

Governing Body – 341st Session, March 2021
Programme, Financial and Administrative Section
Programme, Financial and Administrative Segment

Workers' Group Comments

Document for Ballot by Correspondence

GB.341/PFA/3(Rev.1) and PFA/3(Add.1)
Update on the headquarters building renovation project

The Workers' Group has taken note with satisfaction that the total expenditure for phase 1 of the renovation project remains within the limit of the agreed budget of CHF 205 million and that additional savings of some CHF 200'000 have been realized. It is positive that these savings will cover part of phase 2 architectural and engineering costs incurred due to the break in continuity from phases 1 to 2.

Regarding phase 2 it is good to see that sufficient funding is now available to include items previously deferred due to the uncertainty of funding thus ensuring the full renovation of the entire building. We support the option to erect a temporary building on the east (Appia) lawn, which would enable the works to be carried out in two stages and provide the necessary meeting and office space throughout the duration of the project.

Regarding the security perimeter, we have taken note that the work on a revised comprehensive plan has been delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic, which is understandable. We have noted that the ongoing study has been reviewed in order to take a number of developments into account as outlined in paragraph 15. We have also taken note of the additional information provided in document PFA/3(Add.1).

We support the Office's efforts to develop a comprehensive security plan that offers a compliant, appropriate and aesthetical solution to the security challenges of the ILO premises. We have noted the need for the addition of some USD 700'000 to the budget in order to have the required visitor security screening function. While taking all these elements into account our Group wishes to reiterate the importance for ILO constituents to continue to have access to the ILO building without major obstacles.

We are glad to see that the Office expects to start the renovation works in mid-2021.

With these comments we agree with the decision point in paragraph 21.