

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

16 November 2018

**Fifth annual progress report on the strategic heritage plan
of the United Nations Office at Geneva**

(ACABQ report: A/73/576; related report of the Secretary-General: A/73/395)

Madam Chair,

I refer to the report of the Advisory Committee (A/73/576) on the fifth annual progress report on the strategic heritage plan of the United Nations Office at Geneva.

In view of Secretary-General's report (A/73/576) and the alternative proposed, introduced to address the current risks to the well-being and productivity of staff and delegates, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly authorise the Secretary-General to proceed with the introduction of ventilation and cooling in the Palais des Nations.

With regard to timing considerations, the Advisory Committee is of the view that the postponement of the ventilation and cooling works and creation of a separate project after completion of the strategic heritage plan, would be more disadvantageous for the Organization than the alternative proposed. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to implement the

works as part of the strategic heritage plan project and use this window of opportunity to limit the costs and ensure that staff and delegates can benefit from ventilation and cooling as soon as the renovation of the Palais des Nations is complete.

The Advisory Committee is of the view that there is a need for greater clarity and detailed breakdown of the estimated requirements for the introduction of ventilation and cooling. It recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to seek greater efficiency and complementarity with ongoing activities under the strategic heritage plan and to refine and reduce the estimated resource requirements.

The Advisory Committee recalls that in its resolution 72/262A, the General Assembly made decisions and requests regarding the use of valorisation income and the application of flexible workplace strategies in the Palais and makes some observations and comments in this regard.

The Advisory Committee also makes observations and recommendations on accessibility issues, voluntary contributions, the security masterplan and maintenance issues.

Finally, Madam Chair, the Committee reiterates the importance of keeping the project on schedule in order to avoid any potential cost overruns.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Cotéjese con la exposición del orador

Declaración de la Presidencia

Comisión Consultiva en Asuntos Administrativos y de Presupuesto

16 de noviembre de 2018

Quinto informe anual sobre la marcha de los trabajos del plan estratégico de conservación del

que autorice al Secretario General a ejecutar las obras en el marco del proyecto del plan estratégico de conservación del patrimonio y aprovechar la oportunidad para limitar los costos y asegurarse de que