

## **Real Estate: update on the Geneva buildings renovation strategy**

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

1. The Secretariat introduced the report by the Director-General on real estate,<sup>1</sup> which provides an update on the Geneva buildings renovation strategy. The Member States expressed their appreciation for the report and particularly for the outreach undertaken by the Secretariat before the Committee meeting. The Secretariat was requested to continue such outreach efforts on a regular basis. The Committee welcomed the proposed governance structure and emphasized its critical role in ensuring tight oversight of the project in order to ensure control of cost and timely delivery of the project.
2. The Members States emphasized the importance of early and effective project planning and management, as well as the need to ensure appropriate mechanisms for managing time, cost and risks. They further encouraged the Secretariat to minimize costs, to consider innovative financing mechanisms and to study carefully the lessons learnt from similar renovation and construction projects. Such information should complement the business case to be presented to the Executive Board at its session in January 2016.
3. Member States noted that the design for a new building had recently been selected; that comprehensive studies are being undertaken; and that the results of these studies are expected to provide the detailed construction, building life-cycle, routine operational and maintenance costs, which consolidate the business case for the project.
4. Questions were raised concerning the cost of the main building renovation, as well as the yearly repayment of the loan, being entirely covered from within the sustainable financing of the Real Estate Fund. Confirmation was sought that additional requests for funding are not to be anticipated. The Secretariat confirmed that the sustainable funding mechanism will cover all such costs without having a negative impact on the provision for maintenance of other premises.
5. A Member State requested a clarification of how the Secretariat proposed to respond to the resolution from the Fifth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on the use of flexible working space. The Secretariat confirmed that a minimum of 25% of the work space on the future compound is intended to be of flexible/collaborative nature.

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<sup>1</sup> Document A68/49.

## **RECOMMENDATION TO THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

6. The Committee, on behalf of the Executive Board, recommended that the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly note the report contained in document A68/49.

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