



Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

**First report on the proposed programme
budget for the biennium 2008-2009**

**General Assembly
Official Records
Sixty-second Session
Supplement No. 7 (A/62/7)**

Part XIII Development Account

Section 34 Development Account

Proposal submitted by the Secretary-General	\$16,480,900
Revised appropriation for 2006-2007	\$16,480,900

XIII.1 The General Assembly, in its resolution 52/12 B, established a development account in the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 with the objective of funding technical cooperation projects, for the benefit of developing countries, in the priority programmatic areas under the responsibility of the respective implementing entities (the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, all regional commissions, UNCTAD, UNEP, UNODC and UN-Habitat), particularly to advance the implementation of the development goals agreed by United Nations conferences and summits.

XIII.2 The Advisory Committee notes that the regular budget resources requested by the Secretary-General for section 34, Development Account, for the biennium 2008-2009 amount to \$16,480,900, that is, at the level of the revised appropriation for the biennium 2006-2007. The Committee recalls that in its resolution 60/246, the General Assembly decided that the Development Account should be recosted for the biennium 2006-2007, which led to an increase of \$889,100 in the initial appropriation. The proposed requirements of \$16,480,900 for 2008-2009 reflect the current rates and have not been recosted at 2008-2009 rates.

XIII.3 The proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 under section 34, Development Account, reflects the projects to be funded under the sixth tranche since the establishment of the Account. Information on the implementation of projects financed under the fifth tranche is contained in the Secretary-General's fifth progress report (A/62/123). **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General.**

XIII.4 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 34.9 of the proposed programme budget that, in response to the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 61/252, a comprehensive report will be presented to the Assembly at its sixty-second session setting out recommendations on how, without using surpluses, additional resources could be identified for transfer to the Development Account, including (a) a review of the modalities and rationale for the funding of the Development Account, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the Account submitted to the Assembly at its fifty-second session and subsequent reports of the Secretary-General and resolutions of the Assembly, in the light of experience; (b) a definition of procedures to identify efficiency or other gains, including but not limited to any potential savings that might be identified by Member States for transfer to the Development Account in the context of intergovernmental processes, as well as practical measures for their implementation; and (c) an assessment of the impact of the Development Account in terms of its aims and purposes. The Committee will review the comprehensive report and submit any observations or recommendations that it may have thereon.

XIII.5 The Advisory Committee notes the improved format of the presentation of projects to be financed during the biennium 2008-2009. At the same time, the Committee is of the view that the budget document could be significantly shortened by using a more concise format for background information on the projects. The budget document should focus more on presenting details of cost estimates, objectives to be achieved, benchmarks and indicators of achievement.

XIII.6 The Advisory Committee notes that the 27 projects proposed for the sixth tranche, were endorsed by the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs. A total of 11 projects would be implemented by the regional commissions, and eight projects would be executed jointly by several entities of the Secretariat. Africa and Asia are the main destinations and target of the sixth tranche, with nine projects each. In addition, there are eight global projects, four in Latin America, and one in the Commonwealth of Independent States. Table XIII.1 summarizes the geographical distribution of the projects.

Table XIII.1
Geographical distribution of projects

<i>Region</i>	<i>Number of projects</i>
Asia	9
Africa	9
Global	8
Latin America	4
Commonwealth of Independent States	1

XIII.7 The Advisory Committee also notes that seven projects focus on trade issues; four on sustainable development and human settlements; and four on social development. The Committee was provided with information on the thematic distribution of projects, and this is summarized in table XIII.2.

Table XIII.2
Thematic distribution of projects

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Number of projects^a</i>
International trade	7
Sustainable development and human settlements	4
Social development	4
Environment and natural resources	4
Macroeconomics	3
Statistics	3
Advancement of women	1
Governance and institution-building	1
Science, technology and productive sectors	1
Population	1
Drug and crime prevention	1

^a Multiple entries in different categories result in a higher figure than the total number of projects.

XIII.8 As indicated in paragraph 34.10 of the proposed programme budget, the Development Account website provides detailed information on the projects. **The Advisory Committee acknowledges that the website has become an important means of providing up-to-date and valuable information on the projects. At the same time, the Committee is of the opinion that the proposed programme budget for section 34 should provide a summary of estimated requirements by main objects of expenditure.**