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Proposed programme budget for 2022

Proposed programme budget for 2022

Part XIII Development Account

Section 35 Development Account

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* [A/76/50](#).

** In keeping with paragraph 11 of resolution [72/266 A](#), the part consisting of the post and non-post resource requirements is submitted through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the consideration of the General Assembly.



Foreword

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has had not only detrimental effects on the physical well-being of populations worldwide, but also far-reaching negative economic and social consequences around the globe. Guided by General Assembly resolution [74/270](#) on global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), as well as the annex to Assembly resolution [74/4](#), containing the political declaration of the Sustainable Goals Summit entitled “Gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”, the Development Account, through the collective efforts of the 10 economic and social entities of the Secretariat, has been working hard to support Member States in addressing the ongoing crisis. With funding provided by the Development Account, the mostly non-resident implementing entities have been able to provide Member States with vast knowledge, know-how and capacity development support to which they would otherwise not have had access.

In early June 2020, five short-term joint projects developed by the Development Account implementing entities were launched in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The projects focus on key areas where the Development Account entities have comparative strengths and where Member States have essential needs: (a) facilitating the resurgence and strengthening the resilience of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 crisis; (b) transport and trade connectivity to keep transport and borders operational, thus facilitating the international flow of goods, by building on United Nations solutions, including standards, tools, methodologies and policy recommendations for contactless, seamless and collaborative transport and trade; (c) social protection to strengthen national capacities to design and implement gender-sensitive social protection policies for rapid recovery and increased resilience, especially of the most vulnerable populations; (d) mobilizing financial resources for development by strengthening the diagnostic and policy design capacity of the relevant macroeconomic and debt financing authorities in low- and middle-income countries; and (e) building urban economic resilience by strengthening local governments in 16 cities to design, implement and monitor sustainable, resilient and inclusive COVID-19 economic and financial responses, recovery and rebuilding plans. Residual balances from closed and closing projects were utilized to enable the quick launch of those projects in response to the crisis in 2020, and the additional funds that the General Assembly provided in its resolution [75/252](#), on questions relating to the proposed programme budget for 2021, are being used to fund those projects in 2021 and early 2022, when the projects will be completed.

A second pillar of the Development Account’s COVID-19 response has been to redesign and adapt ongoing projects to the new situation on the ground and to allow for COVID-19 responses to be incorporated within the objective of the projects. Furthermore, the Account has been working with project managers and implementing entities to develop new ways to deliver project activities through virtual means when physical workshops and travel have not been possible. Guidance on blended learning and e-learning methodologies for capacity development have been developed and a training programme for project managers has been made available under the auspices of the Account.

The 21 proposals for the fourteenth tranche of the Development Account presented in the present budget fascicle have been developed under the overall theme “Recovering better from COVID-19: for greener, resilient, inclusive and equal post-pandemic societies that leave no one behind”. As with previous tranches, partnerships continue to be an essential part of Development Account projects. All proposed projects will be implemented in collaboration with other entities of the Secretariat and the United Nations system, including resident coordinator offices and United Nations country teams. In response to the need for reliable data to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, for example, together with seven other Development Account implementing entities, will lead a joint project to improve the resilience and agility of national statistical systems to meet data needs to recover better from the COVID-19 crisis (see annex II, project A).

In parallel with these ongoing efforts, work has also been progressing on evaluation, to allow for an assessment of programme-level results while simultaneously ensuring sufficient coverage of project-level evaluations. Two programme-level evaluation exercises are planned for the next two years; they will focus on the Programme on Statistics and Data and the five short-term joint projects in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

The additional funding made available through resolution [75/252](#) underscores the importance of the Development Account in supporting Member States to implement the 2030 Agenda. It also reflects the high level of confidence that Member States have in the delivery of this support by the Account's implementing entities. These funds are an essential part of the Account's support to Member States in their continuing efforts to address critical capacity gaps in their development needs and strategies, and in their fight against COVID-19 and its aftermath. I am confident that the projects proposed in the present fascicle will help Member States in these efforts and accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and ensure that no one is left behind.

(Signed) **Liu Zhenmin**
Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

A. Overall orientation

Mandates and background

- 35.1 The Development Account was established in 1997 by the General Assembly in its resolution [52/12 B](#) as a mechanism to fund capacity development projects of the economic and social entities of the United Nations, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
- 35.2 Following resolution [52/12 B](#), in its resolution [52/221 A](#), the Assembly approved an appropriation of \$13,065,000 for the Development Account under section 34 of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999. In accordance with General Assembly resolution [52/235](#), in which the Assembly requested a detailed report on the sustainability of the Development Account, the modalities of its implementation, the specific purposes and the associated performance criteria for the use of resources, the Secretary-General submitted a report on the operation of the Development Account ([A/53/945](#)). Having considered that report and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions ([A/53/7/Add.12](#)), the Assembly, in its resolution [54/15](#), decided, inter alia, to establish a special multi-year account for supplementary development activities based on the programmes of the approved medium-term plan. Since the Account's inception, the Assembly has approved resources for 465 projects.
- 35.3 In its resolution [60/246](#), the General Assembly decided that the Development Account would be recosted for the biennium 2006–2007. That exercise led to an increase of \$889,100 at the stage of the initial appropriation for that biennium. During the preparation of the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2006–2007, the Account was again recosted, resulting in a further increase of \$26,800. In its resolution [61/252](#), section IV, paragraph 5, the Assembly decided to appropriate the amount of \$2.5 million for the Development Account as an immediate exceptional measure aimed at addressing the lack of transfer of resources to the Account since its inception. Furthermore, in its resolution [62/235 A](#), paragraph 2 (d), the Assembly decided to increase the provision under section 34, Development Account, by the amount of \$5 million for the biennium 2006–2007. In its resolution [62/238](#), section VIII, paragraph 11, the Assembly decided to appropriate \$2.5 million for the Account for the biennium 2008–2009. In its resolution [64/243](#), paragraph 140, the Assembly decided to appropriate an additional amount of \$5 million for the Account for the biennium 2010–2011. For the biennium 2012–2013, the Assembly, in its resolution [66/248 A](#) approved a total appropriation under the Account of \$29,243,200, and in its resolutions [68/248 A](#), [70/249](#) and [72/263](#) the Assembly approved a total appropriation under the Account for the bienniums 2014–2015, 2016–2017 and 2018–2019, respectively, of \$28,398,800. For 2020, the Assembly, in its resolution [74/264](#), approved an appropriation of \$14,199,400 for the Account. For 2021, the Assembly, in its resolution [75/252](#), endorsed the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to increase the baseline of the Development Account by \$1 million (see [A/75/7](#) and [A/75/7/Corr.1](#), para. XIII.4) and, in its resolution [75/254 A](#), approved an appropriation of \$15,199,400.
- 35.4 The proposals on the use of resources for the fourteenth tranche, detailed in annexes I and II to the present budget fascicle, are based on the procedures and arrangements for the use of the Development Account approved by the General Assembly in its resolutions [53/220 A](#), [53/220 B](#), [54/15](#), [54/249](#), [56/237](#), [60/246](#), [61/252](#), [62/235](#), [62/237](#), [62/238](#), [64/243](#), [64/244](#), [66/248](#) and [68/248](#).

Strategy

- 35.5 The Development Account supports developing countries in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in response to expressed needs and demands from Member States, as well as recommendations and decisions made in the intergovernmental processes and relevant governing bodies of the implementing entities.
- 35.6 The projects build on the mandates and the comparative advantages of the different implementing entities and all projects are implemented with partners from within the Secretariat, the United Nations system, and national, regional and international organizations.
- 35.7 The Development Account provides the mostly non-resident implementing entities with the ability to operationalize their vast knowledge and know-how to deliver capacity development support to selected target countries and stakeholders. The projects provide a bridge between the normative and analytical expertise of Headquarters and the development of sustainable capacities in the field. Through the support of the Account, the implementing entities can follow up on intergovernmental processes and their analytical work with concrete projects at the multi-country, subregional, regional and global levels. Most of the projects focus on multiple countries – often least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States – frequently across multiple regions.
- 35.8 The Account serves as an operational facility for testing new and innovative development approaches. When successful, such approaches can be scaled up and replicated for increased development results, with funding from outside of the Account. The Account further provides a mechanism for promoting the exchange and transfer of skills, knowledge and good practices among target countries, including in different geographical regions (e.g., through South-South cooperation and through cooperation with a wide range of partners in the development community).
- 35.9 The Development Account continues to work in coordination with the resident coordinator system and country teams on the ground to further ensure that projects are needs-based, providing the global and regional capacities and resources to countries in a coordinated manner. Projects integrate a gender perspective to support Member States in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5. Disability inclusion is also integrated and relevant aspects mainstreamed where appropriate.

Impact of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on programme delivery

- 35.10 The COVID-19 pandemic had severe impacts on the planned delivery of the Development Account project outputs in 2020, in particular, a reduction in the number of traditional face-to-face modalities of delivery involving training sessions, physical workshops, seminars, field visits, advisory missions, policy dialogues and consultations, since travel and physical gatherings were not possible owing to the risk of spreading the virus. The COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated the adaptation from in-person to virtual or hybrid meetings for the delivery of these capacity development activities, with a number of projects refocusing the support provided to Member States to address the immediate impact of the COVID-19 crisis by incorporating COVID-19 responses within the objectives of the projects. Furthermore, guidance on blended learning and e-learning methodologies for capacity development have been developed and a training programme has been launched to inform project managers of available tools and methodologies.
- 35.11 Reflecting the importance of continuously enhancing operations and responding to the evolving needs of Member States, the Account will, in moving forward, consider the best options for mainstreaming lessons learned and best practices from the past year to adjust and adapt delivery in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically, through the continuation of the e-learning modalities developed during the pandemic and combining them with in-person workshops.

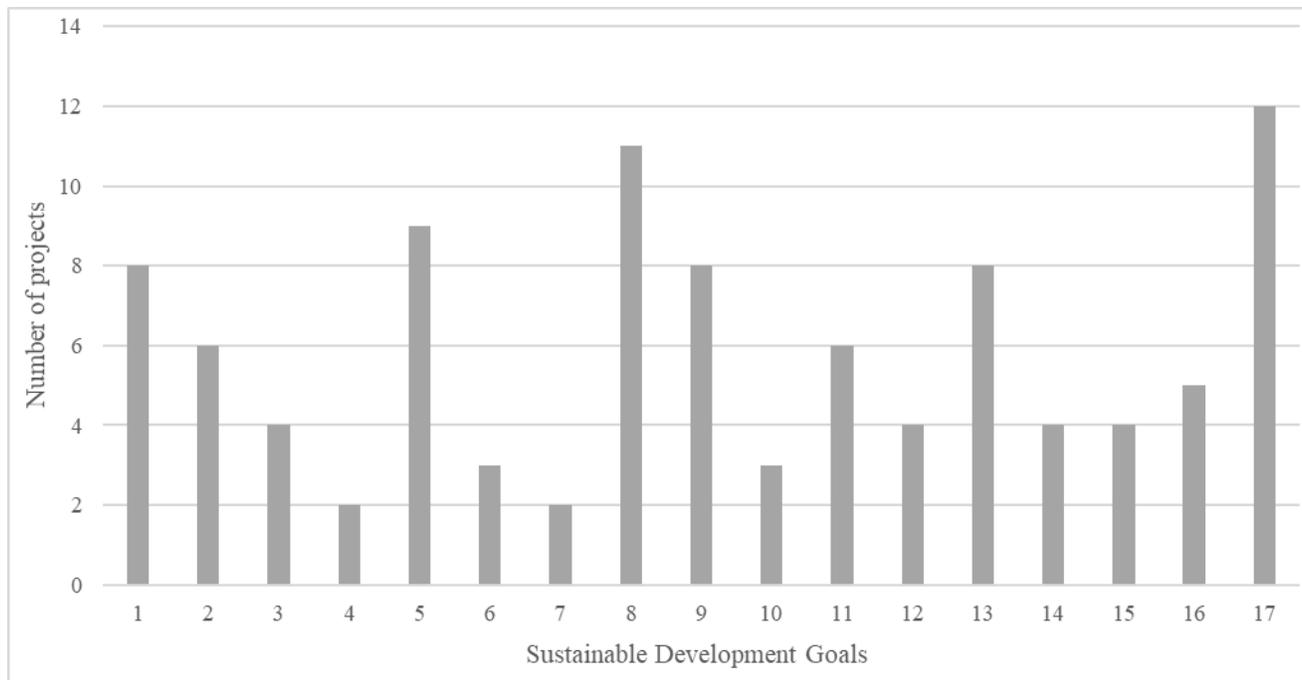
Objective, theme and strategy for the fourteenth tranche

- 35.12 The projects proposed under the fourteenth tranche of the Account are guided by the overall theme “Recovering better from COVID-19: for greener, resilient, inclusive and equal post-pandemic

societies that leave no one behind”, which was endorsed by the Development Account Steering Committee in June 2020 and approved by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, who is the Programme Manager of the Development Account. The proposed projects respond closely to the theme, with all projects directly supporting target countries and regions to build back better post-COVID-19, with several of the proposed projects highlighting the breadth of needs to rebuild post-COVID-19. A few thematic areas stand out in this regard, namely, the focus on e-commerce and trade to recover better (projects E and N), strengthening resilience in economies tied to tourism (projects D, H, L and P) and urban resilience (projects H and J). Additionally, the proposed projects focus both on issues caused by COVID-19 (projects M, O and S) and issues brought to light as a result of COVID-19 (projects R and T).

- 35.13 Other projects incorporate innovative approaches to addressing the economic and social aftermath of the crisis, including projects on aligning energy policy with Sustainable Development Goal 7 (project Q), the digitization of trade and transport information flows in transition economies (project N), blockchain and the global trade supply chain (project U) and strengthening the resilience of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to advance the 2030 Agenda (project C).
- 35.14 The fourteenth tranche projects support implementation of a broad spectrum of Sustainable Development Goals, as indicated in figure 35.I. Given the interconnected nature of the Goals, all projects support more than one Goal. All projects also integrate the principle of leaving no one behind, with some projects focusing solely on either that principle or on vulnerable or marginalized groups, including the projects on gender-responsive land governance (project K), e-commerce policies for small island developing States (project F) and local reviews for sustainable urban recovery plans (project J).

Figure 35.I
Contribution of fourteenth tranche projects to the Sustainable Development Goals

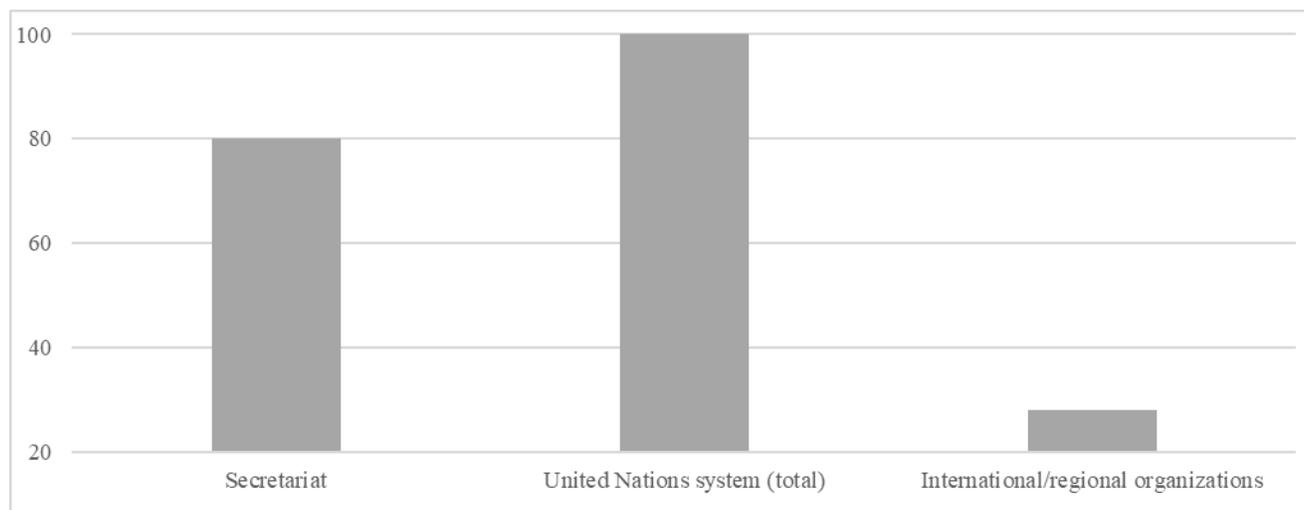


- 35.15 Partnerships are an integral part of the Development Account project planning and implementation. As illustrated in figure 35.II, all fourteenth tranche projects will be implemented in collaboration with other entities within the United Nations system, and more than three quarters of the projects will be implemented in collaboration with other Secretariat entities. The number of project

partnerships is likely to increase as projects are finalized following the General Assembly's consideration and approval of the present budget fascicle and the projects proposed therein.

Figure 35.II
Share of partnerships in Development Account projects^a

(Percentage)



^a One project can partner with multiple partners.

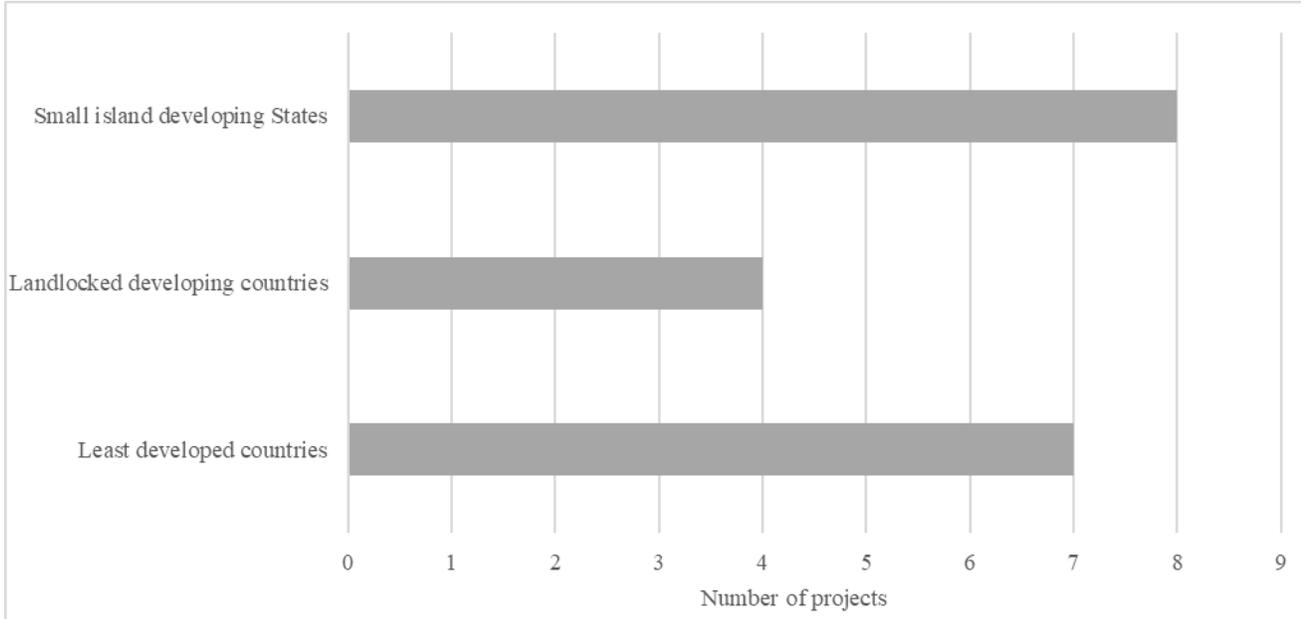
- 35.16 Collaboration with Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams is vital for country-level coordination arrangements and implementation of Development Account projects. Nearly two thirds (12) of the proposed projects indicate cooperation with Resident Coordinators and country teams. These arrangements with the Resident Coordinators and country teams will facilitate the finalization and implementation of the projects and ensure that they build on local needs and capacities of the United Nations system on the ground. They will also support the sustainability of project interventions after closure of the project. The number of partnerships with Resident Coordinators and country teams will go up once projects finalize their target countries, since all Development Account projects are expected to work with United Nations counterparts on the ground.
- 35.17 Moreover, four fourteenth tranche projects will be implemented jointly by several entities. The project “Resilient and agile national statistical systems to meet post-COVID-19 data needs to recover better” (project A) will be led by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs jointly with seven other entities, including ECA, ECE, ESCAP, ECLAC, ESCWA, the United Nations Development Programme and UNODC. The project “Food-water-energy nexus support for post-COVID-19 recovery in Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa” (project M) will be implemented jointly by ECE, ESCAP, ESCWA, ECA and UNEP. The project “Strengthening energy policies of countries with special needs to build back better from COVID-19” (project Q) will be implemented jointly by ESCAP and ECE, and the project “Blockchains for facilitating trade and enhancing competitiveness” (project U), which aims to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to use blockchains for trade facilitation, will be led by ESCWA and will be implemented jointly together with two additional implementing entities, ECE and UNCTAD, in collaboration with the other regional commissions.

Geographical scope of the projects

- 35.18 In the spirit of leaving no one behind, most projects include countries with special needs – least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States – among their beneficiary countries. Several projects focus solely on this group of countries (project Q) or a specific subsection of them (projects B D, F, G and I). Figure 35.III illustrates the number of projects

supporting countries with special needs. These numbers are likely to increase as the project implementing entities finalize target countries of their projects.

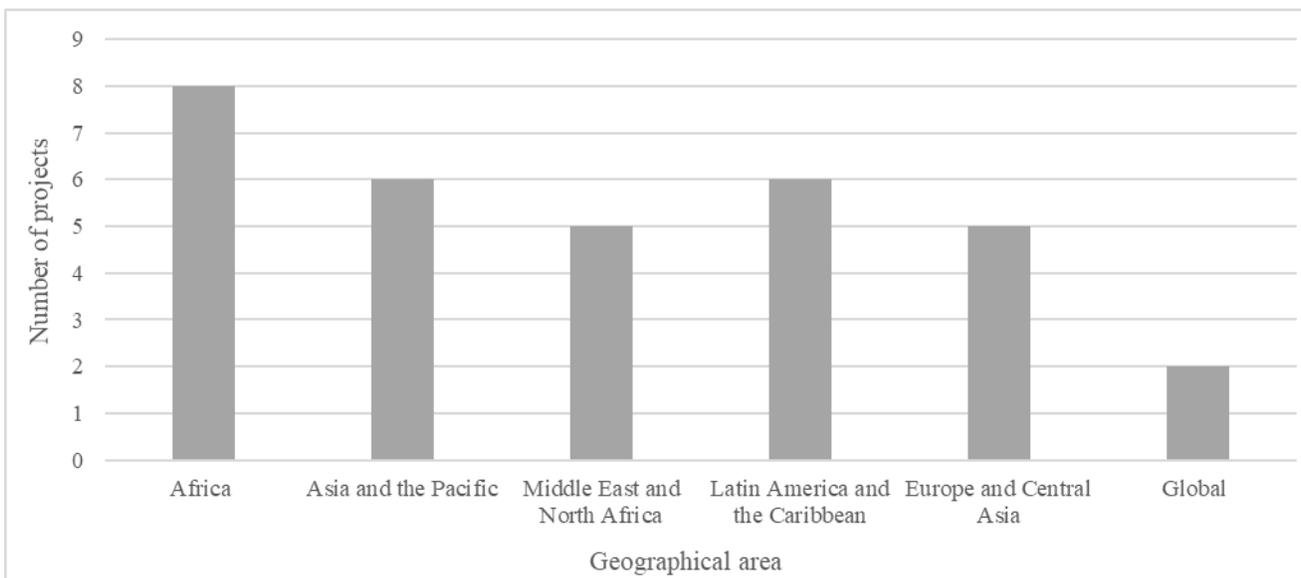
Figure 35.III
Projects supporting countries with special needs^a



^a The figures are tentative and based on 13 projects where information was available at the time of writing. Projects can have target countries from multiple groups.

35.19 The geographical spread of the proposed projects is illustrated in figure 35.IV. As with previous tranches, Africa continues to have the highest number of proposed projects.

Figure 35.IV
Number of projects by geographical area^a



^a One project can contribute to more than one region.

Evaluation activities

- 35.20 The evaluation framework and project evaluation guidelines, issued in October 2019, introduced a new approach to project evaluations. The new approach includes evaluating half of the tranche projects of each implementing entity and increasing the evaluation budget from 2 per cent to up to 4 per cent of the project budgets. The projects not selected for evaluation will continue to be subject to an internal performance review as part of the development of the final project report. This will allow for a more rigorous assessment of project-level results, while also ensuring sufficient coverage of project-level evaluations. The above-mentioned project evaluation guidelines have been promoted among Development Account implementing entities through the issuance of a supplementary guidance note in July 2020.
- 35.21 The new approach is being used for the evaluation of the eleventh tranche projects that are closing at the end of 2021. For the fourteenth tranche, half of the proposed projects, detailed in annexes I and II to the present budget fascicle, will be selected for evaluation with a budget of 4 per cent of the project budget. The projects to be evaluated will be selected on the basis of a new approach being developed in consultation with key stakeholders.
- 35.22 The Development Account evaluation focal points network, consisting of the evaluation units of the 10 implementing entities, held five virtual meetings in 2020 to exchange lessons learned and good practices, with an overall focus on leveraging human and financial resources in enhancing evaluation at programme and project level. Stocktaking on the implementation of the framework and guidelines has been conducted on an ongoing basis, resulting in refinements to the guidelines in the form of issuance of revised or new guidance on specific elements. The framework and guidelines will continue to be refined. Planned work for 2021 includes the development of guidance on the evaluation of projects that are jointly implemented by multiple entities.
- 35.23 Significant progress has also been made in the planning of two programme-level evaluations. The draft terms of reference for the evaluation of the tenth tranche Programme on Statistics and Data, implemented jointly by all 10 entities, are currently being finalized for approval by the Development Account Steering Committee. The approach and scope of and management structure for this evaluation have been developed on the basis of extensive consultations with the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, programme focal points and evaluation units of the participating entities. Consultations are also under way within the evaluation focal points network on the proposed approach and scope of the programme-level evaluation of the Development Account's response to the COVID-19 situation, which is planned to be initiated in the second half of 2022 and will build upon the evaluations of the five short-term joint COVID-19 projects that are scheduled to be completed in early 2022.
- 35.24 In order to strengthen evaluations, a provision has been made in the proposed budget for 2022 for a temporary Evaluation Officer (P-4) position in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to conduct the two programme-level evaluations of complex joint projects that are closing, including the COVID-19 projects, and distil lessons learned from the evaluations that feed into new programming cycles.

B. Proposed resource requirements for 2022

- 35.25 The overall resources proposed for 2022 for section 35 amount to \$15,199,400.
- 35.26 Table 35.1 presents the resource requirements related to the fourteenth tranche of projects proposed under section 35.

Table 35.1
Evolution of financial resources by component and main category of expenditure
 (Thousands of United States dollars)

Regular budget

| Component | 2020 expenditure | 2021 appropriation | Changes | | | Total | Percentage | 2022 estimate (before recosting) |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------|-------|------------|---|
| | | | Technical adjustments | New/ expanded mandates | Other | | | |
| Development Account | 14 199.4 | 15 199.4 | - | - | - | - | - | 15 199.4 |

- 35.27 A summary of resource requirements for the fourteenth tranche of projects by object of expenditure is presented in table 35.2.

Table 35.2
Summary of resource requirements by object of expenditure (before recosting)
 (Thousands of United States dollars)

| Object of expenditure | Amount |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Other staff costs | 840.3 |
| Consultants and experts | 6 005.4 |
| Travel of staff | 1 944.3 |
| Contractual services | 1 625.5 |
| General operating expenses | 639.8 |
| Furniture and equipment | 15.6 |
| Grants and contributions | 4 128.4 |
| Total | 15 199.4 |

- 35.28 The Development Account projects are designed to provide efficient and effective use of resources. The resource requirements are based on concept notes, which provide project descriptions and initial plans for project implementation. After the General Assembly’s review of the proposed budget by the end of 2021, the implementing entities will start to prepare project documents with more detailed analysis, outputs, timelines and budgets, and complete the identification of target countries. The projects will be adapted to the COVID-19 situation during their implementation, if needed.
- 35.29 The projects are implemented by staff members who have strong normative, analytical and capacity-building expertise. Other staff costs (general temporary assistance) represent an average of 5.5 per cent of the total budget and are used for short-term, interim needs to carry out the project’s activities, such as organizing workshops and data collection. Given that the implementing entities are mostly non-resident in the project target countries and all projects have country-level activities, staff travel costs are required for most projects, representing an average of 12.8 per cent of the total budget.
- 35.30 The projects typically utilize national consultants and experts to support project implementation at the national level as well as collating and exchanging national and regional best practices.

International experts are often required for projects involved in new subject areas, which require expertise that may not be available in-country or within the implementing entity.

- 35.31 Contractual services are used to engage national and local institutions or organizations to assist with the implementation of national components of the projects, including studies, local pilots, consultations and workshops. This also often includes elements of capacity development for the institutions and organizations themselves. Venue rentals, conference service costs and communication costs associated with workshops, training, seminars or expert group meetings typically fall under the general operating expenses category.
- 35.32 The costs of workshop participants (travel and allowances), including those participating in expert group meetings, are included under the grants and contributions category, and those costs represent, on average, a third of the project budgets. Projects typically use national workshops for training, coordination and consensus-building. Most projects also include a smaller number of regional workshops, which are typically used for South-South cooperation and sharing of lessons learned between the project target countries. Regional and interregional workshops are often used to share the findings with larger audiences and are often organized in connection with other intergovernmental meetings or events to reduce costs.

Annex I

List of projects proposed for funding from the Development Account for 2022

| <i>Code</i> | <i>Title</i> | <i>Implementing entities</i> | <i>Objective</i> | <i>Sustainable Development Goals and targets</i> | <i>Budget (United States dollars)</i> |
|-------------|---|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| A | Resilient and agile national statistical systems to meet post-COVID-19 data needs to recover better | DESA, jointly with ECA, ECE, ESCAP, ECLAC, ESCWA, UNDP and UNODC | To improve the resilience and agility of national statistical systems to meet post-COVID-19 data needs to recover better | 17.18, 17.19 | 3 000 000 |
| B | Smooth transition beyond graduation for least developed countries in Africa and Asia and the Pacific in a post-COVID-19 environment | DESA, in collaboration with UNCTAD, UN-OHRLLS, UNCDF, WTO, ITC, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, EIF, the OECD Development Centre, Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams | To enhance the national capacity of least developed countries to adjust their preparation for and transition smoothly beyond graduation in a post-COVID-19 environment | 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 7.b, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 10.2, 13.b, 15.1, 15.2, 17.2, 17.9 | 500 000 |
| C | Resilience of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in Africa and Asia | DESA, in collaboration with UNCTAD, UNIDO, ITC, ILO, ECA, ESCAP, Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams | To enhance the resilience of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in Africa and Asia to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.3, 4.4, 5.a, 5.b, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 10.3, 10.4, 17.9 | 500 000 |
| D | Mobilizing financial resources beyond COVID-19 for greener, more equal and sustainable development in selected small island developing States in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean | UNCTAD, in collaboration with ECA, ECLAC, DESA, Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams | To strengthen national capacities of selected small island developing States in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean to mobilize affordable financial resources for greener, more equal and sustainable development | 13.b, 17.4 | 700 000 |
| E | Sustainable smart ports for African countries, including small island developing States, to “recover better” from COVID-19 | UNCTAD, in collaboration with United Nations country teams and Resident Coordinators, as well as ECA, UNEP and IMO | To strengthen the capacities of selected countries in Africa, including small island developing States, in building sustainable smart ports that promote sustainable energy and technology-driven solutions for a better and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals | 8.4, 9.1, 9.4, 9.a, 13.2, 14.1 | 600 000 |
| F | TrainForTrade blended learning strategy to boost the digital economy in small island developing States of Africa, the Caribbean and Asia and the Pacific | UNCTAD, in collaboration with the Statistics Division of DESA and UNCITRAL, ESCAP, ECLAC, ECA and WTO | To strengthen the capacities of small island developing States in Africa, the Caribbean and Asia and the Pacific to adopt trade policies that foster digital economy development and enhance crisis responsiveness | 8.3, 8.a, 9.3, 9.a, 16.9, 17.6 | 600 000 |

| <i>Code</i> | <i>Title</i> | <i>Implementing entities</i> | <i>Objective</i> | <i>Sustainable Development Goals and targets</i> | <i>Budget (United States dollars)</i> |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| G | Nature-based solutions for enhanced resilience to COVID-19 and urban air pollution in the Western Balkans and Central Asia and Asia and the Pacific | UNEP, in collaboration with UN-Habitat, WHO, ECE, ESCAP, UNDP, Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams | To promote green and cost-effective policy solutions to urban air pollution of selected beneficiary cities in the Western Balkans and Central Asia and Asia and the Pacific and strengthen their capacities to implement policies and plans to improve resilience to the health, economic and environmental impacts of COVID-19 | 3.3, 3.9, 3.d, 7.1, 11.3, 11.6, 11.7, 12.4, 13.3, 15.9, 17.9 | 430 000 |
| H | Leveraging sustainable public procurement for COVID-19 recovery in the small island developing States of the Caribbean | UNEP, in collaboration with ILO and UNITAR | To mainstream sustainable public procurement criteria and practices in the Caribbean small island developing States as a tool for COVID-19 green recovery and sustainable development | 1.b, 5.1, 8.3, 8.4, 8.8, 12.7, 13.1 | 430 000 |
| I | Strengthened capacities of African, Caribbean and Pacific small island developing States for green, resilient and pro-poor pandemic recovery | UN-Habitat, in collaboration with UN-OHRLS, ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP and United Nations country teams | To accelerate green, resilient and pro-poor pandemic recovery towards sustainable urban development in African, Caribbean and Pacific small island developing States | 1.5, 8.3, 11.b, 13.1, 13.2 | 570 000 |
| J | Voluntary local reviews: evidence for greener, resilient and sustainable urban recovery in Eastern European and Central Asian countries in transition | UN-Habitat, in collaboration with DESA, ECA and ESCAP | To advance socioeconomic recovery and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in selected Eastern European and Central Asian countries in transition by harnessing the potential of voluntary local reviews for the design of local recovery plans | 5.1, 5.4, 5.5, 5.a, 5.c, 10.2, 10.3, 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 11.6, 11.7, 11.a, 11.b, 11.c, 16.3, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.8, 16.10, 16.a, 16.b, 17.1, 17.3, 17.6, 17.9, 17.14, 17.15, 17.16, 17.17, 17.18 | 570 000 |
| K | Gender-responsive land governance in Africa as a pathway for enhancing women's resilience in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic | ECA, in collaboration with Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams, UN-Women, UN-Habitat and ESCAP | To strengthen the capacities of policymakers in selected African Member States to design, adapt and implement gender-responsive land policies and legal frameworks | 1.4, 2.4, 5.a, 11.1, 11.3, 11.7, 15.1, 15.3 | 500 000 |
| L | Catalysing the post-pandemic resurgence of the tourism industry in East Africa | ECA, in collaboration with UNCTAD, Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams | To strengthen the resilience of the tourism industry in selected Member States in East Africa against the impact of COVID-19 | 8.9, 12.b, 14.7 | 500 000 |
| M | Food-water-energy nexus support to post-COVID-19 recovery in Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa | ECE, jointly with ESCAP, ESCWA, ECA, UNEP, the Institute for Water, Environment and Health and WHO | To support target countries in natural resource management using the food-water-energy nexus approach to advance the post-COVID-19 socioeconomic recovery | 2.1, 3.d, 6.1, 6.2, 7.1, 12.2, 12.3, 12.5, 12.8, 12.a | 700 000 |

| <i>Code</i> | <i>Title</i> | <i>Implementing entities</i> | <i>Objective</i> | <i>Sustainable Development Goals and targets</i> | <i>Budget (United States dollars)</i> |
|-------------|--|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| N | Enhanced capacities of selected countries in the Economic Commission for Europe region for pandemic-resilient and sustainable cross-border trade and transport | ECE, in collaboration with ESCAP, Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams | To strengthen and green supply chains and enhance their resilience and inclusivity, based on harmonization and digitization of trade and transport information flows in selected countries in the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia and other transition economies | 1.5, 2.4, 3.8, 5.b, 8.2, 8.a, 9.4, 15.7, 17.10, 17.11 | 430 000 |
| O | Resilient and inclusive public management systems for sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean | ECLAC, in collaboration with the resident coordinator system in selected countries | To enhance the capacity of selected developing countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to develop plans, policies and strategies for resilient and sustainable post-COVID-19 recovery at the national and subnational levels | 5.5, 11.3, 11.a, 16.6 | 500 000 |
| P | Building back better in tourism-dependent Caribbean economies post-COVID-19 | ECLAC, in collaboration with CTO, FAO, ILO and OECS | To strengthen national capacities in selected tourism-based Caribbean economies for resilient recovery in specific tourism-related sectors post-COVID-19 | 2.3, 2.c, 4.3, 4.5, 5.5, 5.b, 8.2, 8.3, 8.9, 9.3, 9.b, 13.2, 14.7, 14.b, 17.4, 17.14, 17.17 | 500 000 |
| Q | Strengthening energy policies of countries with special needs to build back better from COVID-19 | ESCAP, jointly with ECE and in collaboration with ECLAC, DESA and United Nations Resident Coordinator Offices | To strengthen capacities of policymakers in selected countries with special needs in Asia and the Pacific, Central Asia and the Caucasus to align policies relating to Sustainable Development Goal 7 with the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic | 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3 | 700 000 |
| R | Digital and transport connectivity for the socioeconomic resilience of rural communities post-COVID-19 in Asia-Pacific countries | ESCAP, in collaboration with ITU, UNESCO, Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams | To strengthen the capacity of selected countries with special needs in South and South-East Asia to develop policies and strategies for implementing innovative rural digital and transport connectivity | 1.4, 9.a, 9.c, 11.2, 11.a, 17.7, 17.8 | 500 000 |
| S | Sustainable debt financing strategies to enhance fiscal space and financing for the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region | ESCWA, in collaboration with UNCTAD and DESA | To improve the capacity of policymakers to better understand debt statistics, different types of debt instruments and their risks and linkages to debt sustainability in the medium and long term in order to formulate sustainable medium-to-long-term debt financing strategies to improve fiscal space and financing for the Sustainable Development Goals | 1.1, 1.5, 8 (all targets), 9.1, 9.2, 9.a, 16.6, 16.8 | 370 000 |

| Code | Title | Implementing entities | Objective | Sustainable Development Goals and targets | Budget (United States dollars) |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| T | Improved water security in Arab States | ESCWA, in collaboration with ECA, ECE and Resident Coordinators | To improve water security by strengthening the capacities of ESCWA member States for the sustainable management of groundwater resources, including through transboundary cooperation, in the context of climate change | 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 5.5, 6.1, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 14.1, 17.6, 17.9 | 370 000 |
| U | Blockchains for facilitating trade and enhancing competitiveness | ESCWA, in collaboration with ECA, ESCAP, ECE, ECLAC and UNCTAD | To strengthen the capacity of developing countries to use blockchain for trade facilitation | 1.4, 3.8, 5.c, 6.a, 7.2, 8.3, 9.4, 12.1, 13.3, 16.9, 17.6 | 663 000 |
| | Transport and trade connectivity in the age of pandemics (project 2023X) ^a | UNCTAD, jointly with ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA | To implement United Nations solutions, including standards, tools, methodologies and policy recommendations, with immediate effect and help Governments, including customs and other border agencies, port authorities and broader logistics industry stakeholders, and the business community worldwide, to keep transport and borders operational to facilitate the international flow of goods while containing the further spread of COVID-19 | 8.2, 8.3, 9.1, 17 | 783 400 |
| | Project evaluations ^b | | | | 284 000 |
| | Programme-level evaluation ^c | | | | 499 000 |
| Total | | | | | 15 199 400 |

Abbreviations: COVID-19, coronavirus disease; CTO, Caribbean Tourism Organization; DESA, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; ECA, Economic Commission for Africa; ECE, Economic Commission for Europe; ECLAC, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; EIF, European Investment Fund; ESCAP, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; ESCWA, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; ILO, International Labour Organization; IMO, International Maritime Organization; ITC, International Trade Centre; ITU, International Telecommunication Union; OECD, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; OECS, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States; UNCDF, United Nations Capital Development Fund; UNCITRAL, United Nations Commission on International Trade Law; UNCTAD, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; UNDP, United Nations Development Programme; UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme; UNESCO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; UN-Habitat, United Nations Human Settlements Programme; UNIDO, United Nations Industrial Development Organization; UNITAR, United Nations Institute for Training and Research; UNODC, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; UN-OHRLS, Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; UN-Women, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; WHO, World Health Organization; WTO, World Trade Organization.

^a See also the reference to the five short-term joint projects developed by the Development Account implementing entities and launched in response to the COVID-19 crisis in the foreword to the present budget fascicle.

^b See para. 35.23 above. These funds will be distributed to the fourteenth tranche projects selected for evaluation.

^c These funds will be used for programme-level evaluations and include funding for a temporary evaluation post.

Annex II

Projects proposed for funding from the Development Account for 2022

A. Resilient and agile national statistical systems to meet post-COVID-19 data needs to recover better

| | |
|--|--|
| The project will be implemented by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, jointly with ECA, ECE, ESCAP, ECLAC, ESCWA, UNDP and UNODC (\$3,000,000) | Relationship to the Sustainable Development Goals: targets 17.18 and 17.19 |
|--|--|

Objective

To improve the resilience and agility of national statistical systems to meet post-COVID-19 data needs to recover better.

Project plan (for 2022–2025)

At its seventy-fifth session, the General Assembly recognized that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic was one of the greatest global challenges in the history of the United Nations and noted with deep concern its impact on people, society and the economy. In its resolution [74/306](#), the Assembly endorsed a comprehensive and coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which called for the development of new interoperable data tools and the strengthening of platforms to inform mitigation and response actions and continuously monitor the impact of the pandemic, especially to assist people in vulnerable situations and the poorest and most vulnerable countries, to build a more equitable, inclusive, sustainable and resilient future. In the same resolution, the Assembly urged Member States to build resilient, inclusive and integrated data and statistical systems, under the leadership of national statistical offices, that can respond to the increased and urgent data demands in times of disaster and ensure a path towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The project will explicitly address the call made at the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly to leverage mechanisms and instruments for the achievement of the Goals, including statistics and data, to inform the COVID-19 response and recovery policy. It will also respond to the request addressed by national statistical offices in both surveys conducted by the World Bank and the Secretariat to consolidate the institutional and organizational frameworks supporting efficient and effective governance and coordination mechanisms of national statistical systems and enhance the technical capacity to continue operating effectively and take advantage of the fast-evolving data ecosystem and digital infrastructure. In terms of governance, coordination and implementation modalities, the proposed project will build on the successes and lessons learned from the Programme on Statistics and Data, carried out under the tenth tranche of the Development Account, including the findings of the final evaluation. The project will bring eight implementing entities together, capitalizing on their individual technical expertise and comparative advantages, with a common objective to help developing countries face the data challenges of the short- and longer-term development agenda, including the specific data needs to inform the COVID-19 response and recovery policy at the local, national, regional and global levels.

The project is expected to improve the resilience and flexibility of national statistical systems to collect, process and communicate data and statistics to inform the COVID-19 response and recovery policy at the local, national, regional and global levels. Thus, the project will address: (a) the institutional environment in which national statistical systems operate to leverage and extend existing programmes and actions for the measurement and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals to satisfy the data needs to inform the short- and longer-term COVID-19 response; (b) the use of new technologies and innovative data sources, such as big data and geospatial information, supported by nimble and resilient statistical production architecture and information technology infrastructure, while complying with the applicable quality standards; and (c) specific data gaps that will require conceptual and methodological development and leveraging the leadership of the implementing entities in specific sectoral and thematic areas.

The project aims to leverage other initiatives for strengthening statistical capacities to have a higher multiplier effect and to work in close partnership with the United Nations system, including the resident coordinator system, and other relevant multilateral and bilateral partners. The project will target national statistical systems and national geospatial agencies of least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries and operate at the interregional, regional and subregional levels, where relevant.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to improving the resilience and flexibility of national statistical systems to collect, process and communicate data and statistics to inform socioeconomic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic, which would be demonstrated by target countries confirming the usage of technology and data informing socioeconomic recovery and data-driven contingency plans in the eventuality of future shocks.

| <i>Deliverables (2022–2025 plan)</i> | | <i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i> | |
|--|-----|--|----------------|
| Quantified deliverables | | Other staff costs | 180.0 |
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge | | Consultants and experts | 480.0 |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 165 | Travel of staff | 510.0 |
| Technical materials (number of materials) | 24 | Contractual services | 250.0 |
| Non-quantified deliverables | | General operating expenses | 80.0 |
| C. Other substantive deliverables | | Grants and contributions | 1 500.0 |
| Consultation, advice and advocacy | | Total | 3 000.0 |

B. Smooth transition beyond graduation for least developed countries in Africa and Asia and the Pacific in a post-COVID-19 environment

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>The project will be implemented by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with UNCTAD, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, WTO, ITC, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, the European Investment Fund, the Development Centre of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams (\$500,000)</p> | <p>Relationship to the Sustainable Development Goals: targets 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 7.b, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 10.2, 13.b, 15.1, 15.2, 17.2 and 17.9</p> |
|---|--|

Objective

To enhance the national capacity of least developed countries to adjust their preparation for and transition smoothly beyond graduation in a post-COVID-19 environment.

Project plan (for 2022–2025)

Despite ongoing efforts, uncertainty remains as to how to mitigate the potential impacts of withdrawing least-developed-country-specific measures and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. This reality should be considered systematically to ensure a smooth transition from the least developed country category, as recommended by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/221. In this context, the project aims to provide capacity development support on preparation for graduation from the list of least developed countries and a smooth transition beyond graduation for countries that have been assessed as eligible for graduation for the first time and those close to meeting the graduation threshold, and for graduating and graduated countries to adjust their preparation for

graduation in the wake of COVID-19 and to build greater resilience for a smooth transition in a post-COVID-19 environment. The project will offer capacity development support through a suite of service lines in the form of the project’s seven outputs to the five recipient countries. Each country may select the service lines/outputs of priority to the country context and in synchronization with its own national and sectoral planning, budgeting, monitoring and reporting timelines and processes.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to strengthened national capacity of recipient countries to access and apply information on available least-developed-country-specific international support measures and new product requirements in export markets in increasing exports and their use of international support measures; and to integrate resilience-building and smooth transition strategies into national and sectoral plans and policies, which would be demonstrated by target countries exhibiting increased capacity to utilize least-developed-country-specific international support measures and integrate post-graduation support into the national sustainable development planning dialogue.

| <i>Deliverables (2022–2025 plan)</i> | <i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i> |
|---|--|
| Quantified deliverables | Consultants and experts 249.0 |
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge | Travel of staff 70.0 |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) 6 | Contractual services 6.0 |
| Technical materials (number of materials) 5 | General operating expenses 25.0 |
| Non-quantified deliverables | Grants and contributions 150.0 |
| C. Other substantive deliverables | Total 500.0 |
| Expert advice on: identification of key elements of a smooth transition strategy, integrating resilience-building post-COVID-19; integration of smooth transition strategies into national and sectoral plans; and production transformation policy reviews | |

C. Resilience of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in Africa and Asia

| | |
|---|---|
| The project will be implemented by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with UNCTAD, UNIDO, ITC, ILO, ECA, ESCAP, Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams (\$500,000) | Relationship to the Sustainable Development Goals: targets 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.3, 4.4, 5.a, 5.b, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 10.3, 10.4 and 17.9 |
|---|---|

Objective

To enhance the resilience of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in Africa and Asia to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Project plan (for 2022–2025)

The need for the provision of support to countries in developing appropriate strategies for the resilience of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises has been recognized by the General Assembly in its resolutions [74/307](#), entitled “United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19”, and [74/270](#) on global solidarity to fight coronavirus disease (COVID-19), including in its call for intensified international cooperation to contain, mitigate and defeat the pandemic and through the establishment of the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund, one of the five pillars of which includes support for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and informal sector workers through economic response and recovery programmes.

This project will work with selected countries in Africa and Asia to improve the resilience and continuity of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through the strengthening of policy frameworks for the formalization of such enterprises and the enhancement of relevant entrepreneurial skills. It will develop partnerships with policymakers, micro-, small and medium-sized enterprise organizations, international organizations and the United Nations system to improve the policy environment and make it more conducive to enhancing the resilience and contributions of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to sustainable development.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to enhance the capacities of policymakers and entrepreneurs of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in countries in Africa and Asia to improve the policy environment and enhance the resilience of such entrepreneurs to external risks, including the COVID-19 pandemic, which would be demonstrated by the improved capacity of policymakers to formulate and implement effective policies conducive to the resilience of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as by enhanced capacities of entrepreneurs of such enterprises to acquire new skills and productive capacities that enhance their resilience to external risks and shocks.

| <i>Deliverables (2022–2025 plan)</i> | | <i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i> | |
|--|----|--|--------------|
| Quantified deliverables | | Other staff costs | 84.0 |
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge | | Consultants and experts | 200.0 |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 48 | Travel of staff | 48.0 |
| Technical materials (number of materials) | 8 | Contractual services | 8.0 |
| Non-quantified deliverables | | General operating expenses | 30.0 |
| C. Other substantive deliverables | | Grants and contributions | 130.0 |
| Consultation, advice and advocacy | | Total | 500.0 |

D. Mobilizing external financial resources beyond COVID-19 for greener, more equal and sustainable development in selected small island developing States in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean

| | |
|---|--|
| The project will be implemented by UNCTAD, in collaboration with ECA and ECLAC, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams (\$700,000) | Relationship to the Sustainable Development Goals: targets 13.b and 17.4 |
|---|--|

Objective

To strengthen the national capacities of selected vulnerable small island developing States in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean to mobilize affordable external financial resources for greener, more equal and sustainable development.

Project plan (for 2022–2025)

The harmful impact of the COVID-19 crisis on progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals was recognized by the General Assembly in its resolution 74/270, in which the Assembly called upon the United Nations system to work with all relevant actors to mobilize a coordinated global response to the pandemic and its adverse social, economic and financial impact on all societies. The scale of the challenges faced is especially acute in small island developing States, which were already grappling with growing obstacles to achieve the Goals before the pandemic emerged. Amid sharp falls in tourism revenues and flows of remittances, small island developing States are likely to experience the most pronounced contraction in 2020, further exacerbating their vulnerability to economic and climatic shocks. This means that the COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced many of the unique

vulnerabilities of small island developing States that the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway addresses.

This project aims to strengthen the national capacities of selected vulnerable small island developing States in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean to mobilize affordable external financial resources for greener, more equal and sustainable development beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, simultaneously achieving climate priorities with external financial sustainability. The project will provide a sustainable development finance assessment for target countries, considering the funding gaps related to the climate-related Sustainable Development Goals, as well as supporting these countries in implementing innovative financial instruments. The project aims to improve the access of non-Commonwealth small island developing States to external technical assistance and enhance their financial management capacity.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to strengthen national capacities of the selected vulnerable, non-Commonwealth small island developing States in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean to mobilize affordable financial resources for greener and sustainable development, which would be demonstrated by the implementation of one priority action derived either from the national external financial strategy that reconciles the achievement of the country’s climate priorities with external financial sustainability or from the road map on the implementation of innovative financial instruments for achieving climate-related Sustainable Development Goals in two of four beneficiary countries.

| <i>Deliverables (2022–2025 plan)</i> | | <i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i> | |
|--|----|--|--------------|
| Quantified deliverables | | Other staff costs | 24.0 |
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge | | Consultants and experts | 306.0 |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 23 | Travel of staff | 205.6 |
| Technical materials (number of materials) | 26 | Contractual services | 70.3 |
| Non-quantified deliverables | | General operating expenses | 59.6 |
| C. Other substantive deliverables | | Grants and contributions | 34.5 |
| Consultation, advice and advocacy | | Total | 700.0 |
| Databases and substantive digital materials | | | |

E. Sustainable smart ports for African countries, including small island developing States, to “recover better” from COVID-19

| | |
|--|--|
| The project will be implemented by UNCTAD, in collaboration with United Nations country teams and Resident Coordinators, ECA, UNEP and IMO (\$600,000) | Relationship to the Sustainable Development Goals: targets 8.4, 9.1, 9.4, 9.a, 13.2 and 14.1 |
|--|--|

Objective

To strengthen the capacities of selected countries in Africa, including small island developing States, in building sustainable smart ports that promote sustainable energy and technology-driven solutions for a better and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Project plan (for 2022–2025)

The COVID-19 disruption has challenged the way that transport and port operations function. The post-pandemic reality requires new responses and ways of doing business to ensure the sector’s resilience and business continuity and allow shipping and ports to effectively service international trade and global value chains. Relevant response measures include the implementation of a global COVID-19 recovery plan that promotes environmentally conscious, green strategies and investments. This may include scaling up investment to promote clean energy and sustainable transport systems, boosting green projects and promoting the deployment of technology-based solutions. Together, these priorities can help unleash the potential of ports to emerge as sustainable smart ports, which in turn would help countries to build back better and meet the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the global climate action targets.

This project aims to raise awareness among ports and national authorities about the strategic importance of the sustainable smart port concept and principles and improve their understanding of its implications for their ability to continue to operate and compete on a level playing field. The aim is also to help them assess their potential and that of their ports to emerge as key players in the field of sustainable smart ports, identify needs and gaps and formulate a roadmap for the development and implementation of sustainable smart ports. Such a road map or action plan would articulate a set of measures and actions that will enable ports to improve their economic performance (through digitalized and efficient processes and operations), better manage their energy production (if applicable) and use and cut their carbon and air pollutant emissions. When acting as energy hubs that produce cleaner energy for port use within and outside the port, ports become strategic national and international partners in the energy and environmental sustainability quest.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to strengthen the capacities of selected countries in Africa, including small island developing States, in building sustainable smart ports that promote sustainable energy and technology-driven solutions for a better and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, which would be demonstrated by national road maps or action plans for sustainable smart ports developed with policymakers of each participating country in all three countries, and each country having discussed their implementation.

| <i>Deliverables (2022–2025 plan)</i> | <i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i> |
|---|--|
| Quantified deliverables | Other staff costs 30.0 |
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge | Consultants and experts 198.5 |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) 30 | Travel of staff 77.0 |
| Technical materials (number of materials) 7 | Contractual services 101.0 |
| Non-quantified deliverables | General operating expenses 96.0 |
| C. Other substantive deliverables | Grants and contributions 97.5 |
| Consultation, advice and advocacy | Total 600.0 |
| Databases and substantive digital materials | |

F. TrainForTrade blended learning strategy to boost the digital economy in small island developing States of Africa, the Caribbean and Asia and the Pacific

| | |
|--|--|
| The project will be implemented by UNCTAD, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNCITRAL, ESCAP, ECLAC, ECA and WTO (\$600,000) | Relationship to the Sustainable Development Goals: targets 8.3, 8.a, 9.3, 9.a, 16.9 and 17.6 |
|--|--|

Objective

To strengthen the capacities of small island developing States in Africa, the Caribbean and Asia and the Pacific to adopt trade policies that foster digital economy development and enhance crisis responsiveness.

Project plan (for 2022–2025)

Digital technologies and their application in international trade practices have the potential to greatly contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. However, countries are unequally integrated in the digital economy. The digital divide between underconnected and hyperdigitalized countries needs to be addressed to avoid exacerbating existing inequalities. Digital trade remains incipient in the small island developing States of Africa, the Caribbean and Asia and the Pacific, despite its role in fostering inclusive development and enhancing disaster prevention, recovery and resilience. In order to unlock their potential and leave no one behind, small island developing States need to enhance their capacities to draft and adopt evidence-based e-commerce policies that will build resilience, contribute to the development of sustainable economies and recover better from COVID-19 and its economic and social aftermath.

In this context, this project aims to strengthen the capacities of small island developing States on key aspects of the digital economy. The project will have three different components: legal aspects of e-commerce; digital economy statistics; and digital identity for trade development. During the first year, blended learning packages will be developed and adapted to the implementation context. Once the materials are developed, the three courses will be delivered online during the second year of the project. In order to capitalize on the knowledge acquired and exchanged during course deliveries, experts and selected course participants will take part in interactive online workshops. Case studies will then be selected and developed during the third year and will be compiled in a publication and launched online. The launching of the publication will also be an opportunity to involve broader audiences in project activities. Finally, policy recommendations will be elaborated on the basis of course deliveries, workshops and case studies. In the last year of the project, these recommendations will be presented during one high-level hybrid conference bringing together selected course participants and relevant stakeholders, including decision makers and policymakers representing all the participating countries.

Expected progress towards the attainment of objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to strengthening the capacities of small island developing States to adopt trade policies that foster digital economy development and enhance crisis responsiveness, which would be demonstrated by at least nine policy recommendations developed by e-workshop participants validated (three for each project component) and a minimum of two policy proposals for each project component drafted and discussed by national authorities. At the end of the project, it is expected that small island developing States will be better armed to tackle challenges related to their integration in the digital economy and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals while leaving no one behind.

| <i>Deliverables (2022–2025 plan)</i> | | <i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i> | |
|--|----|--|--------------|
| Quantified deliverables | | Consultants and experts | 306.5 |
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge | | Travel of staff | 66.0 |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 38 | Contractual services | 75.5 |
| Technical materials (number of materials) | 4 | General operating expenses | 30.0 |
| Non-quantified deliverables | | Furniture and equipment | 15.6 |
| C. Other substantive deliverables | | Grants and contributions | 106.4 |
| Consultation, advice and advocacy | | Total | 600.0 |
| Databases and substantive digital materials | | | |

G. Nature-based solutions for enhanced resilience to COVID-19 and urban air pollution in the Western Balkans and Central Asia and Asia and the Pacific

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>The project will be implemented by UNEP, in collaboration with UN-Habitat, WHO, ECE, ESCAP, UNDP, Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams (\$430,000)</p> | <p>Relationship to the Sustainable Development Goals: targets 3.3, 3.9, 3.d, 7.1, 11.3, 11.6, 11.7, 12.4, 13.3, 15.9 and 17.9</p> |
|---|---|

Objective

To promote green and cost-effective policy solutions to urban air pollution in selected beneficiary cities in the Western Balkans and Central Asia and Asia and the Pacific and strengthen their capacities to implement policies and plans to improve resilience to the health, economic and environmental impacts of COVID-19.

Project plan (for 2022–2025)

Air pollution is responsible for more than 7 million deaths annually, with 9 out of 10 people breathing air that exceeds WHO guideline limits. Low- and middle-income countries suffer from the highest exposure. Evidence is emerging from studies showing that air pollution may worsen the severity of COVID-19 symptoms, and particularly in regular flu seasons, put pressure on already overburdened public health systems.

Green fiscal stimulus and finance packages and building back better after COVID-19 offer opportunities to address air pollution in more sustainable, low-cost and low-impact ways. Nature-based solutions, combined with participatory and empowering approaches, can contribute to economic recovery and environmental improvements, while also building resilience to future pandemics and other impacts on human health and well-being. While monitoring and timely information on air quality is a basis for decision-making and citizen engagement into local solutions and improvements, improved capacities are urgently needed for the deployment and use of low-cost solutions that can be maintained easily. Nature-based solutions could be most effective across specific sectors. Improved capacities are also needed to effectively plan and design tailored approaches to nature-based solutions to mitigate urban air pollution and promote healthier urban living.

This project will promote an evidence-based and capacity-building approach at the national, municipal and community levels to improve capacities to design and implement tailored nature-based approaches to mitigate urban air pollution and promote healthier urban lifestyles through sustainable urban development planning. Where monitoring capacity is currently lacking or insufficient, the project will also build capacities for the development or the revision of existing air quality monitoring and management plans.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to strengthened capacities of beneficiary cities in the Western Balkans and Central Asia and Asia and the Pacific for the development and implementation of policies and plans promoting green and cost-effective policy solutions to urban air pollution and improving resilience to the health, social, economic and environmental impacts of COVID-19, which would be demonstrated by target countries and cities applying developed capacities for conducting assessments of air pollution and its impacts on human health, identifying through healthy urban living assessments priority nature-based solutions and their potential to promote healthier urban lifestyles, designing and improving air quality monitoring and management plans, providing actionable information to the public, deploying and testing low-cost air quality monitoring and sensor networks, and planning and designing approaches to nature-based solutions tailored to specific urban areas.

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| <i>Deliverables (2022–2025 plan)</i> | | <i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i> | |
|--|----|--|--------------|
| Quantified deliverables | | Consultants and experts | 189.0 |
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge | | Travel of staff | 27.0 |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 6 | Contractual services | 70.0 |
| Technical materials (number of materials) | 12 | General operating expenses | 15.0 |
| Non-quantified deliverables | | Grants and contributions | 129.0 |
| C. Other substantive deliverables | | Total | 430.0 |
| Consultation, advice and advocacy | | | |

H. Leveraging sustainable public procurement for COVID-19 recovery in the small island developing States of the Caribbean

| | |
|---|---|
| The project will be implemented by UNEP, in collaboration with ILO and UNITAR (\$430,000) | Relationship to the Sustainable Development Goals: targets 1.b, 5.1, 8.3, 8.4, 8.8, 12.7 and 13.1 |
|---|---|

Objective

To mainstream sustainable public procurement criteria and practices in the Caribbean small island developing States as a tool for COVID-19 green recovery and sustainable development.

Project plan (for 2022–2025)

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the fore the importance of robust, agile and well-coordinated public procurement systems. The acquisition of personal protective equipment, ventilators and COVID-19 testing has been every government’s frontline response to the global pandemic. To utilize the public procurement function as a strategic sustainable development and COVID-19 economic recovery tool, it is important that governments have solid sustainable public procurement frameworks in place.

The Caribbean small island developing States have been disproportionately affected by the recent economic fallout of the COVID-19 crisis, as well as the ongoing effects of climate change. With a virtual collapse of the region’s tourism sector and a steep drop in commodity prices, the economy of this region is forecasted to contract. While Caribbean small island developing States have begun to unveil their fiscal stimulus and recovery packages, with limited spending room in their budgets, public procurement, more than ever before, will need to deliver the best value for money.

This project will focus on the application of sustainable public procurement considerations and criteria to government purchasing in those economic sectors that can best contribute to green recovery. The project will support the development of sustainable public procurement legal frameworks, strategies and tools in key economic sectors, as well as enhancing the capacity and knowledge of sustainable public procurement in both the public sector (procurement practitioners) and the private sector (suppliers). In this manner, public institutions will reduce public expenditure as well as their environmental footprint and foster more sustainable social and economic development.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to the integration of sustainability considerations in public purchasing processes of Caribbean small island developing States in support of post-COVID-19 green recovery, which would be demonstrated by Governments of selected Caribbean small island developing States having adopted sustainable public procurement policies and strategies, as well as sustainable public procurement practices in key sectors, thereby changing the purchasing behaviour of Governments in selected Caribbean small island developing States.

| <i>Deliverables (2022–2025 plan)</i> | | <i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i> | |
|--|----|--|--------------|
| Quantified deliverables | | Other staff costs | 21.5 |
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge | | Consultants and experts | 251.0 |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 12 | Travel of staff | 30.0 |
| Technical materials (number of materials) | 15 | Contractual services | 30.0 |
| Non-quantified deliverables | | General operating expenses | 17.5 |
| C. Other substantive deliverables | | Grants and contributions | 80.0 |
| Consultation, advice and advocacy | | Total | 430.0 |

I. Strengthened capacities of African, Caribbean and Pacific small island developing States for green, resilient and pro-poor pandemic recovery

| | |
|--|--|
| The project will be implemented by UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP and United Nations country teams (\$570,000) | Relationship to the Sustainable Development Goals: targets 1.5, 8.3, 11.b, 13.1 and 13.2 |
|--|--|

Objective

To accelerate green, resilient and pro-poor pandemic recovery towards sustainable urban development in African, Caribbean and Pacific small island developing States.

Project plan (for 2022–2025)

While countries initially responded to the immediate emergency posed by the pandemic by delivering health and humanitarian support, it is quickly becoming imperative to prepare and initiate the next steps in line with the United Nations Framework for the Immediate Socioeconomic Response to COVID-19, which focuses on small island developing States as a special group of countries that must be reached for a seamless transition to the recovery stage. As the pandemic has progressed, the emphasis has further shifted towards a green, just and resilient recovery, in recognition of the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to transform economic, social and environmental systems towards sustainability and resilience.

The way the world has responded to the pandemic may help the response of small island developing States in dealing with the existential threat of climate change. Building long-term development strategies post-COVID-19 that are focused on low-carbon, climate-resilient development pathways brings multiple wins for society, economies and the environment. How such States recover from the pandemic will be key. Investing in green solutions can help to drive green urban economic recovery and facilitate the transition to carbon-neutral cities and human settlements in small island developing States.

In order to confront the triple global challenges of rising inequality, climate change and the COVID-19 health crisis and its multifaceted repercussions, this project aims to strengthen the capacity of African, Caribbean and Pacific small island developing States for a green, low-carbon, resilient and pro-poor recovery by providing opportunities for interregional and intraregional learning and exchange, including through the adaptation of existing tools and knowledge products of UN-Habitat, as well as the adaptation and testing of tools on local climate finance to advance innovative financing mechanisms for pro-poor climate action in urban upgrading.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to improving the capacities of selected small island developing States to promote green, resilient and pro-poor recovery, which will be demonstrated by the exchange of knowledge and

learning between regions with such States, climate action in informal settlements to drive green, pro-poor and resilient recovery, and innovative mechanisms for accessing climate financing.

| <i>Deliverables (2022–2025 plan)</i> | | <i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i> | |
|--|----|--|--------------|
| Quantified deliverables | | Other staff costs | 20.0 |
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge | | Consultants and experts | 250.0 |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 25 | Travel of staff | 40.0 |
| Technical materials (number of materials) | 3 | Contractual services | 10.0 |
| Non-quantified deliverables | | Grants and contributions | 250.0 |
| C. Other substantive deliverables | | Total | 570.0 |
| Consultation, advice and advocacy | | | |

J. Voluntary local reviews: evidence for greener, resilient and sustainable urban recovery in Eastern European and Central Asian countries in transition

| | |
|---|--|
| The project will be implemented by UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, ECE and ESCAP (\$570,000) | Relationship to the Sustainable Development Goals: targets 5.1, 5.4, 5.5, 5.a, 5.c, 10.2, 10.3, 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 11.6, 11.7, 11.a, 11.b, 11.c, 16.3, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.8, 16.a, 16.b, 17.1, 17.3, 17.6, 17.9, 17.14, 17.15, 17.16, 17.17 and 17.18 |
|---|--|

Objective

To advance socioeconomic recovery and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in selected Eastern European and Central Asian countries in transition by harnessing the potential of voluntary local reviews for the design of local recovery plans.

Project plan (for 2022–2025)

Responding to COVID-19 and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals have strong local dimensions and require increased localized actions. At the same time, cities cannot and do not work alone. As noted by the UN-Habitat report *Cities and Pandemics: Towards a More Just, Green and Healthy Future*, recovering from the pandemic and implementing the Goals imply the establishment of effective, transparent and inclusive multilevel governance processes. Moreover, in the policy brief entitled “Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the wake of COVID-19: scenarios for policymakers”, Member States and the international community are urged to invest in data to respond to the crisis and support acceleration of progress towards the Goals. This would in turn facilitate monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the impacts of recovery plans at all levels, while providing evidence for the formulation of sustainable development strategies, policies and initiatives.

Voluntary local reviews represent a unique tool to improve data environments, enhance multilevel governance and strengthen the Sustainable Development Goals-COVID-19 recovery link. Voluntary local reviews are a tool for local and regional governments to monitor and evaluate territorial development strategies and have the potential to provide evidence for the design of COVID-19 recovery plans both at the local and national levels.

The project proposes an integrated territorial approach to sustainable development rooted in the principle of leaving no one behind, multilevel governance and innovation. It aims to foster national recovery from the pandemic by harnessing the potential of voluntary local reviews as the basis for the design of local recovery plans inspired by the Sustainable Development Goals. Ultimately, the project’s aim is to consolidate a methodology for connecting localization of the Goals and COVID-19 recovery to ensure scaling up and replication within and across countries in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region and beyond.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to improve the capacities of selected pilot cities and countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia to mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals into local and national recovery plans, which would be demonstrated by the elaboration of voluntary local reviews and local recovery plans in each project pilot city. Moreover, the project is expected to substantially advance multilevel governance among public administrations through the strengthening or creation of multilevel coordination mechanisms.

| <i>Deliverables (2022–2025 plan)</i> | | <i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i> | |
|--|----|--|--------------|
| Quantified deliverables | | Consultants and experts | 437.5 |
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge | | Travel of staff | 37.5 |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 30 | Contractual services | 60.0 |
| Technical materials (number of materials) | 15 | General operating expenses | 11.0 |
| Non-quantified deliverables | | Grants and contributions | 24.0 |
| C. Other substantive deliverables | | Total | 570.0 |
| Consultation, advice and advocacy | | | |

K. Gender-responsive land governance in Africa as a pathway for enhancing women’s resilience in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

| | |
|--|---|
| The project will be implemented by ECA, in collaboration with Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams, UN-Women, UN-Habitat and ESCAP (\$500,000) | Relationship to the Sustainable Development Goals: targets 1.4, 2.4, 5.a, 11.1, 11.3, 11.7, 15.1 and 15.3 |
|--|---|

Objective

To strengthen the capacities of policymakers in selected African Member States to design, adapt and implement gender-responsive land policies and legal frameworks.

Project plan (for 2022–2025)

In recognition of the central role of effective land governance in achieving equitable and sustainable socioeconomic development, the African Union Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa commits Member States to review land policies and strengthen institutions, with a view to providing equitable access to land for all land users and to strengthen land tenure security of women. It also emphasizes the need for targeted measures for strengthening women’s land tenure security.

In line with global and regional commitments on women’s land tenure security, this project is expected to contribute to strengthening women’s land tenure security in selected beneficiary countries in Africa by enhancing the capacity of policymakers to create an enabling policy and legal environment for women’s land rights, thereby enhancing women’s resilience to shocks. Specifically, policymakers in the selected beneficiary countries will be capacitated to design or review and implement gender-responsive policy, legislative and institutional reforms. Interventions will employ a nuanced and integrated approach to account for the heterogeneity of women and enable women to benefit from opportunities provided through access to other complementary services, such as enhanced agricultural inputs and services.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to enhancing the capacity of policymakers in selected beneficiary countries in Africa to identify and address policy and legal barriers to women’s land tenure security, which would be demonstrated by the adoption of the recommended revisions to ensure gender-responsive land policy and legal reform. Ultimately, the project is intended to assist beneficiary countries to enhance women’s empowerment,

resilience and recovery by redressing pre-existing inequalities and exclusion around land in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Framework for the Immediate Socioeconomic Response to COVID-19.

| <i>Deliverables (2022–2025 plan)</i> | <i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i> |
|---|--|
| Quantified deliverables | Other staff costs 43.0 |
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge | Consultants and experts 156.0 |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) 24 | Travel of staff 62.0 |
| Technical materials (number of materials) 15 | General operating expenses 26.0 |
| Non-quantified deliverables | Grants and contributions 213.0 |
| C. Other substantive deliverables | Total 500.0 |
| Consultation, advice and advocacy | |
| Databases and substantive digital materials | |

L. Catalysing the post-pandemic resurgence of the tourism industry in East Africa

| | |
|--|---|
| The project will be implemented by ECA, in collaboration with UNCTAD, Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams (\$500,000) | Relationship to the Sustainable Development Goals: targets 8.9, 12.b and 14.7 |
|--|---|

Objective

To strengthen the resilience of the tourism industry in selected Member States in East Africa against the impact of COVID-19.

Project plan (for 2022–2025)

The tourism sector has been the worst affected of all sectors in East Africa, and the socioeconomic effects on employment, contribution to gross domestic product and revenues continue to worsen. International tourist numbers are projected to decline by between 60 80 per cent. At the second meeting of African finance ministers meeting held in March 2020, urgent emergency financing of \$100 billion to combat the impacts of COVID-19 was called for and the protection and preservation of tourism and related sectors, such as aviation, was advocated. At the launch of the policy brief entitled “COVID-19 and transforming tourism”, the Secretary-General highlighted the fact that, as one of the most important economic sectors, the industry was among those that had been the most severely affected, and that there was urgent need to intervene in developing countries. In East Africa, the sector further faces a range of challenges, including lack of a common approach to implement international and regional treaties, inadequate research and development, lack of good quality data and underdeveloped e-commerce frameworks. The proposed project will have three components, on research, technical assistance and policy development, to enhance the potential of the tourism sector in East Africa, with a view to making it more resilient to shocks and capable of promoting economic growth, diversification and sustainable development, as demonstrated by diversification from a narrow range of tourism products and reduced dependence on international tourist arrivals in favour of the domestic and regional markets; and improved research and development potential, backed by contemporary tools, to collect good quality tourism data, which are critical to informing policy on the contribution of the industry to social and economic development and understanding the impact of external factors to inform appropriate mitigation and recovery strategies in the light of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Expected progress towards the attainment of objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to the enhanced resilience of African Member States against external shocks, which would be demonstrated by policy uptake within the target countries, as follows: the establishment of a tourism statistics committee comprising key stakeholders, including national bureaux of statistics, central banks, revenue

authorities, academia and tourism stakeholders in the private and public sectors; the design and piloting of standardized tourism data collection instruments; the construction of tourism satellite accounts; and the development of regional consensus and positions on tourism within the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

| <i>Deliverables (2022–2025 plan)</i> | | <i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i> | |
|--|----|--|--------------|
| Quantified deliverables | | Other staff costs | 20.0 |
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge | | Consultants and experts | 238.0 |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 66 | Travel of staff | 42.0 |
| Technical materials (number of materials) | 9 | Contractual services | 74.0 |
| Non-quantified deliverables | | General operating expenses | 20.0 |
| C. Other substantive deliverables | | Grants and contributions | 106.0 |
| Consultation, advice and advocacy | | Total | 500.0 |

M. Food-water-energy nexus support to post-COVID-19 recovery in Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa

| | |
|---|---|
| The project will be implemented by ECE, jointly with ESCAP, ESCWA, ECA, UNEP, the Institute for Water, Environment and Health and WHO (\$700,000) | Relationship to the Sustainable Development Goals: targets 2.1, 3.d, 6.1, 6.2, 7.1, 12.2, 12.3, 12.5, 12.8 and 12.a |
|---|---|

Objective

To support target countries in natural resource management using the food-water-energy nexus approach to advance the post-COVID-19 socioeconomic recovery.

Project plan (for 2022–2025)

Traditional silos often hamper integrated and effective action on natural resources management and the provision of essential services. This makes it challenging to achieve the aspiration of the Sustainable Development Goals of ending hunger, reducing poverty and inequalities, ensuring access to energy, health care, clean water, sanitation and hygiene and promoting circularity. An integrated and unified approach under a food-water-energy nexus approach will strengthen the management of natural resources and their supply chains and enhance resilience to prepare for and prevent possible future shocks, including the spread of infectious diseases.

The project will focus on implementing the food-water-energy nexus approach to facilitate the delivery of integrated solutions for sustainable socioeconomic recovery and improved disaster preparedness post-COVID-19. The breaking of silos will allow technologies and synergies to flow across multiple socioeconomic sectors holistically. The project foresees the development of a unified framework by strengthening best practices in natural resource management, the establishment of sustainable, smart and faster-reacting and more direct supply chains, and the discovery of early opportunities.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to improving the capacities of selected countries in Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa to ensure the more sustainable use and management of natural resources with a food-water-energy nexus approach, which would be demonstrated by the project beneficiary countries implementing actions such as using a smart food loss and food management and distribution system, guidelines on the appropriate use of online marketing platforms to enhance the marketing of agricultural products and the United Nations methodology to assess the equity of access to water and sanitation in the context of COVID-19 or water-related epidemics, and implementing measures to increase the resilience of critical raw material supply chains.

Deliverables (2022–2025 plan)

Quantified deliverables

B. Generation and transfer of knowledge

| | |
|--|----|
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 42 |
| Technical materials (number of materials) | 5 |

Non-quantified deliverables

C. Other substantive deliverables

| |
|---|
| Consultation, advice and advocacy |
| Databases and substantive digital materials |

Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Consultants and experts | 95.0 |
| Travel of staff | 112.0 |
| Contractual services | 210.0 |
| General operating expenses | 55.0 |
| Grants and contributions | 228.0 |
| Total | 700.0 |

N. Enhanced capacities of selected countries in the Economic Commission for Europe region for pandemic-resilient and sustainable cross-border trade and transport

| | |
|---|---|
| The project will be implemented by ECE, in collaboration with ESCAP, Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams (\$430,000) | Relationship to the Sustainable Development Goals: targets 1.5, 2.4, 3.8, 5.b, 8.2, 8.a, 9.4, 15.7, 17.10 and 17.11 |
|---|---|

Objective

To strengthen and green supply chains and enhance their resilience and inclusivity, based on harmonization and digitization of trade and transport information flows in selected countries in the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia and other transition economies.

Project plan (for 2022–2025)

The expected decrease of gross domestic product owing to the negative impact of COVID-19 on the economy and trade in Western and Eastern Europe and in Central Asia and the Caucasus necessitates that the economy, trade, logistics and connectivity be built back better, through innovative ways of conducting trade and transport that support the resilience of supply chains. In its resolution 74/270, adopted on 2 April 2020, the General Assembly recognized the unprecedented effects of the pandemic, including the severe disruption to societies and economies, as well as to global travel and commerce, reaffirmed its commitment to international cooperation and multilateralism and its strong support for the central role of the United Nations system in the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and called for intensified international cooperation to contain, mitigate and defeat the pandemic, including by exchanging information, scientific knowledge and best practices.

The project will focus on building back better after the pandemic by raising awareness and enhancing the capacity of Governments in target countries to formulate and implement policies to harmonize standards and solutions for the digitalization of supply chains, trade and transport operations. This will be achieved by using United Nations standards and tools, increasing the efficiency of multimodal digital corridors and operations, while lowering the risks of infection with the virus. The project will provide technical assistance for the roll-out of a package of standards and standardized electronic document equivalents of key documents accompanying goods transported by sea, road, railway, air and inland water transport modes in selected economies in transition.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to improving the capacities of selected economies in transition to formulate policies and implement a set of aligned standards for the digitalization of trade and transport information exchange, in order to strengthen the resilience of supply chains, thus contributing to the resilience of the regional and global economy and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which would be demonstrated by target countries implementing at least one of the following three actions: drafting a national or regional strategy integrating international standards for digitalizing data and document exchange along digital multimodal transport corridors;

implementing at least one electronic document equivalent, aligned with the international standards; or implementing the package or part of the package of standards for digital multimodal data and document exchange.

| <i>Deliverables (2022–2025 plan)</i> | | <i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i> | |
|--|----|--|--------------|
| Quantified deliverables | | Other staff costs | 31.0 |
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge | | Consultants and experts | 181.0 |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 11 | Travel of staff | 66.3 |
| Technical materials (number of materials) | 6 | Contractual services | 32.7 |
| Non-quantified deliverables | | General operating expenses | 8.0 |
| C. Other substantive deliverables | | Grants and contributions | 111.0 |
| Consultation, advice and advocacy | | Total | 430.0 |
| Databases and substantive digital materials | | | |

O. Resilient and inclusive public management systems for sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean

| | |
|---|---|
| The project will be implemented by ECLAC, in collaboration with the resident coordinator system in selected countries (\$500,000) | Relationship to the Sustainable Development Goals: targets 5.5, 11.3, 11.a and 16.6 |
|---|---|

Objective

To enhance the capacity of selected developing countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to develop plans, policies and strategies for resilient and sustainable post-COVID-19 recovery at the national and subnational levels.

Project plan (for 2022–2025)

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on Latin America and the world have shown weaknesses not only in the responsiveness of health systems, but also of the entire public apparatus to anticipate and respond comprehensively to social needs and deliver public goods and services with sufficient flexibility, immediacy, effectiveness, relevance, openness and transparency that the emergency has required.

In subprogramme 9 of the programme of work of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning for 2020, the general objective of the Institute was to assist Member States to strengthen public management systems to become more resilient to prepare for future unforeseen events and link short-term emergency responses to long-term plans and policies.

Through this project, ECLAC will seek to strengthen government capacities of selected countries in Latin America and the Caribbean by way of three interconnected modalities of assistance: technical cooperation services on the whole cycle of public management; training, particularly blended learning on foresight planning, territorial planning with a gender equality approach, open government and management by results; and applied research to systematize case studies and discuss results during seminars and meetings of experts.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to supporting the efforts of selected beneficiary countries in Latin America and the Caribbean in building resilient institutions and approaches to anticipate, prepare for, respond to and adapt to the challenges of post-pandemic recovery and potential future crises, as well as to supporting beneficiary countries to link emergency responses to planned medium- and long-term recovery measures, which would be demonstrated by at least two countries mainstreaming prospective methodologies in their planning and policymaking; two additional open government plans at the local level supported by the project; two countries providing public services electronically using interoperable portals; and one country articulating planning and budgeting at the

national or local level and at least 100 civil servants trained in new tools and methodologies for participatory planning and public management.

Deliverables (2022–2025 plan)

Quantified deliverables

B. Generation and transfer of knowledge

| | |
|--|----|
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 69 |
| Technical materials (number of materials) | 25 |

Non-quantified deliverables

C. Other substantive deliverables

| |
|---|
| Consultation, advice and advocacy |
| Databases and substantive digital materials |

Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Other staff costs | 32.8 |
| Consultants and experts | 202.5 |
| Travel of staff | 94.0 |
| Contractual services | 28.0 |
| General operating expenses | 9.4 |
| Grants and contributions | 133.3 |
| Total | 500.0 |

P. Building back better in tourism-dependent Caribbean economies post-COVID-19

| | |
|---|---|
| The project will be implemented by ECLAC, in collaboration with the Caribbean Tourism Organization, FAO, ILO and OECS (\$500,000) | Relationship to the Sustainable Development Goals: targets 2.3, 2.c, 4.3, 4.5, 5.5, 5.b, 8.2, 8.3, 8.9, 9.3, 9.b, 13.2, 14.7, 14.b, 17.4, 17.14 and 17.17 |
|---|---|

Objective

To strengthen national capacities in selected Caribbean tourism-based economies for resilient recovery in specific tourism-related sectors post-COVID-19.

Project plan (for 2022–2025)

Small island developing States face challenges in achieving full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. Vulnerability to environmental and external economic and financial shocks, including the increasing frequency and ferocity of natural disasters, compounded most recently by the cross-sectoral impact of COVID-19, has served to exacerbate an already heavy burden of indebtedness in tourism-dependent Caribbean economies.

This project is aligned with the Secretary-General’s call to action to respond to the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19. It aims to identify the major impacts of the pandemic on the tourism sector in tourism-based economies of the Caribbean. Based on these findings, it will support the development of practical strategies and concrete proposals to aid countries in their efforts to rebuild specific socioeconomic sectors in a competitive and sustainable manner post-pandemic, including through financial investment, capacity-building and institutional strengthening. This will not only provide a basis for improved welfare for all citizens but will put the countries on a sounder footing to face future shocks.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to strengthening national capacities in selected Caribbean tourism-based economies to facilitate resilient recovery in specific sectors post-COVID-19, which would be demonstrated by implementation of at least one of the following actions: at least two beneficiary countries developing proposals for investing in new or existing niches and segments to diversify and resuscitate the selected sectors; and at least 75 per cent of policymakers and other stakeholders acknowledging having an increased understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on the sectors and the necessary requirements to rebuild them.

Part XIII Development Account

Deliverables (2022–2025 plan)

Quantified deliverables

B. Generation and transfer of knowledge

Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) 38
 Technical materials (number of materials) 12

Non-quantified deliverables

C. Other substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy

Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Consultants and experts | 181.1 |
| Travel of staff | 179.0 |
| Contractual services | 39.0 |
| General operating expenses | 8.0 |
| Grants and contributions | 92.9 |
| Total | 500.0 |

Q. Strengthening energy policies of countries with special needs to build back better from COVID-19

| | |
|--|--|
| The project will be implemented by ESCAP, jointly with ECE, ECLAC, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and United Nations Resident Coordinator Offices (\$700,000) | Relationship to the Sustainable Development Goals: targets 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3. |
|--|--|

Objective

To strengthen capacities of policymakers in selected countries with special needs in the Asia and the Pacific, Central Asia and the Caucasus, to align policies relating to Sustainable Development Goal 7 with the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Project plan (for 2022–2025)

This project aims to improve the capacity of policymakers by supporting them to develop road maps for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7 that enable the delivery of both the sustainable energy transition and the economic recovery from COVID-19. It will do so by engaging stakeholders at the national level through consultation workshops in each participating country. The workshops will be used to explain the national expert Sustainable Development Goal tool for energy planning methodology and to identify the relevant national context and strategies relating to the targets of Goal 7, nationally determined contributions and COVID-19 recovery.

Planners and policymakers will be trained in the use of the above-mentioned tool and will be supported in its implementation to incorporate the country’s broader goals and green economic recovery strategy. Applying this tool, planners and policymakers will have the capacity to produce a national road map to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (Goal 7) for each project beneficiary country, highlighting the key findings and recommendations arising from the work. The project will identify mechanisms for attracting private investment for implementing the priorities identified in the road map, and will initiate engagement between Governments and the private sector for this purpose. In three beneficiary countries, the project will support the deepening of these relationships with a programme of work, including activities such as the facilitation of start-up accelerators, demo days and investment pitches.

Outcomes of the project will be carried forward by national policymakers and stakeholders alike, feeding into national energy policy and economic development policy and supporting the ongoing energy transition. Lessons learned will be disseminated globally through the convening of an interregional seminar, allowing project participants to share their experiences and to explore opportunities and synergies with related international efforts.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to providing insights to policymakers to enable the creation of best practices with regard to policies for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7 and national COVID-19 recovery goals, which would be demonstrated by the relevant policy options for the achievement of Goal 7 being identified, the costs and benefits of their implementation being quantified and the results being used to determine a suitable

set of policy recommendations, with the overall analysis and results being presented in the form of a national road map for Goal 7 for each of the eight participating countries.

| <i>Deliverables (2022–2025 plan)</i> | <i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i> |
|---|--|
| Quantified deliverables | Consultants and experts 288.0 |
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge | Travel of staff 136.0 |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) 14.5 | Contractual services 151.0 |
| Technical materials (number of materials) 8 | General operating expenses 35.0 |
| Non-quantified deliverables | Grants and contributions 90.0 |
| C. Other substantive deliverables | Total 700.0 |
| Consultation, advice and advocacy | |
| Databases and substantive digital materials | |

R. Digital and transport connectivity for the socioeconomic resilience of rural communities post-COVID-19 in Asia-Pacific countries

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>The project will be implemented by ESCAP, in collaboration with ITU, UNESCO, Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams (\$500,000)</p> | <p>Relationship to the Sustainable Development Goals: targets 1.4, 9.a, 9.c, 11.2, 11.a, 17.7 and 17.8</p> |
|--|--|

Objective

To strengthen the capacity of selected countries with special needs in South and South-East Asia to develop policies and strategies for implementing innovative rural digital and transport connectivity.

Project plan (for 2022–2025)

Rural communities in South and South-East Asia have less access to adequate sanitation, health services, education, information and communications technology, social protection, transport and public utilities, compared with rural communities in other subregions in Asia and the Pacific. This lack of accessibility hampers the ability of rural regions to respond to the pandemic. While the pandemic is increasing the vulnerability of populations to the devastating effects of isolation, it is also exacerbating income inequalities and inequality of opportunities, resulting in a disproportionate risk that rural communities bear.

This project will strengthen the capacity of selected countries with special needs in South and South-East Asia to develop economically feasible strategies for implementing innovative rural connectivity (digital and transport) policies. As a result, the project is expected to strengthen the socioeconomic resilience of rural communities through enhanced and affordable digital and transport connectivity in three South and South-East Asian pilot countries.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to improving the capacities of target countries in South and South-East Asia with the development of economically feasible strategies for implementing innovative policies on strengthening rural connectivity and allowing target countries to advance progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, which would be demonstrated by the implementation of at least one of the following: economically feasible strategies for the implementation of innovative rural connectivity (digital and transport) policies; and national or regional partnerships on innovative rural connectivity (digital and transport) policies.

Deliverables (2022–2025 plan)

Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)

| Quantified deliverables | | | |
|--|----|----------------------------|--------------|
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge | | | |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 23 | Consultants and experts | 201.0 |
| Technical materials (number of materials) | 12 | Travel of staff | 43.8 |
| | | Contractual services | 78.0 |
| | | General operating expenses | 36.9 |
| Non-quantified deliverables | | Grants and contributions | 140.3 |
| C. Other substantive deliverables | | | |
| Consultation, advice and advocacy | | Total | 500.0 |

S. Sustainable debt financing strategies to enhance fiscal spaces and financing for the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region

| | |
|--|--|
| The project will be implemented by ESCWA, in collaboration with UNCTAD and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (\$370,000) | Relationship to the Sustainable Development Goals: targets 1.1 and 1.5, Goal 8 (all targets), and targets 9.1, 9.2, 9.a, 16.6 and 16.8 |
|--|--|

Objective

To improve the capacity of policymakers to better understand debt statistics, different types of debt instruments and their risks and linkages to debt sustainability in the medium and long term in order to formulate sustainable medium-to-long-term debt financing strategies to improve fiscal space and financing for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Project plan (for 2022–2025)

In recent years, the Arab region has experienced an increasing share of debt and debt service relative to output, which limits fiscal space for development expenditure and financing for the Sustainable Development Goals. The adverse economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have further rapidly decreased public revenues and liquidity for Governments, leading them to borrow more from external finance, thereby accentuating fiscal risks and increasing debt burdens. Unfortunately, decisions leading to debt finance have often not been well strategized with regard to the choice of debt instruments and terms and conditions that can affect contingency obligations and debt sustainability in the future. Highly indebted middle-income countries and the least developed countries are often at the receiving end of negotiations and, without adequate tools to inform their decisions, they continue to face greater risks of debt service that may not be sustainable in parallel with their financing needs for the achievement of the Goals.

This project will support Member States in the Arab region in improving their capacity to implement more efficient debt management practices, including improving debt transparency and reporting, classification and calculation methods, types of debt instruments, mechanisms of debt relief and reduction, including debt restructuring and debt swap, risk analysis of contingencies and debt sustainability in the medium and long term.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to the improved capacity of policymakers to better understand debt statistics, as well as debt instruments and their risks and linkages to debt sustainability in the medium and long term, which can inform their decisions to establish medium-to-long-term strategies on debt finance towards improving fiscal space and financing for the Sustainable Development Goals, which would be demonstrated by a sample of countries participating in the project enhancing debt management strategies with the use of the tools developed during the course of the project.

Deliverables (2022–2025 plan)

Quantified deliverables

B. Generation and transfer of knowledge

| | |
|--|----|
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 14 |
| Technical materials (number of materials) | 6 |

Non-quantified deliverables

C. Other substantive deliverables

| |
|---|
| Consultation, advice and advocacy |
| Databases and substantive digital materials |

Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Consultants and experts | 134.0 |
| Travel of staff | 24.0 |
| Contractual services | 86.0 |
| Grants and contributions | 126.0 |
| Total | 370.0 |

T. Improved water security in Arab States

| | |
|--|---|
| The project will be implemented by ESCWA, in collaboration with ECA, ECE and Resident Coordinators (\$370,000) | Relationship to the Sustainable Development Goals: targets 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 5.5, 6.1, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 14.1, 17.6 and 17.9 |
|--|---|

Objective

To improve water security by strengthening the capacities of ESCWA member States for the sustainable management of groundwater resources, including through transboundary cooperation in the context of climate change.

Project plan (for 2022–2025)

ESCWA member States rely on groundwater for half of their freshwater needs. This reliance on groundwater is increasing as surface waters become more scarce, polluted and costly to capture in the face of climate change impacts and increasing demand. Fifty-eight per cent of the ESCWA region is part of a transboundary groundwater basin that is facing deteriorating water quality and overextraction, where management is complicated by insufficient data and limited cooperation. New approaches to cooperation and the use of geospatial information with frontier technologies can augment existing knowledge resources to enhance the management of water resources, specifically groundwater resources, under changing climate conditions to improve water security in Arab States.

This project will build on established experience and knowledge products on transboundary water cooperation, climate change and integrated water resources management to assist ESCWA member States to achieve water security and the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 6. It will draw upon innovations in water technologies that can be used for monitoring, managing and reporting on scarce water resources, geospatial analysis and remote sensing tools and the development of interactive and accessible digital knowledge resources that can facilitate transboundary dialogue, increase capacity to cope with climate change impacts on water availability and improve water security in Arab States.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to strengthening national capacities of ESCWA member States for the sustainable management of groundwater resources at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation in the context of climate change, to support the achievement of water security for all and the implementation of the water-related goals of the 2030 Agenda, which would be demonstrated by target countries implementing the following three actions: an assessment of the benefits of transboundary cooperation for at least one shared water resource; assessments of climate change impacts on groundwater resources in at least three countries; and use of at least one frontier technology for the management of groundwater resources by three member States.

Deliverables (2022–2025 plan)

Quantified deliverables

B. Generation and transfer of knowledge

| | |
|--|---|
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 4 |
| Technical materials (number of materials) | 5 |

Non-quantified deliverables

C. Other substantive deliverables

| |
|---|
| Consultation, advice and advocacy |
| Databases and substantive digital materials |

Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Other staff costs | 25.0 |
| Consultants and experts | 100.0 |
| Travel of staff | 21.0 |
| Contractual services | 120.0 |
| General operating expenses | 2.0 |
| Grants and contributions | 102.0 |
| Total | 370.0 |

U. Blockchains for facilitating trade and enhancing competitiveness

| | |
|---|---|
| The project will be implemented by ESCWA, in collaboration with ECA, ESCAP, ECE, ECLAC and UNCTAD (\$663,000) | Relationship to the Sustainable Development Goals: targets 1.4, 3.8, 5.c, 6.a, 7.2, 8.3, 9.4, 12.1, 13.3, 16.9 and 17.6 |
|---|---|

Objective

To strengthen the capacity of developing countries to use blockchain for trade facilitation.

Project plan (for 2022–2025)

Trade costs are a major issue in international trade: they determine competitiveness, which is fundamental to participating in international trade activities. With various developments around international trade rules resulting from successive trade agreement negotiations at the global, regional and bilateral levels, tariffs for international trade have fallen to historically low levels, leaving non-tariff measures, such as logistics and customs procedures, as the main stumbling blocks to international trade. The rise of the COVID-19 pandemic in a deeply interconnected global economy has led to several disruptions across global supply chains, trade and travel across borders. Blockchain technology presents an opportunity to further enhance efforts at trade digitalization and support in mitigating the socioeconomic impacts of the crisis.

Blockchain enables automated, secure and efficient information-sharing to ensure the efficient implementation of mutual recognition arrangements or agreements. It enables participants to digitally connect, share information and collaborate across the shipping supply chain ecosystem. Governments and regional and international organizations can play a key role in building the necessary ecosystem for engaging all stakeholders, addressing actual or perceived risks and ensuring that blockchain can effectively support sustainable and inclusive development.

The project will provide a foundation for countries to effectively adopt and deploy blockchain technology, including by developing the necessary supporting common standards on security, privacy and governance; developing data models for certificates, credentials and distributed identity management; setting up the right infrastructure; designing tailored policies and regulations; and supporting investment in the education of entrepreneurs, civil servants and the general public to foster more widespread use of blockchain by different actors.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to strengthening national innovation and technological capacities related to the use of blockchain technology in customs and trade operations in selected developing countries and to boost trade and enhance competitiveness in support of sustainable development, which would be demonstrated by the government officials of developing countries showing increased understanding concerning legal and regulatory requirements for using blockchain in trade facilitation and understanding how to implement blockchain successfully for trade facilitation and crisis resilience.

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Deliverables (2022–2025 plan)

Quantified deliverables

B. Generation and transfer of knowledge

| | |
|--|----|
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 22 |
| Technical materials (number of materials) | 12 |

Non-quantified deliverables

C. Other substantive deliverables

| |
|---|
| Consultation, advice and advocacy |
| Databases and substantive digital materials |

Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Other staff costs | 31.0 |
| Consultants and experts | 270.0 |
| Travel of staff | 50.0 |
| Contractual services | 39.0 |
| General operating expenses | 30.0 |
| Grants and contributions | 243.0 |
| Total | 663.0 |

Annex III

Summary of follow-up action taken to implement relevant recommendations of the oversight bodies

Brief description of the recommendation

Action taken to implement the recommendation

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

[A/75/7](#) and [A/75/7/Corr.1](#)

The Advisory Committee notes that preserving the same level of resources since 2014–2015 has effectively resulted in a decrease, in real terms, in the resources approved for the Development Account. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to track and identify savings resulting from efficiency measures to be transferred to the Account and to report thereon in the context of his next budget submission (para. XIII.3).

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, including through close coordination with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the resident coordinator system, and through the dissemination of information of projects to Member States, to allow for the formulation of demands by Member States (para. XIII.11).

The Advisory Committee continues to share the concern of the Board of Auditors with respect to the management of implementing entities and again stresses its view that more efforts are required with respect to adequate monitoring and oversight across different

In its resolution [54/15](#), the General Assembly decided that savings to be achieved as a result of the efficiency measures can be identified in the context of budget performance reports and shall be transferred to the Development Account section with the prior approval of the Assembly. Accordingly, and in line with the recommendation by the Advisory Committee, realized savings, or underexpenditure, have been tracked and reported in the context of the performance reports for a decision by the General Assembly. However, the Secretariat is not in a position to attribute such savings to “efficiency measures”, since multiple factors play a role when final expenditures are below the appropriation level. Each performance report justifies such variances by referring to the respective factors. The full analysis of the underexpenditure for 2020 will be provided in the upcoming financial performance report on the programme budget for 2020, to be considered by the Assembly at the main part of its seventy-sixth session, but the currently available expenditure data point at underexpenditure of \$58 million in 2020 compared to the 2020 appropriation, partly as a result of the cash conservation measures necessitated by the liquidity challenges in 2020.

As presented in figure 35.III in the main report, countries with special needs are a strong focus of all projects and the selection of those countries will continue to be emphasized when project documents are prepared and during the actual implementation. All projects will work in close coordination with the resident coordinator system. Project information is available on the website of the Development Account and those of the implementing entities.

The two paragraphs quoted by the Advisory Committee refer to the management of implementing partners, and not implementing entities, as in the text of the recommendation. Implementing partner arrangements are used only with a limited number of

Brief description of the recommendation

Action taken to implement the recommendation

entities ([A/74/528](#), para. 22, and [A/73/430](#), para. 25) (para. XIII.16).

projects. This concern will be relayed to the implementing entities in the guidelines on preparing project documents.

The Advisory Committee notes the efforts undertaken to apply alternative means in implementing the Development Account projects and trusts that further efforts will be made to achieve efficiencies and ensure the continuation and efficient implementation of the projects (para. XIII.18).

As indicated in paragraph 35.10 of the present budget fascicle, alternative means of implementation are being used to ensure the continuation of the projects, including the use of consultations by electronic means and the use of e-learning, as well as the recruitment of additional national consultants to help with the implementation of the projects. With regard to e-learning, a report and training programme has been prepared to assist project managers. Details are available on the “Blended learning methodologies for capacity development” section of the Development Account website.

The Advisory Committee trusts that information on the adjustment of projects due to the COVID-19 pandemic will be presented in the context of the information to be provided to the General Assembly referred to in paragraph XIII.14 above (para. XIII.19).

The requested information is provided in the present fascicle and in the twelfth progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of projects financed from the Development Account.

Noting the nature of the Development Account as a special multi-year account for supplementary development activities, the Advisory Committee supports that the Account should continue to be exempted from measures taken by the Secretary-General to address the liquidity situation (para. XIII.21).

The Development Account projects have been exempt from the liquidity measures.

Annex IV

Mandates of the Development Account

The programme of work will continue to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it as detailed in the list below.

List of mandates

General Assembly resolutions

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|--|
| 52/12 B | Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform | 52/235 ; 53/220 A and B; 54/15 ; 56/237 | Development Account |
| 52/221 A | Budget appropriations for 1998–1999 | 74/270 | Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) |
