

The need to strengthen core business functions through enhancing skills in financial management and accounting, human resource management, commercial and contract management and project management.

The need to enhance corporate oversight, accountability and governance for globally dispersed operations.

The Board approved its latest annual progress reports on the implementation of IPSAS, the United Nations new enterprise resource planning system (Umoja), and the United Nations refurbishment of its headquarters campus in New York (the Capital Master Plan).

The Board noted that the Capital Master Plan (CMP) is substantially complete (albeit with a reduced scope) and that the effects of Hurricane Sandy have been contained. The compressed timetable for the General Assembly building renovation, however, is now extremely tight and is the most significant delivery risk, given the commitment to hold the General Assembly General Debate in the renovated building in September 2014.

The Board considered that the United Nations's Umoja project is on a much sounder footing and good progress has been made on recovery following the very significant problems and delays reported last year. This is a vital business transformation, and at the heart of the United Nation's drive to modernise its business administration. Very significant challenges remain if the United Nations is to deliver the new ways of working across a complex and fragmented organisation, and realise the financial and improved service delivery benefits that could arise from improved data and reporting, and streamlined and standardised business processes.

Notes for the press

International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) are independently developed accruals based standards, written specifically for the public sector. They are more precise and detailed than the internally developed United Nations system accounting standards (UNSAS), leaving far less scope for inconsistent interpretation.

