



**Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union**

**By**

**Mr. Gerton van den Akker**

**First Secretary at the Delegation of the European Union  
to the United Nations**

**67th Session of the General Assembly**

**Fifth Committee**

**Item 130. Programme budget of the United Nations - 1998-1999 (E/1998/3)**

Thank you, Madam Chair,

Madam Chair,

We have been and continue to be strong supporters - also in this last stage of the project - of the Capital Master Plan and its mission to manage the historic renovation of the United Nations Headquarters Complex in order to create a modern, safe and sustainable work environment. An important milestone has been reached with the recently initiated re-population of the Secretariat. This is encouraging. The General Assembly has continuously underlined the importance of executing the Capital Master Plan on time and within budget -

*Swing space*

In addition, one aspect of the project which is of particular concern to Member States of the EU is the total cost of USD 313 million related to the use of swing-space; in the upcoming question and answer sessions we will ask specific and detailed questions on the off-campus space utilisation in New York and the reasoning behind the length of the current leases.

*Governance & lessons learned*

Madam Chair,

We would also like to suggest that the issue of the most efficient use of office space in