



**United Nations**

# **Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions**

**First report on the proposed programme  
budget for 2020**

**General Assembly  
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## Part XIII Development Account

### Section 35 Development Account

Revised appropriation for 2018–2019 (General Assembly resolutions <a href="#">73/280 A–C</a> )	\$28,398,800
Expenditure for 2018	\$14,199,400
Appropriation for 2019 <sup>a</sup>	\$14,199,400
Proposal for 2020 submitted by the Secretary-General	\$14,199,400

*Note:* Figures in the present report, unless otherwise noted, are at revised 2018–2019 rates (i.e., before recosting).

<sup>a</sup> As referred to in the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget for 2020 ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 35\)](#)). See also chap. I, paras. 55–65, above.

XIII.1 Regular budget resources requested by the Secretary-General for section 35 for 2020 amount to \$14,199,400 before recosting, which is at the same level as the appropriation for 2019, as referred to in the report of the Secretary-General ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 35\)](#), table 35.1; see also chap. I, paras. 55–65, above).

#### *Eleventh progress report of the Secretary-General*

XIII.2 In his eleventh progress report, the Secretary-General provided information on the implementation of projects funded from the Development Account and the management of the Account since the submission of his tenth progress report. It is stated in the report that the Account was established in 1997 as a capacity-development programme of the economic and social entities of the Secretariat aimed at enhancing the capacities of developing countries in priority areas. Projects under the Account are implemented by 10 entities: the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNCTAD, UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNODC and the five regional commissions ([A/74/85](#), para. 2).

XIII.3 Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with the background of the Development Account. The Committee was informed that the General Assembly, by its resolution [52/12 B](#), had decided, inter alia, to establish a development account in the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999, and subsequently approved, in its resolution [52/221 A](#), an appropriation of \$13,065,000 for the Account for the biennium 1998–1999. By its resolution [54/15](#), the Assembly decided, inter alia, to establish a special multi-year account for supplementary development activities based on the priority objectives of the programmes of the approved medium-term plan.

XIII.4 It is indicated in the eleventh progress report that the current focus of the Development Account is on supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Since the first tranche of Account projects was launched in 1998, 413 have been approved, 96 of which are currently ongoing from the tenth and eleventh tranches. In addition, 22 new projects are being proposed to the General Assembly for its consideration as part of the proposed programme budget for 2020 (*ibid.*, paras. 2 and 7).

XIII.5 Section II of the eleventh progress report provides an analysis of the ninth tranche projects. It is indicated that the ninth tranche, which comprised 59 active

projects and was brought to a successful close during the period covered under the report, was launched in the period marking the end of the Millennium Development Goals and the initiation of the post-2015 development agenda, under the theme “Supporting Member States in designing and implementing strategies and policies towards sustainable, equitable and inclusive development” (ibid., para. 9).

XIII.6 It is indicated in the eleventh progress report that 136 developing countries were targeted through the capacity-development interventions of the ninth tranche projects, including 17 with economies in transition, 28 small island developing States, 40 landlocked least developed countries and 42 least developed countries. Of those, 38 projects supported countries in Africa, 32 in Asia and the Pacific, 18 in the Middle East and North Africa, 24 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 13 in Europe and Central Asia and 3 globally. The 59 projects of the ninth tranche comprised 12 implemented by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 10 by UNCTAD, 4 each by UNEP and UN-Habitat, 1 by UNODC and 28 by the five regional commissions. Project deliverables included 250 subregional, regional or interregional workshops, more than 380 national workshops, 18 training-of-trainers sessions, 6 online training courses and 23 study tours. Assistance to Member States supported the development of: (a) 62 national strategies, 5 regional strategies and 1 global strategy; (b) 74 national action plans and 1 regional action plan; and (c) 13 national policy recommendations, 6 policy actions and 5 draft national policies (ibid., paras. 10, 15 and 17, and figures I–III).

**XIII.7 The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the eleventh progress report of the Secretary-General.**

*Projects proposed for the twelfth tranche for 2020*

XIII.8 The proposed programme budget for 2020 under section 35 reflects the projects to be funded under the twelfth tranche since the establishment of the Development Account, guided by the overall theme of “Supporting Member States to strengthen coherent policies and approaches to implement the 2030 agenda at local, national and regional levels” (A/74/6 (Sect. 35), para. 35.16).

XIII.9 Twenty-two projects are proposed for 2020, with the objectives of most aligned with more than one Sustainable Development Goal and multiple ones supporting specific Goals. It is indicated that most projects include countries with special needs, such as least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as target countries (ibid., paras. 35.5, 35.7 and 35.23). Figure 35.III of A/74/6 (Sect. 35) shows that 10 projects would support countries in Africa, 9 in Asia and the Pacific, 5 in the Middle East and North Africa, 5 each in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Europe and Central Asia, and 1 globally. Annexes I and II to that report provide a description of the proposed projects. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will ensure transparency in the selection of countries and projects and will continue to strengthen outreach efforts to countries with special needs, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.**

XIII.10 Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that Development Account projects were considered pilot projects because they tested new approaches within a limited number of countries, while building on the normative capacities and processes of the implementing entities. After the project is closed, the continuation of its activities is typically undertaken by the entities or countries themselves. The Committee was also informed that, since 2016, 98 projects had been launched and were ongoing, comprising 43 under the tenth tranche and 55 under the eleventh tranche.

XIII.11 A summary of the proposed resources by object of expenditure is provided in table 35.2 of A/74/6 (Sect. 35). The Advisory Committee notes from information provided to it that the Development Account is not subject to recosting. Upon request, the Committee was provided with the table below, which sets out the resource requirements over the past three bienniums.

#### Summary of resource requirements by object of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	2014–2015	2016–2017	2018–2019	2020 (proposed)
Other staff costs	1 149 980	1 158 100	1 133 400	495 800
Consultants and Experts	8 070 400	9 340 200	9 616 100	4 836 100
Travel of staff	3 847 900	5 307 100	4 164 200	2 340 100
Contractual services	3 225 100	2 023 000	3 629 000	1 739 800
General operating expenses	453 600	498 600	487 400	584 200
Furniture and equipment	423 600	231 500	126 500	–
Grants and contributions	11 228 420	9 840 300	9 242 200	4 203 400
<b>Total</b>	<b>28 398 800</b>	<b>28 398 800</b>	<b>28 398 800</b>	<b>14 199 400</b>

XIII.12 **The Advisory Committee notes that resources approved for the Development Account have remained at the same level for the past three bienniums. The Committee also notes that, given that the Account is not subject to recosting, the maintenance of the same level of resources for the Account effectively results in a decrease in real terms in the resources approved for the Account over the past three bienniums. The Committee also recalls that the General Assembly, by its resolution 52/12 B, had decided that the Account would be funded from savings from possible reductions in administration and other overhead costs. The Committee notes with concern that, to date, no savings from efficiencies have been identified and transferred to the Account (see also Assembly resolution 70/247, para. 110).**

XIII.13 The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the Development Account and its projects were reviewed by OIOS and the Board of Auditors and that the projects were evaluated by an external evaluator at the end of their life cycle. The Committee was also informed that the Account evaluation framework and the Account project evaluation guidelines, which were developed as part of the evaluation review, would be completed shortly. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the update of the evaluation framework and project evaluation guidelines will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report and in the next proposed programme budget.**

XIII.14 **The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the proposal of the Secretary-General under section 35.**