

**340th Session of the ILO Governing Body, November, 2020**

**PFA 3 Update on building questions: Headquarters building renovation project and ILO-owned premises in Abidjan**

**IMEC FINAL STATEMENT**

- 1.) IMEC would like to thank the Office for this update on the HQ building renovations and the ILO owned premises in Abidjan.

**HQ Building Renovations**

- 2.) IMEC is pleased stage 4 of phase 1 renovations is expected to complete on time despite the impact of COVID-19 restrictions. IMEC also welcomes the news that the costs of stages 1-3 of phase 1 have realised savings of 1.7m CHF.
- 3.) We note the sale of land, plot 4057, has raised 150m CHF. We note that, should the allowed building density on the perimeter change, the selling price could potentially still increase. Further, we note that the current estimated costs of phase 2 are expected to range from 128-131m CHF. Whilst we recognise that the true estimate will only be known once bids are finalised spring next year these are welcome figures that indicate phase 2 costs including temporary alternative conference facilities should be fully financed through the sale of the land and the monies currently available in the Building Accommodation Fund.
- 4.) IMEC looks forward to receiving a comprehensive security plan in March 2021, including options for the security perimeter and other priority areas. We note the information provided at the pre-GB consultations that the funding for these measures will also come out of the sale of the land and the money currently available in the Building Accommodation Fund.
- 5.) IMEC is pleased UNICEF rental discussions have concluded and payments will commence in December. Recognising the 2.7m CHF shortfall in loan repayment the use of the Building Accommodation Fund seems appropriate as it will be replenished by rental income in due course.

**Abidjan Premises**

- 6.) We note that the Abidjan premises are not currently fit for purpose and the ILO is leasing premises from the African Development Bank. We also note the proposal for a new UN building but understand this proposal has not progressed to a significant stage.
- 7.) The UN has set a goal under UN Reform for 50% of UN premises to be common premises by 2021. Common premises are important as an enabler for common and shared services between agencies. However, more broadly it forms an integral part of the UN efforts to harmonise operations at the country level. As the ILO develops its planning IMEC would like to encourage coordination between the

ILO, UN Country Team and the Resident Coordinator to promote this objective and understand how it may be best served.

- 8.) IMEC understands the need to start planning for the renovations now. However, IMEC expects coordination between the ILO, UN Country Teams and the Resident Coordinator to promote the objective of sharing common premises. Should the option for a One UN Building arise, IMEC expects the Office to pursue that option. Likewise, should alternative options become available that are more suitable or more cost efficient, IMEC expects the office to change its plans accordingly. IMEC would, therefore, request an update at the next Governing Body in March 2021 on the status of planning and engagement with the rest of the UN Country Team in Abidjan.
- 9.) IMEC supports the point for decision.