

Governing Body – 344th Session, March 2022
Programme, Financial and Administrative Section
Programme, Financial and Administrative Segment

Workers' Group Comments

DOCUMENT FOR BALLOT BY CORRESPONDENCE

GB.344/PFA/4/2

Matters relating to ILO premises

Update on the premises for the ILO Regional Office for Africa and Country Office for Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Togo in Abidjan

We have taken note that in February 2021 the Resident Coordinator proposed to the ILO Regional Office for Africa to incorporate the future UN House into the renovation project of ILO-owned premises in Abidjan.

The ILO informed the Resident Coordinator of its willingness to support the common premises initiative in the context of the UN Reform, subject to confirmation from the Government of the Ivory Coast of its commitment to the financing of the future UN house. However, to date the Government has not committed to any financial contribution.

We also understand that the redevelopment of the ILO premises in Abidjan which the Governing Body agreed in October 2020 for an amount of USD 7.2 million is currently stalled pending developments on the establishment of the UN house.

During the information session held on February 28, 2022, the Office indicated that the current building is deteriorating and that the more one waits, the higher the costs of renovation could become. It was also indicated that at this stage it was not guaranteed that the other UN organisations would have the necessary funds for the UN House, a project that will certainly be more expensive than the initial ILO project. This issue is further complicated by the fact that the Government of the Ivory Coast hasn't yet indicated its commitment to the financing of the future UN house.

Therefore, while agreeing with the decision point, we request that the Office follows developments closely and comes back to the Governing Body as soon as possible in order to avoid an increase in the costs of the renovation due to a lack of decision on the way forward, bearing also in mind that the ILO owns the land upon which the future ILO building or UN house will be built.

Finally, the Workers' Group would like to reiterate the importance for social partners to have access to the building of the African Development Bank which currently hosts ILO offices. In previous GB discussions, we had indicated that administrative procedures to access the building were particularly cumbersome, making work relations difficult.

344th Session of the ILO Governing Body, March 2022

PFA 4/2 Matters Relating to ILO Premises

IMEC WRITTEN STATEMENT

1. IMEC would like to thank the Office for the update on the on the premises for the ILO Regional Office for Africa and Country Office for Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Togo in Abidjan.
2. In the context of UN Reform and the 'Deliver as One' UN approach at the country level, IMEC strongly supports the proposal of the Regional Coordinator to incorporate a UN House into the renovation project of the ILO-owned premises in Abidjan, with 13 UN agencies planning to join this UN House by 2024. We therefore welcome the Office's willingness to support this initiative. We note, however, that this is subject to confirmation from the Government of Côte d'Ivoire of its commitment, in principle, to the financing of this future UN House.
3. IMEC recognises that not all UN agencies have building and accommodation funds, but we nonetheless wonder what work has been done, or could be done, to consider some form of UN agency co-funding of this proposal, should the Government of Côte d'Ivoire not be in a position to fund it. This may require some form of new financing mechanism as part of the UN reform process. It would be very unfortunate that a proposal for a UN House could not go ahead simply because there was no mechanism for this to happen from a joint funding point of view.
4. IMEC supports the point for decision. We would welcome an update on this at the next Governing Body.