400). As mandated by the General Assembly, the Secretariat has refined the options for implementing the project. The two options presented in the present report are broadly similar to those in the previous report, namely, refined options A and B designed to accommodate 7,000 and 9,000 in-person conference participants, respectively, in order to meet short- and long-term requirements. The Secretary-General maintains that the refined option B is recommended.

Through the master-planning and preliminary design efforts undertaken during the reporting period, efficiencies have been gained by maximizing the reuse of existing space within the United Nations

Office at Nairobi compound, minimizing the footprint of new construction through initial space planning studies, expediting the project schedule and advancing construction work so as to reduce related escalation and contingency costs. This has resulted in a revised maximum overall cost for option A of \$228.6 million, which is a reduction of \$14.0 million or 5.8 per cent compared with the cost reported in A/76/400, and a revised maximum overall cost for option B of \$265.6 million at current rates, which is a reduction of \$13.4 million or 4.8 per cent compared with the cost reported in A/76/400. The timeline for the project has been extended by nine months and is now scheduled for substantial completion in 2029, contingent upon the authorization by the General Assembly to start the design phase of the project at the beginning of 2023.

The recommended actions by the General Assembly in the context of the present report are laid out in Section VIII, paragraph 119.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.