



**Agenda item 138  
Proposed programme budget for 2022**

**Progress in the renovation of Africa Hall at the Economic  
Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa (A/76/308)**

**FIFTH COMMITTEE**

Statement by

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Assistant Secretary-General, Controller  
24 November 2021

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished delegates,

1. I am pleased to introduce the Secretary-General's sixth report on the progress made in the renovation of the Africa Hall at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa.
2. The main project objectives remain unchanged, which are to address the inadequacies related to building safety and functionality, and to make the Africa Hall a rejuvenated and modern conference facility, including a Visitors Centre, that aims to preserve and restore the historical and cultural values embedded in the building architecture, highlighting its significant role in modern African history.
3. The project scope remains unchanged and continues to be grouped into five major components: (i) structural upgrades, essential life and health safety, and building works; (ii) Plenary Hall and associated works; (iii) external works and landscaping; (iv) heritage conservation; and (v) Visitors' Centre.
4. As requested by the General Assembly, the ECA has been working on obtaining voluntary contributions from Member States. However, the campaign has been impacted by the pandemic. The ECA engaged a consultant to draft a specific plan for obtaining

voluntary contributions and is confident of stimulating the interest of potential donors. The ECA will report on future progress thereof in upcoming reports of the Secretary General.

5. With respect to project progress, I am pleased to report that the early-decanting works were successfully completed in July 2021 and the spaces created are being handed over to the final users.

6. Following the termination of the contract for the main renovation works in February 2020, the ECA has been re-soliciting this work package. The ECA, in close coordination with Headquarters, opted for an innovative procurement process that requires vendors to be involved and engaged from the onset. An update about the outcome of that process will be provided in the Secretary General's project progress report for the 77th session.

7. The procurement process for the main works is expected to be completed by the end of the year and the contract signed in January 2022. Additionally, the procurement process for the information technology systems and networks package was initiated in July and is expected to be completed by April 2022. Once procured, this package is planned to be delivered simultaneously with the main renovation works.

8. The design for the permanent exhibition area is already developed and the related tender package forecasted to be issued after the commencement of the main renovation works.

9. Based upon the outcomes of the independent risk assessment performed by the Global Asset Management Policy Service, there is currently a forty-nine percent likelihood that the project will be delivered within budget. This represents a slight increase of confidence in comparison to last year's forty three percent confidence level. The ECA continues to proactively mitigate the risks of potential cost overruns.

10. The resources requirements of \$17,954,400 for 2022 will be met from the projected unspent balance at the end of 2021.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.