

Part XIII Development Account

Section 35 Development Account

Proposal submitted by the Secretary-General	\$18,651,300
Revised appropriation for 2008-2009	\$18,651,300

XIII.1 The regular budget resources requested by the Secretary-General for section 35, Development Account, for the biennium 2010-2011 amount to \$18,651,300, which is the same level as the revised appropriation for the biennium 2008-2009. Table 2 in the proposed budget (A/64/6 (Sect. 35)) provides a summary of resource requirements by main object of expenditure, as recommended by the Committee (A/62/7, para. XIII.8). **The Advisory Committee welcomes this improvement.**

XIII.2 The proposed budget provides a brief summary of the decisions by the General Assembly to recost and to appropriate additional resources for the Development Account during the bienniums 2006-2007 and 2008-2009 (A/64/6 (Sect. 35), para. 35.3). Subsequent to those decisions, the current level of resources of \$18,651,300 represents an increase of \$5,586,300 over the level of \$13,065,000 approved by the Assembly at the inception of the Development Account in the biennium 1998-1999.

XIII.3 The objective of the Development Account is to fund capacity-development projects in the priority areas of the United Nations development agenda that benefit developing countries (ibid., para. 35.5). The Advisory Committee was informed that efforts were under way to reflect clearly the results achieved through those projects in the context of the operational framework of the United Nations development system and the United Nations development assistance frameworks at the country level.

Sixth progress report of the Secretary-General

XIII.4 In his sixth progress report on the implementation of projects financed from the Development Account, the Secretary-General reports that, since the start of its activities in 1998, 138 projects have been financed under six consecutive tranches with an overall budget of \$92.5 million (A/64/89, para. 4). Detailed information with respect to the projects under each tranche is provided in table 1 of the report. While all 23 projects of the fourth tranche had been completed as at 31 December 2008, 72 projects under the fifth and the sixth tranches were being implemented (ibid., paras. 6 and 9). Project titles, implementing entities, appropriations, expenditures and rate of implementation of the projects under the fifth and the sixth tranches are provided in the annex to the report. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General.**

Projects proposed under the seventh tranche for the biennium 2010-2011

XIII.5 The overall theme of the seventh tranche of projects under the Development Account is “Support to addressing key global development challenges to further the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, through collaboration at the global, regional and national levels” (A/64/6 (Sect. 35), para. 35.6). The 28 projects proposed for funding under the seventh tranche have been endorsed by the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and would be implemented by 10 entities of the Secretariat, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNCTAD, UNEP, UNODC, UN-Habitat and the five regional commissions. Many of the projects focus on responding to emerging needs of Member States, including challenges related to climate change, food security and the financial crisis (*ibid.*, paras. 35.7 and 35.8). Detailed information on the proposed projects, including resource requirements, is contained in appendix 1 to the budget document. The Advisory Committee notes that there is an enhanced focus on African development needs in the seventh tranche, with 20 of the proposed 28 projects involving capacity-building activities in Africa (*ibid.*, para. 35.9).

Management of the Development Account

XIII.6 The Secretary-General indicates that improvements in the management of the Development Account since the issuance of the fifth progress report include the institution of a four-year project implementation cycle, as well as mandatory submission of detailed project documents based on comprehensive logical frameworks and final evaluation reports (A/64/89, para. 5 and A/64/6 (Sect. 35), para. 35.12). In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that the Board of Auditors recommended that the Administration put in place, for all of its technical cooperation activities, a results-based mechanism comparable to that required for the projects funded by the Development Account (A/63/5 (Vol. I), chap. II, para. 89).

XIII.7 The Advisory Committee notes that the administration of the Development Account has been strengthened in three ways, through: (a) the establishment of a Steering Committee, which provides an internal coordination framework, comprising representatives of the implementing entities, to advise and assist the programme manager on matters related to the management of the Account; (b) the establishment of the Capacity Development Office in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which supports the Under-Secretary-General in the exercise of his responsibility as programme manager; and (c) the redesign of the website of the Account for improved Internet-based coordination with the implementing entities and greater accessibility to project information, impact and highlights (A/64/89, para. 25).

XIII.8 The Secretary-General also indicates that, following calls by the General Assembly to use human and other resources available from developing regions in the context of the Development Account, the programme manager has stressed the importance of this as a capacity-building tool (*ibid.*, para. 18). The Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that 70 per cent of the 244 consultancy projects had been executed, in terms of both number and resource allocation, by experts from developing countries.

XIII.9 The Secretary-General states that the complexity and scope of managing the Development Account have increased, in line with the increased number of projects that are managed at the same time (a total of 100 projects under the three

overlapping fifth, sixth and seventh tranches) and the heightened expectations of Member States with regard to coordination, programming, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (A/64/6 (Sect. 35), para. 35.11). He also indicates that the ability to sustain improvements and to further enhance the Account will depend on identifying ways to support further the functions of programming, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (A/64/89, para. 28). The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General has not sought specific resources in this regard at this time and will continue to be guided by Member States (A/64/6 (Sect. 35), para. 35.13).

XIII.10 The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the Secretary-General's proposal for the Development Account.