

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP ON AGENDA ITEM -
177: PROGRAM BUDGET; CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL OFFICE
FACILITIES AT THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA IN ADDIS
ABABA, AT THE MAIN PART OF THE 61st SESSION OF THE FIFTH
COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

16 OCTOBER 2006

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group on the agenda item 117, in particular on the Construction of Additional Office Facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa.

The African Group wishes to express its appreciation to Mr. Warren Sach, the Budget Controller, for presenting the reports of the Secretary-General. The Group also wishes to thank Mr. Rajat Saha, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing the relevant reports of the Committee.

The African Group took note of the content of the various reports. On status report for the construction project at the Economic Commission for Africa, the Group reiterates the importance it attaches to the project, and expresses its appreciation of the confirmation that the construction of two additional floors will be completed simultaneously with the original approved four floors project.

Further, the Group notes with appreciation that the final construction documents are being completed and that the ECA is conducting recruiting procedures for selection of a general construction contractor, which is anticipated to be finalized by the first semester 2007. The African Group welcomes the fact that there are no anticipated increases to the total estimated project cost of \$11,383,300.

In conclusion, the Group wishes to convey its appreciation to the Government of Ethiopia, as the Host Country, for the additional land that it has allocated to the Commission, as well as other supported rendered to the ECA.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.