



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY MR. AHMAD AMIRI ABU BAKAR, REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA ON AGENDA ITEM 133 AND 134 : PROGRAMME BUDGET 2010-2011 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET 2012-2013 – CAPITAL MASTER PLAN AT THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE 66TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK, 9TH DECEMBER 2011

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to thank Mr. Michael Alderstein, Assistant Secretary-General/ Executive Director of the Capital Master Plan (CMP), Ms. María Eugenia Casar, Assistant Secretary-General/ Controller, Mr. Hugh O'Farrell, Director of the External Audit of the Audit Operations Committee, Mr. Mario Baez, Chief of the Policy and the Oversight Coordination Services, Mr. Collen Kelapile, Chairman of the ACABQ, and Ms. Carman Lapointe, Under Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services, for the comprehensive briefings and introduction to the Committee on the respective reports on CMP.

Mr. Chairman,

2. My delegation acknowledges the significant progress of the CMP during the past year. This is manifested through several extensive works, including the replacement of the curtain wall in the Secretariat Building, the abatement of asbestos and the removal of obsolete materials from the Secretariat and Conference Buildings, as well as other related implementation of the CMP project. My delegation however, remains concerned with regard to the completion of the five-year project that has slipped from mid-2013 to mid-2014 and the costs overrun of 4 per cent above the current revised budget approved by the General Assembly.

3. My delegation maintains its full support for the recommendation of the ACABQ to ensure transparency in the procurement activities and that the associated costs need to be addressed in a timely manner. We also believe that it would be imperative for the Secretary-General to constantly engage with Member States to report on the overall status of the project, as well as to explore every possible opportunity for implementing improved cost-efficiency measures. Towards this, I would suggest that more outreach activities should be conducted to allow companies from the developing world to participate in the procurement of products and services of the CMP. This step would allow the overall cost of the CMP to be lowered, and the issue of costs overrun would be resolved.

Mr. Chairman,

4. We are fully aware that the associated costs of the CMP, including for the creation of a secondary data centre, are outside of the original scope. As regard to the amount of \$2.27 billion for the consolidated project requirements, my delegation is of the view that Member States should continue to work on these costs to implement further reduction and possible absorption.

5. Malaysia will continue to support the need to ensure adequate funding for the work of the CMP. We also fully recognize that it is pivotal for the overall timescale for the CMP project to be carried out and completed within the projected time, without any significant additional risks of further cost increases and delays. In light of this, it is our hope that transparency and accountability amongst the United Nations Secretariat and Offices concerned will be enhanced that would ensure a more safe, secured and conducive surroundings of the United Nations Headquarters.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Malaysia attaches great importance of the significant progress and the completion of the work of the CMP within the time scheduled. It is also hoped that all efforts will be taken in order to absorb any additional associated costs, within the approved CMP budget. In conclusion, I wish to express my delegation's full support in working with all Member States and the Secretariat on this project and we look forward to participate constructively in future discussion of this agenda item.

Thank you.