

**Opening Statement to the Fifth Committee  
on the report of the Board of Auditors on the Strategic Heritage Plan of the  
United Nations Office at Geneva (SHP)**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Board of Auditors, it is my privilege to present our third report on the implementation of the Strategic Heritage Plan in Geneva.

***Background***

The United Nations Office at Geneva is the representative office of the United Nations Secretary-General at Geneva. The Palais des Nations is the historical office of the United Nations and serves as

In November 2019, the contract for renovating the Palais des Nations was concluded with the construction firm. At the time when we last visited the site this year, the pre-construction services phase was still ongoing. Originally, the start of the renovation works was scheduled for June 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the commencement of the renovation works was postponed to September 2020.

According to reports of the independent risk management firm, the likelihood to deliver the Strategic Heritage Plan programme within the available budget declined from 66 per cent in August 2018 to 23 per cent in April 2020.

Apart from concerns related to the available budget and the timely overall completion of the project, further improvements are needed

*Energy savings*

The reduction of energy consumption by approximately 25 per cent at the Palais des Nations

This concludes my introductory statement. I will be happy to answer any questions and provide any information the Committee may require.

Thank you.



**Peter Korn**  
**Director of External Audit, Germany**  
**Chairman, Audit Operations Committee**