



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

**Seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific premises in Bangkok (A/77/330)**

**FIFTH COMMITTEE**

Statement by

Mr. Yacine Hamzaoui, Chief of Service - PPBD  
On behalf of  
Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan  
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller  
15 November 2022

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

1. I am pleased to introduce the sixth progress report on the seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific premises in Bangkok (A/77/330).
2. The report provides an update on progress made on the project since the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/76/313) and outlines the activities undertaken, in particular with regard to the award of the contract for the main construction works, change management and business readiness, the completion of the move of staff to swing space facilities, and the start of the main construction works.
3. Despite previous setbacks, ESCAP has successfully concluded the tendering of all key contracts and commenced construction works at the end of 2021, which are currently progressing well. The project is expected to be completed by the end of next year, as originally scheduled, and within the overall approved maximum budget of \$40 million.

4. The recommended actions to be taken by the General Assembly are laid out in Section VIII (paragraph 95) of the report.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



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

**Progress on the replacement of office blocks A–J at the United Nations Office at Nairobi**  
**(A/77/349 and Corr.1)**

**FIFTH COMMITTEE**

**Statement by**  
**Mr. Yacine Hamzaoui, Chief of Service – PPBD**  
**On behalf of**  
**Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan**  
**Assistant Secretary-General, Controller**  
**15 November 2022**

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished delegates,

1. I am pleased to introduce the fifth progress report on the replacement of office blocks A–J at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (A/77/349 and Corr.1). The report provides information on the progress made since the issuance of the previous report (A/76/330) in relation to the three main components that comprise the scope of this project, namely:

- i. The early works, to repurpose and make better use of the existing Publishing Services building and construction of an Annex to accommodate UNON operational functions;
- ii. Flexible Workplace Strategies across all remaining offices on the UNON Gigiri complex to improve on current space utilization; and
- iii. The construction of new buildings, which are in their design phase, to replace the depreciated office blocks A–J.

2. The report provides an updated implementation schedule with construction still expected to end in 2024, and project close-out activities continuing until the end of 2025. The likelihood of delivering the project within the approved maximum project cost of

\$66.2 million has increased by 19 percentage points compared with the previous year's confidence level, to 66 per center cent.

3. The recommended actions to be taken by the General Assembly are set out in section VIII (paragraph 84) of the report of the Secretary-General.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Strategic heritage plan of the United Nations Office at Geneva (A/77/492)**

**FIFTH COMMITTEE**

**Statement by**

**Mr. Yacine Hamzaoui, Chief of Service, PPBD**  
**On behalf of**  
**Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan**  
**Assistant Secretary-General, Controller**

**15 November 2022**

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

I am pleased to introduce the ninth annual progress report on the strategic heritage plan of the United Nations Office at Geneva, which covers the period from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022.

The report provides an update on progress made during the reporting period, as well as on cost and schedule estimates. Despite challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical instability and global economic uncertainty, significant progress has continued to be made with the construction and renovation works. In particular, the complex and intensive procurement process for the renovation works of building E was successfully concluded within the allocated budget, and the construction of building H was substantially completed on 4 October 2021. The report indicates a planned completion of the works by December 2024 and an improvement in the overall forecasted financial position of the project by approximately SwF 38.5 million as compared with the previous progress report, with an increased confidence level to deliver the project within budget of 53% in comparison to the previous year's confidence level of 16%.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like however to bring to this Committee's attention that following the issuance of the Secretary-General's report, the contractor responsible for the renovation of the historic building recently provided a revised estimated work schedule with a six-month delay to complete the renovation works, which would impact the overall project schedule. The revision to the work schedule is mainly due to supply chain disruptions, local labor shortages and the recent identification of additional variation requirements and related change management processes. It is however currently not anticipated that there will be a need to propose reductions to the approved scope of the project in order to remain within the approved budget. The SHP team stands ready to provide further details during the informal consultations.

The recommended actions of the General Assembly in the context of the present report are laid out in Section X (paragraph 117).

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.