

**GB340 – PFA 3**  
**November 2020**

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

**ASPAG Statement for Screening Group on 21 October 2020**

1. ASPAG thanks the Office for the update on the Headquarters renovations and the information on the premises in Abidjan.
2. **On the Headquarters:** ASPAG congratulates the Office on finishing Phase 1 of the Renovations on time and on budget. This is a significant achievement and we wish to acknowledge the hard work of all those involved in completing the renovations to a high standard.
3. ASPAG also congratulates the Office on achieving an excellent sale price of CHF150million for plot 4057. We note this is significantly more than early estimates and it will mean that members will not be asked to fund Phase 2.
4. We appreciate that the sale proceeds are sitting in the Building Accommodation Fund, waiting for use for its purpose, which is Phase 2 of the Renovations.
5. Given Phase 2 estimates are around CHF130 million, the sale price of the land will cover the cost with extra funds available.
6. ASPAG notes that more information will be forthcoming between now and March 2021, including the final scope and estimated budget of Phase 2 of the project.
7. ASPAG would like to hear more from the Office on how we might meet UN security requirements without a perimeter fence. We note that the remaining CHF20million could be used for that fence or other appropriate security options, if necessary.
8. **On the Abidjan Office:** ASPAG reflects on the goals of UN reform which include co-locating UN agencies in so far as possible. To this end, ASPAG would like to see common premises be pursued in Abidjan, if possible.
9. ASPAG would like the Office to pursue possibilities for a shared UN building in Abidjan to obtain the best outcome for UN staff working together.
10. This would also be consistent with what the UN Secretary-General identified in his Report in April 2020, which was to identify how services could be provided more efficiently to regional offices through common offices.
11. With that, ASPAG thanks the Office for all its efforts to accommodate staff in safe and appropriate accommodation and can support the decision points.
12. Thank you Chair.