

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMMES AND FINANCE**

**Thirty-first Session**

**PLANS FOR THE IOM HEADQUARTERS BUILDING:**

**UPDATE 7**



## **PLANS FOR THE IOM HEADQUARTERS BUILDING: UPDATE 7**

### **Background**

1. At its 109th Session, the Council adopted Resolution No. 1373 of 27 November 2018 on a plan for the Headquarters building. Following the development of the project, at its 111th Session, the Council adopted Resolution No. 1391 of 24 November 2020 on the new Headquarters building, which approved the final budget level of CHF 72 million and authorized the Director General to prepare and submit a study loan application in the amount of CHF 5.7 million – which forms part of the total project budget – for consideration by the host Government.
2. The Administration is committed to providing regular information to Member States and this document provides information on the progress of the project since the last update (S/30/4).

### **Study loan application and approval**

3. Since the contract for the study loan of CHF 5.7 million was signed by the Director General and the Building Foundation for International Organizations (FIPOI) on 7 March 2022, the Administration has submitted quarterly reports to FIPOI as requested by the terms of the contract. The planned expenditure of CHF 500,000 for the architecture competition activities between February and October 2022 have been revised for a total of CHF 451,000.
4. A further amount of CHF 2,100,000 will cover the architect and engineers' fees for the pre-project development phase from November 2022 to December 2023.

### **Project activities completed to date**

5. Following the launch of the architectural competition on 9 February 2022, 14 out of the 15 invited architects submitted their proposals anonymously by 3 June 2022.
6. The jury met from 28 to 29 June 2022 and selected a winning entry to be developed. They recommended four other projects be commended for their quality. The nine other entries that were not retained by the jury nevertheless received a small financial compensation.
7. The [full report of the jury](#) on the proceedings and considerations on winning entries has been issued. An exhibition of all the submitted projects will be held at the Espace Ella Maillart in the Centre International de Conférences Genève (CICG) from 16 November to 2 December 2022.
8. The winning entry, named Junon, was submitted by the architectural practice G8A, based in Vietnam (Hanoi and Ho Chi Min City). G8A was founded by Manuel Der Hagopian and Grégoire Du Pasquier, two Swiss architects who moved to Vietnam in 2007, attracted by the entrepreneurial energy in the region. They have established strong partnerships with local architects and have trained numerous architects in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Singapore. They have recently increased the senior leadership team to include French architect Laurence Savy and Vietnamese associates Phan The Ngoc and Nguyen Duy Tan.
9. G8A has grown since its establishment in 2007 to a firm with offices in three Asian cities, employing 40 staff and overseeing 19 projects and 7 ongoing constructions. G8A projects emphasize economic and environmental efficiency and cultural exchange.

10. G8A has consistently worked to raise awareness in Asia of the importance of architecture quality for the urban fabric and its impact on social factors, health and inclusion. Regular conferences and workshops are organized at the G8A offices with local stakeholders and residents. Their recent exhibition, Equatorial Utopia: 50 Years of Visionary Architecture in Singapore, has been shown in Asia, Europe and America, showcasing designs from 1970 to the present, in a systematic effort to raise awareness and demonstrate the utopian dimension of architecture in Singapore.

11. G8A, in association with local architects, has built projects in Geneva for FIPOI, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the World Trade Organization, and in Asia for Swiss international companies, thus transferring knowledge and culture between Switzerland and Asia.

12. G8A is partnering with a local architect firm – Localarchitecture – based in Lausanne. G8A will lead the design and Localarchitecture will ensure compliance with Swiss construction rules and regulations.

#### **End-user participation in the design process**

13. Membership of the Staff Consultation Group – comprising staff representatives and IOM experts in the fields of diversity and inclusion, environmental sustainability and staff welfare – has been updated to reflect changes in the organizational structure at Headquarters and in view of diversity and inclusion.

14. Consultation Group members will soon visit the recently completed Médecins Sans Frontières Headquarters to identify layouts, features and equipment that would be desirable for the new building.

#### **Issues identified and ways forward**

15. The Junon proposal by G8A, which was chosen unanimously by the jury as winner of the competition, will need to be developed to progress from a feasibility concept to a fully functional project fulfilling IOM's needs within the set budget. A revised preliminary project should be presented by the architect and reviewed by the Administration during the second quarter of 2023.

16. The Administration has engaged specialized risk assessment consultants to provide advice during this development phase.

17. Following consultations with other international organizations on accessibility and lessons learned from their approaches and action plans, terms of reference are being prepared for an adviser to ensure universal accessibility of the new building.

#### **Coordination with the neighbouring tenants**

18. A working group comprising representatives of FIPOI, UNESCO and IOM has met and reviewed the presentation of the Junon proposal to discuss operational and technical issues concerning neighboring buildings, which are part of the Centre Administratif des Morillons (CAM). This group will continue to meet at regular intervals to ensure effective communication and coordination between the users and owners of the CAM site.

#### **Coordination with the Swiss authorities**

19. There continue to be regular exchanges between IOM, the Canton of Geneva and FIPOI related to IOM's study loan, and with the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations Office and to the other international organisations in Geneva regarding the land lease agreement.

20. The Geneva cantonal authorities are consulted on compliance of the Junon proposal with local rules and regulations. To this effect, representatives of the cantonal authorities participated as members of the competition jury and as experts during the proceedings. Regular consultations will continue during the project development phase.