



## **Statement of the Mexican Delegation during the Main Session of the Fifth Committee at the 75<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly**

### **Item 141. Proposed programme budget for 2021: Progress on the renovation of the North Building at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago**

New York, November 13, 2020.

*Check Against Delivery*

Mr. Chair,

Mexico thanks Mr. Chandru Ramanathan and Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong for the respective reports related to the progress on the renovation of the North Building at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago (ECLAC).

Mr. Chair,

ECLAC has been a beacon of development in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, working with countries in the context of socio-economic development and cooperation to battle systemic issues such as inequality, nurturing its convening role to provide countries with intergovernmental platforms for policy dialogue, consensus-building, peer learning and normative discussion to further development in the region.

In that perspective, we would like to recognize the Government of Chile for its continued support to the work of the Commission and to the implementation of this project.



The renovation of the North Building at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean has the core objective of attaining a code-compliant, safe, functional and efficient office building that is conducive to a more productive and sustainable work environment.

The project prioritizes risk management and the establishment of seismic mitigation measures that comply with Chilean seismic code requirements and relate to preparedness and structural design against potential seismic events, all of which are of utmost importance for the Organization.

Mr. Chair,

Mexico acknowledges the forward-looking objectives of this project, such as the improvement of accessibility for persons with disabilities and the implementation of a sanitary water treatment plant to allow ECLAC to clean and reuse 100 per cent of wastewater. In particular, Mexico welcomes the planned renovation of the ECLAC North Building as a sustainable and energy-efficient, net-zero building, in part by reducing energy and freshwater consumption, as well as utilizing non-renewable material resources and developing an energy efficiency strategy. In that regard, we would like to emphasize the importance for the project to be allocated with the level of resources requested by the Secretary-General.

At the same time, we note the challenging situation posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and trust the Secretariat will provide a status update on its potential impact on the project during the informal consultations on this item, including with regards to project risks and the projected delivery within the scope, budget and timeline, as approved by the General Assembly.

Finally, Mr. Chair, I would like to express our commitment to work constructively with all delegations on this item in order to reach a positive and timely outcome.

I thank you.