



Statement of the Mexican Delegation during the Main Session of the Fifth Committee at the 75th UN General Assembly

Item 141. Proposed programme budget for 2021: Seventh annual progress report on the Strategic Heritage Plan of the United Nations Office at Geneva

New York, November 13, 2020.

Check Against Delivery

Mr. Chair,

Mexico thanks Mr. Chandru Ramanathan, ASG and Controller, and Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, Chairman of the ACABQ, for their respective reports related to the Seventh Annual Progress Report on the Strategic Heritage Plan of the United Nations Office at Geneva (SHP) and wishes to make the following remarks.

Mr. Chair,

The United Nations is currently embarking on a process of reforms, in which it must assume as a matter of priority the challenge of ensuring greater efficiency in each of its areas of work and in all its headquarters and offices.

In this sense, Mexico recognizes the relevance of the SHP and its focus on the improvement and modernization of facilities, in addition to the double challenge of preserving the historical heritage represented by the Palais des Nations. Moreover, there is a need to prioritize the necessary functionality that the Office in Geneva requires for its optimal operation, including its commitment to efficiency, inclusion and environmental sustainability, as well as the institutional guidelines in terms of security, accessibility and innovation.



Mr. Chair,

Mexico has taken note with interest of the progress made in the implementation of the project and wishes to refer to the following four points:

First. Mexico acknowledges the constant support that the project has received from the Government of Switzerland and recognize its invaluable importance in achieving the current results.

Second. We note the ongoing impacts and challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic on the suspension of work on construction sites and the mode of work in reopened sites, and we acknowledge that the full impact of the pandemic on the project schedule and budget remains unknown.

Third. Taking into account the aforementioned, we agree with the Advisory Committee on the need for rigorous project management and close monitoring of the areas of risk and vulnerability, emphasizing the important roles and responsibilities of the project owner and the Steering Committee in guiding and overseeing the management of the implementation of the project, as well as facilitating decision-making and the prompt resolution of issues in order to ensure the project's progress within the established timeline and budget.

Fourth. We encourage the Secretary-General to provide more information on all current and future non-SHP projects and initiatives (such as the UNOG-WIPO day-care center, the New Visitor's Center, the Security Master Plan and the expansion of Geneva's main train station and track infrastructure), taking into account any potential benefit as well as cost implications for the United Nations.

In conclusion Mr. Chair, I would like to express my delegation's commitment to participate constructively in the discussions that will take place on this agenda item.

I thank you.