

**Governing Body – 340th Session, October-November 2020
Programme, Financial and Administrative Section
Programme, Financial and Administrative Segment**

Workers' Group Comments

DOCUMENT FOR BALLOT BY CORRESPONDENCE

GB.340/PFA/3

Update on building questions: headquarters building renovation project and ILO-owned premises in Abidjan

We welcome the savings made during phase 1 of the project and the sale of plot 4057.

Concerning phase 2, we regret that options for securing funds early enough to ensure continuity between phases 1 and 2 of the project were not possible, meaning that the cost of phase 2 has risen.¹

In respect of paragraph 10, we welcome the fact that a number of elements previously removed will now be included in phase 2 and look forward to get further information in March 2021.

We support the proposal of integrating the upgrading of the security environment into the scope of the renovation works of phase 2. We welcome the information provided by the Office during the briefing session of October 19 that the building of a fence has been abandoned. We look forward to receive information in March 2021 as to the alternatives envisaged. We have taken note that work on the security perimeter/plan will be financed by the sale of land, whose proceeds will be transferred to the BAF, and look forward to receiving further details in March 2021 on the final scope and estimated budget.

We noted that works on Phase 2 will affect the availability of rooms during Governing Body and Conference sessions as of July 2021. We also noted the information provided by the Office during the briefing session that it envisages to build a temporary conference facility that would accommodate a room the size of the GB plus 3 or 4 meeting rooms. This should allow to renovate the ILO conference facilities in two stages instead of three which is welcomed.

Concerning the repayment of the loan for the renovation of the building, we agree to advance CHF 2.7 million from the Building and Accommodation Fund (BAF) to cover the first 30 annual payments given that due to the delayed occupancy by UNICEF a full year's rental income will not have been received by December. We also took note that this amount will be reimbursed to the BAF from future rental income.

Concerning the ILO premises in Abidjan we support the Office choice consisting in the demolition of the main building, construction of a smaller main building and the renovation and extension of the annex building. As ILO staff has increased compared to March 2018, it is proposed to add two floors to the ILO building which could also be made available to other UN agencies for rent in the future.

¹ From CHF 120 million to CHF 128-131.1 million, plus a margin of error of 15%.

We understand that as of now there has been no progress in the establishment of a UN house in Abijan. We request the Office to keep the Governing Body informed of developments in this area, given that a decision on this issue will have an impact on the possibility for the ILO to rent or not the two additional floors to UN staff.

We welcome the support from the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in terms of administrative support and construction permit. We also invite the Office to intensify its efforts to obtain financial support from the Ivorian authorities and any other relevant country from the African continent, for the building project. For now, we agree that the project be pre-financed from the BAF with a repayment made using rental saving and incomes.

Given that ILO staff will have to remain in spaces leased from the African Development Bank (ADB) for several more years, we invite the Office to consult with the local staff union to ensure the adequacy of the workplace. Another issue is access to the building which according to our information is difficult. Administrative procedures for social partners are discouraging, making work relations, particularly with trade unions, more difficult. We request that the Office also looks into these matters in order to ensure that constituents have an easy and regular access to the ILO.

We agree with the decision point.