

**Agenda item 134.**  
**Proposed Programme budget: biennium 2012-2013:**  
**special subjects: Construction: UNON, ECA, UNOG strategic heritage,**  
**UNHQ long-term accommodation**

**Remarks by Warren Sach**  
**Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services,**  
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**21 October 2011**

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished delegates,

I have the pleasure to introduce the reports of the Secretary-General which summarize the progress made since last year on constructions at the United Nations in the following order:

- the successful completion of the construction of additional office facilities at United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) contained in A/66/336;
- the progress made since last year on the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa at Addis Ababa (ECA) contained in A/66/351;
- the Strategic Heritage Plan of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) contained in A/66/279;
- and the Feasibility Study for the United Nations Headquarters Accommodation Needs from 2014-2034 in New York contained in A/66/349.

The reports before you today are the direct results of the many efforts made over this past year in meeting the recommendations of the General Assembly, as well as close collaboration between the Office of Central Support Services at Headquarters in New York, and the management teams in Nairobi, Addis Ababa, and Geneva; and in regard to the Feasibility Study, among Departments in New York.

With respect to the new office facility at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, the ACABQ in its report A/65/518, welcomed the progress made last year in the implementation of the UNON project since the previous report; and the General Assembly endorsed the views of the Committee in resolution 65/259.

I am pleased to report that the construction of the new office facility (NOF), which commenced on 4 May 2009, was substantially complete in December 2010 on schedule and on budget.

In addition, internal office partitioning began three months earlier than planned in September 2010, allowing for early occupation of the building in March 2011. The formal inauguration of the NOF took place on 31 March 2011. , and was presided over by the Secretary-General and the President of Kenya. The main two tenants,



evaluated in order to modernize the conference facilities, preserve the cultural and historical value of the premises, enhance its life safety and provide for disability access. The restoration project has been budgeted for in the current and future

would result in the lowest cost, would be the least disruptive option, and would meet all the key performance objectives of the Organization in Geneva. Projected costs of the project are estimated in the range of approximately CHF 618 million (US\$ 591 million).

The next steps in the development of the Strategic Heritage Plan include recruitment of a dedicated project management team at the United Nations Office at Geneva, including one P-4 architect, one P-4 engineer, and one P-3 technical expert, at a cost of \$1,164,600 during the biennium 2012-13; and hiring of a programme management firm to overall project phasing plan, capital investment plan, and project schedule, at a cost of \$2.8 million during the biennium 2012-13.

process. The study was awarded in February 2010 to Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, a leading international architectural consultancy firm.

