



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

**First report on the proposed programme  
budget for the biennium 2012-2013**

**General Assembly  
Official Records  
Sixty-sixth Session  
Supplement No. 7**

## **Part XIII**

### **Development Account**

#### **Section 36**

##### **Development Account**

Proposal submitted by the Secretary-General	\$23,651,300
Revised appropriation for 2010-2011	\$23,651,300

XIII.1 The regular budget resources requested by the Secretary-General for the biennium 2012-2013 for the Development Account amount to \$23,651,300, which is the same level as the revised appropriation for the biennium 2010-2011. A list of the projects proposed for funding from the Account for 2012/2013 is provided in the appendix to the proposed budget (A/66/6 (Sect. 36)). Table 2 of the proposed budget contains a summary of resource requirements by main object of expenditure.

XIII.2 The budget document provides a summary background on the establishment of the Development Account and the decisions by the General Assembly to recast and to appropriate additional resources for the Development Account since its inception (*ibid.*, paras. 36.1-36.3). In line with the decisions of the Assembly, the current level of resources of \$23,651,300 represents an increase of \$10,586,300 over the level of \$13,065,000 approved by the Assembly at the inception of the Development Account in the biennium 1998-1999.

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

XIII.3 In the seventh progress report on the implementation of projects financed from the Development Account (A/66/84, table 1), the Secretary-General indicates that since the biennium 1998-1999, a total of 204 projects have been financed from the Account under seven consecutive tranches, with an overall appropriation of \$127,614,500. While projects under the first four tranches have been completed, implementation of the projects under the fifth, sixth and seventh tranches remains under way. Table 1 of A/66/84 provides a summary of all tranches, including the number of projects and appropriations, the themes and the implementation rates as at 30 April 2011. Detailed information with respect to the ongoing projects is provided in annexes I and II to that report, including project titles, implementing entities, appropriations and expenditures.

XIII.4 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 (A/66/6 (Sect. 36), para. 36.5). The Advisory Committee recalls that in its consideration of the proposed programme budget for 2010-2011, it was informed that efforts had been under way to reflect clearly the results achieved through such 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 (A/64/7, para. XIII.3). In this connection, the Committee notes that sections II and III of the seventh progress report provide information with respect to the Development Account in the context of the United Nations work on development, and an overview and assessment of results of its projects in relation to its support for the implementation of the internationally

agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The Secretary-General also indicates that more projects now have links to United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and foresee active consultations with the United Nations country teams (A/66/84, para. 46).

XIII.5 An analysis of the execution of projects under the fifth tranche, based on the final reports of the implementing entities, is provided in section IV of the seventh progress report. The Advisory Committee was informed that of the 40 projects funded under that tranche, the assessment of project performance had included 30 projects implemented during 2006-2009, while the remaining 10 projects were still in the implementation stage (*ibid.*, table 1, footnote a). In his conclusions in the progress report, the Secretary-General states that the review of the projects under the fifth tranche has demonstrated that the projects aim to have the broadest possible impact, addressing all the Millennium Development Goals or targeting the overarching goal of poverty reduction. Further, the alignment of Development Account-funded projects with the Millennium Development Goals has provided not only a useful strategic focus for the Account, but also a guiding reference for partners and recipients of the projects (*ibid.*, para. 39).

**XIII.6 The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the seventh progress report of the Secretary-General.**

#### **Projects proposed under the eighth tranche for the biennium 2012-2013**

XIII.7 The Secretary-General indicates that the overall theme of the eighth tranche of projects to be funded under the Development Account is “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” (A/66/6 (Sect. 36), para. 36.6). The project proposals, including information on implementing agencies, background, objectives, summary budget and main activities, are contained in the annex to the proposed budget. The Advisory Committee notes that the 40 projects proposed for funding under the eighth tranche were endorsed by the Steering Committee of the Development Account at its meeting in March 2011 (*ibid.*, para. 36.9). Under the purview of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, the projects would be implemented by 10 entities of the Secretariat, namely, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNCTAD, UNEP, UNODC, UN-Habitat and the five regional commissions (*ibid.*, paras. 36.7).

XIII.8 The Secretary-General also indicates that of the 204 projects funded from the Development Account since its inception, 150 projects remain active and/or require programme management support (*ibid.*, para. 36.10). In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes the indication that the establishment of two posts (1 P-5 and 1 P-4) in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for 2010-2011, approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/243 to provide programme support to the Account, has helped the Programme Manager of the Account to upgrade the level and expand the scope of the programme management (*ibid.*, para. 36.10).

XIII.9 The Secretary-General further indicates that, while the complexity and scope of managing the Development Account have increased, the expectations of the Member States have also heightened with regard to the programming, monitoring and evaluation of the Account (*ibid.*). The Advisory Committee recalls that the

management and administration of the Development Account have been improved and strengthened over the years, including the institution of a four-year project implementation cycle, mandatory submission of detailed project documents based on comprehensive logical frameworks and final evaluation reports, the establishment of the Steering Committee and the Capacity Development Office, and the redesign of the website for improved Internet-based coordination and greater accessibility to project information and impact (A/64/7, paras. XIII.6-XIII.7). According to the Secretary-General, the focus of the management of the Account will be on strengthening monitoring and evaluation and better integrating lessons learned in the programming of new projects over the next two years (A/66/84, para. 38). **The Committee concurs with the Secretary-General's emphasis on the importance of project monitoring and evaluation, and expects that due attention will continue to be paid to such activities. The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the Secretary-General's proposal for the Development Account.**