

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions Report

**First report on the proposed programme budget for the
biennium 2018-2019**



United Nations • New York, 2017



Part XIII Development Account

Section 35 Development Account

Revised appropriation for 2016-2017	\$28,398,800
Proposal for 2018-2019 submitted by the Secretary-General	\$28,398,800

Note: Figures in the present report, unless otherwise noted, are at revised 2016-2017 rates (i.e., before recosting).

XIII.1 The regular budget resources requested by the Secretary-General for section 35 for the biennium 2018-2019 amount to \$28,398,800, which is the same level as the revised appropriation for 2016-2017. A summary of the proposed resources by object of expenditure is provided in table 35.3 of the budget fascicle.

Tenth progress report of the Secretary-General

XIII.2 Information on the background and the policy context of the operation of the Development Account is provided in paragraphs 1 to 7 of the tenth progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of projects financed from the Development Account (A/72/92 and Corr.1). As the Secretary-General indicates, in 1997 the General Assembly, by its resolution 52/12 B, established the Development Account as a mechanism to fund capacity development projects of the economic and social entities of the United Nations Secretariat. These included five global entities (the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) and the five regional commissions. Since its establishment, a total of 358 projects have been funded from the Development Account, of which 102 are ongoing (ninth and tenth tranches). The Secretary-General also indicates that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has identified capacity development as a key element for the implementation of sustainable development and has stressed the importance of United Nations system support in that regard. The Secretary-General states that the Development Account is an important funding mechanism for enabling the 10 United Nations Secretariat implementing entities to operationalize their normative and analytical expertise and deliver demand-driven projects to assist developing countries in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

XIII.3 The tenth progress report (A/72/92 and Corr.1) provides an update on the performance and management of the Account since the issuance of the ninth progress report (A/70/97). The Secretary-General indicates that the eighth tranche, which was brought to a successful close during the reporting period, was launched in the wake of the 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals under the general theme “Supporting Member States to accelerate progress towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in the context of the multiple and interrelated development challenges”. The Secretary-General also indicates that the eighth tranche comprised a total of 50 active projects, of which 39 were funded from the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 and 11 from additional funds appropriated through General Assembly resolution 66/246, in which the Assembly decided to appropriate an additional \$6 million for the

Development Account. In addition, almost two thirds of the eighth tranche projects received additional resources (in kind or financial) from external sources.

XIII.4 The report provides further details on the eighth tranche projects, including the implementing entities, their regional distribution and substantive focus, and on the capacity development assistance products delivered. In brief: (a) 28 of the 50 projects were implemented by the five global entities mentioned above and 22 by the regional commissions (see [A/72/92](#) and Corr.1, figure I); (b) 31 projects supported countries in Africa, 22 in Asia and the Pacific, 22 in the Middle East and North Africa, 20 in Latin America and the Caribbean and 15 in Europe and Central Asia (*ibid.*, figure II); (c) a total of 132 developing countries and 17 countries with economies in transition benefited from the outputs or deliverables emanating from the projects; (d) approximately two thirds of the eighth tranche projects provided capacity development support to least developed countries and landlocked developing countries and two fifths of the projects to small island developing States (*ibid.*, figure III); (e) all eighth tranche projects contributed to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, with Goal 1 (Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty), Goal 8 (Develop a global partnership for development) and Goal 7 (Ensure environmental sustainability) being the three most frequently supported (*ibid.*, figure IV); and (f) project deliverables included 270 national and more than 150 subregional/regional/interregional workshops; 44 training courses or modules; assistance to Member States in their policymaking efforts, including 79 national action plans, 29 policy recommendations/notes, 14 policy proposals, 14 policy actions and 4 policy documents; and analytical products including 120 country/case/subregional/global studies, 23 briefs, 19 reports and 6 publications.

XIII.5 The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the tenth progress report of the Secretary-General.

Projects proposed for the eleventh tranche for the biennium 2018-2019

XIII.6 The proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019, under section 35, Development Account, reflects the projects to be funded under the eleventh tranche since the establishment of the Account. The budget fascicle indicates that the overall theme of the eleventh tranche is “Supporting Member States in strengthening evidence-based policy coherence, integration and participatory implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels” and that the 2030 Agenda places a strong emphasis on partnerships and collaboration.

XIII.7 The budget fascicle indicates that a total of 46 projects are proposed for the biennium 2018-2019. Of these, 44 (96 per cent) are to be implemented jointly between several entities, as compared with 80 per cent in the past, including projects on illicit financial flows, migration, geospatial data, graduation and the environment (see [A/72/6 \(Sect. 35\)](#), para. 35.13).

XIII.8 With regard to the regional distribution of the 46 proposed projects, the budget fascicle indicates that 18 of them will support countries in Africa, 14 in Asia and the Pacific, 6 in Europe and Central Asia, 6 in the Middle East and North Africa and 12 in Latin America and the Caribbean, with 1 project being at the global level (*ibid.*, figure 35.III). With regard to their substantive focus, it is indicated that the 46 projects will contribute to the achievement of all of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, with nearly half of them contributing to Goal 17 (Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development), approximately a third contributing to Goal 8 (Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all) and a third also contributing to Goal 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation) (*ibid.*, figure 35.II).

XIII.9 The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the Secretary-General’s proposals for section 35, Development Account.