

Real estate: update on the Geneva buildings renovation strategy

Report of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board to the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly

1. The twentieth meeting of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee was held in Geneva from 14 to 16 May 2014 under the chairmanship of Dr Dirk Cuypers (Belgium).¹ The Committee adopted its agenda, with the deletion of items 2.9 and 2.10.²
2. The Committee reviewed the report on real estate: update on the Geneva buildings renovation strategy,³ noting with appreciation that the Swiss federal authorities have approved the release of 14 million Swiss francs in order that the next phase of the renovation strategy can proceed. This sum represents 10% of the amount of the interest-free loan requested by the Director-General.
3. The Committee stressed the importance of learning from the best practices and experiences of other organizations that have undertaken similar exercises and emphasized the need for an oversight process to help mitigate the risk of cost overrun and ensure that the project is implemented with complete transparency.
4. The Committee requested that future reports be more timely and contain more detail on the options that have been considered during the planning phases.
5. The Secretariat noted that the next update would include more detail on the specifications of the new building, following the outcome of the architectural competition, as well as more detail on costs and an oversight committee made up of representatives of Member States.

¹ The list of participants is available in document EBPBAC20/DIV./1.

² Document EBPBAC20/1.

³ Document A67/52.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY

6. The Committee, on behalf of the Executive Board, recommended that the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly adopt the following amended draft decision:¹

The Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on real estate: update on the Geneva buildings renovation strategy;²

Having noted the report of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board to the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly,³

- (1) **noted the updated Geneva buildings renovation strategy;**
- (2) **authorized the Director-General to proceed with the initial planning phase, including the organization of an architectural competition;**
- (3) expressed its appreciation to the Government of Switzerland for its offer to provide an initial interest-free loan of 14 million Swiss francs for planning purposes;
- (4) requested the Director-General:
 - (1) to accept this initial loan subject to the conditions described in paragraphs 10–12 of the report on real estate: update on the Geneva buildings renovation strategy, 2 and to continue to plan the site-wide renovation project;
 - (2) to present to the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly the selected design for the new building with an outline of the building specifications and a detailed financial update of the entire renovation strategy, with the expectation that a final decision will be taken by the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly regarding approval of the final project and acceptance of the full loan for the construction of the new building and initiation of construction work, subject to the Swiss federal authorities' final approval of the full loan in December 2016.

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¹ The amended text appears in bold type.

² Document A67/52.

³ Document A67/61.