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Today date: **Dec 20, 2007**

Ban proposes hike in UNAMA budget

Date : Dec 19, 2007
Category : General
Sources : BNA

UNITED NATIONS: The UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon, has proposed a 40 percent increase in the annual budget of UNAMA for the year 2008. As such, the UNAMA budgetary proposal for the year 2008 as proposed by Ban has been pegged at \$88.36 million. Sharon Van Buerle, Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division, introduced the reports of the Secretary-General before the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, which handles budgetary issues. As per the proposal submitted by the Secretary General, the major increase in UNAMA budget increase is mainly due to the proposed establishment of 69 additional positions (27 international and 32 national positions, and 10 UN Volunteers), costs associated with the construction of additional accommodation units and office buildings in Kabul, and the acquisition of additional vehicles for the regional and provincial offices. A significant component of the proposed staff increases for 2008 is related to the expansion of UNAMA to the provinces. In this connection, UNAMA will maintain its current presence of eight fully integrated regional offices and nine provincial offices in 2008. As part of the strengthening of the Missions field presence, the provincial offices will also be staffed by international staff members. The proposed resource requirements for 2008, reflecting a net increase of \$23,024,600 (or 39.8 per cent) over the gross requirements for 2007, include \$1,148,100 for the military and the police personnel; \$47,759,500 for civilian personnel and \$32,016,300 for operational costs, the report said. In his proposal, Ban said there has been major increase of international attention and resources devoted to Afghanistan. International assistance to Afghanistan is likely to reach \$6 billion this year, compared to \$2 billion in 2003. Also the number of international military forces has also increased from 25,000 in 2005 to 50,000 in 2007. Meanwhile, measures to extend the presence and authority of the Government of Afghanistan across the country, to improve the quality of public institutions, to reform security sector and to continue to monitor and promote human rights have been accelerated.

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