

United Nations Nations Unies

BOARD OF AUDITORS

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Opening statement to the Fifth Committee

United Nations Board of Auditors Twelfth Annual Progress report on the Capital

Master Plan (CMP) A/70/5 Vol. V for the year ended 31 December 2014

27 October 2015

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished representatives,

and 20 programme management consultants (at a cost of \$1.76 million), from the CMP project team to the Office of Central Support Services which has now assumed responsibility for completing the project. The team will manage the administrative closure of the GMP contracts, and deliver \$49 million of scope comprising \$35 million of remaining project works and \$14 million to provide interim arrangements for the functions of the Library and South Annex Buildings.

The Board has previously noted that the Administration's focus was primarily on technical delivery, with less evidence of a robust approach to defining benefits and developing firm plans for realizing them. The ACABQ also made a recommendation in this regard but the Administration has not yet produced a benefits statement which confirms to the General Assembly that the expected outcomes from the project have been achieved. We were informed, as suggested in the Board's report, that this would be included in the Secretary-General's 13th progress report.

The newly renovated campus continues to provide opportunities to apply flexible workplace strategies and secure further benefits from the significant investment made by Member States. Although the opportunity was missed to design flexible workspace directly into the renovation project, the renovations make it much easier to implement this initiative using the more standard, modern and open office space. The pilot project in the Secretariat building has been generally well received, but the results suggest the Administration could set more ambitious goals going forward.

The Strategic Capital Review, a 20 year rolling plan for asset maintenance, is a significant step towards developing a proactive long-term asset management

Recommendations

Of the nine extant recommendations from previous years, two were en-GB