



UNITED NATIONS
SOUTH AFRICA



GOVERNANCE MODEL

FOR THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK
(UNSDCF) BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA AND UNITED NATIONS
(SOUTH AFRICA) 2020 - 2025





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Background

In 2015 global leaders met at the General Assembly from 25 to 27 September, and adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The goals outlined a framework for global development for the period up to 2030, subsequently referred to as Agenda 2030. Central to the agenda is a plan of action that responds to the pillars of people, planet, and prosperity, while strengthening universal peace in larger freedoms. Agenda 2030 seeks to complete what was not achieved through the Millennium Development Goals, with a specific focus on eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions (including extreme poverty).

To achieve this ambitious goal, the Member States called for the reform of the United Nations Development System repositioning Agenda 2030 with a stronger focus on a better-defined collective identity as a trusted, reliable, cohesive, accountable and effective partner to countries in its delivery.. The reform should yield a United Nations development system that is more integrated and, more focused on grassroots delivery, with clearer internal and external accountability for contributions to national needs, along with capacities, skillsets and resources better aligned to the 2030 Agenda.

Through the 2016 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (or QCPR), member states provided further guidance to the United Nations (UN) on necessary measures to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact of the UN's development operations in support of national efforts to deliver on the SDGs. The 2016 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) resolution was adopted by the General Assembly in December 2016 through resolution 71/243, which provided the framework for the operational activities of the UN for the period of 2017 to 2020.

In July 2017, the Secretary-General presented a report to the seventy-second session of the General Assembly on "Repositioning the United Nations development system



to deliver on the 2030 Agenda". The Secretary-General's report outlined guiding principles of the reform, namely:

- a) Reinforcing national ownership and leadership;
- b) A holistic social approach based on partnerships to deliver on the Agenda;
- c) Ensuring country-contextual responses, rather than a one-size-fits-all approach;
- d) Making country-level delivery for all the litmus test for success;
- e) Delivering coherently through strengthened and accountable leadership; and
- f) Strengthening accountability to guide the United Nations development system's support for implementing Agenda 2030.

South Africa played a key role in the context of several global and continental processes that unfolded during 2015 which delivered Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, as well as continent-wide processes that culminated in the conclusion and adoption of the Africa Union (AU) Agenda 2063.

It will be recalled that in 2013, the African Union, under the leadership of the Republic of South Africa, laid down a





vision for the 'Africa we want', including eight ideals, which were later translated into the seven aspirations of Agenda 2063. At the same time, Heads of State and Government of the AU decided to establish a High-Level Committee (HLC) comprising ten member states (including South Africa), to develop the Common African Position on the post-2015 development agenda (CAP). Subsequently, on the side-lines of the United Nations General Assembly, the ministers of the G77 plus China (G77+China) elected South Africa as a rotating Chair of the group for 2015 in September, 2014. As Chair of the G77+China, South Africa had the challenging task of leading the group in the context of major international negotiations that took place in 2015, ultimately delivering Agenda 2030. These events underscore the important leadership role played by the South African Government in negotiating for, and ultimately agreeing on, the ambitious SDG agenda. Most notably, South Africa was one of the key Member States that advocated for the reform of the UN Development System fully recognising the need in context of Agenda 2030. As a champion of the SDGs and the unfolding reforms, the Government of South Africa is ideally placed to influence these by leading implementation of both Agenda 2030 and the enabling reforms on a national level.

An important instrument to drive the principles of the UN Reform at a national level is the United Nations Strategic Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). The 2019 guidelines position the UNSDCF first and foremost as a partnership and accountability framework with the host government. Its formulation, implementation, monitoring and reporting are co-led by the Government, anchored with national development priorities, plans, budgets and programming cycles, and informed by the country's efforts to achieve the SDGs. Beyond Government, the UNSDCF is a commitment to a broad range of stakeholders and should be considered as a platform for identifying development solutions through inclusive dialogue.

The landing of the UNSDCF at a national level offers the Government of South Africa the opportunity to assume global leadership in the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the UN Reforms, demonstrating how the underlying principles of the Reform can be implemented through Government leadership.

In this regard, the Government of South Africa and the United Nations in South Africa have finalised the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for the period of 2020 to 2025. The Cooperation Framework (2020 - 2025) is the first-generation CF developed under the new guidelines released in 2019 (UNSDCF). The CF development process was anchored on the principles of the UN Reform outlined above. Importantly this was reflected in the ownership and leadership of the Government, through the Government Steering Committee, over the process and the involvement of non-governmental stakeholders. This involved a detailed consultation process which included private sector, civil society, academia and research institutions, women, and youth.

Importantly, the CF (2020 - 2025) aligns with the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) of the 6th Administration. The alignment between the MTSF and UNSDCF implementation periods allows for enhanced complementarity between the Government and UN programmes in the country.

The process undertaken affirms the following principles: host government ownership and leadership; multi-stakeholder participation and; alignment to national priorities.

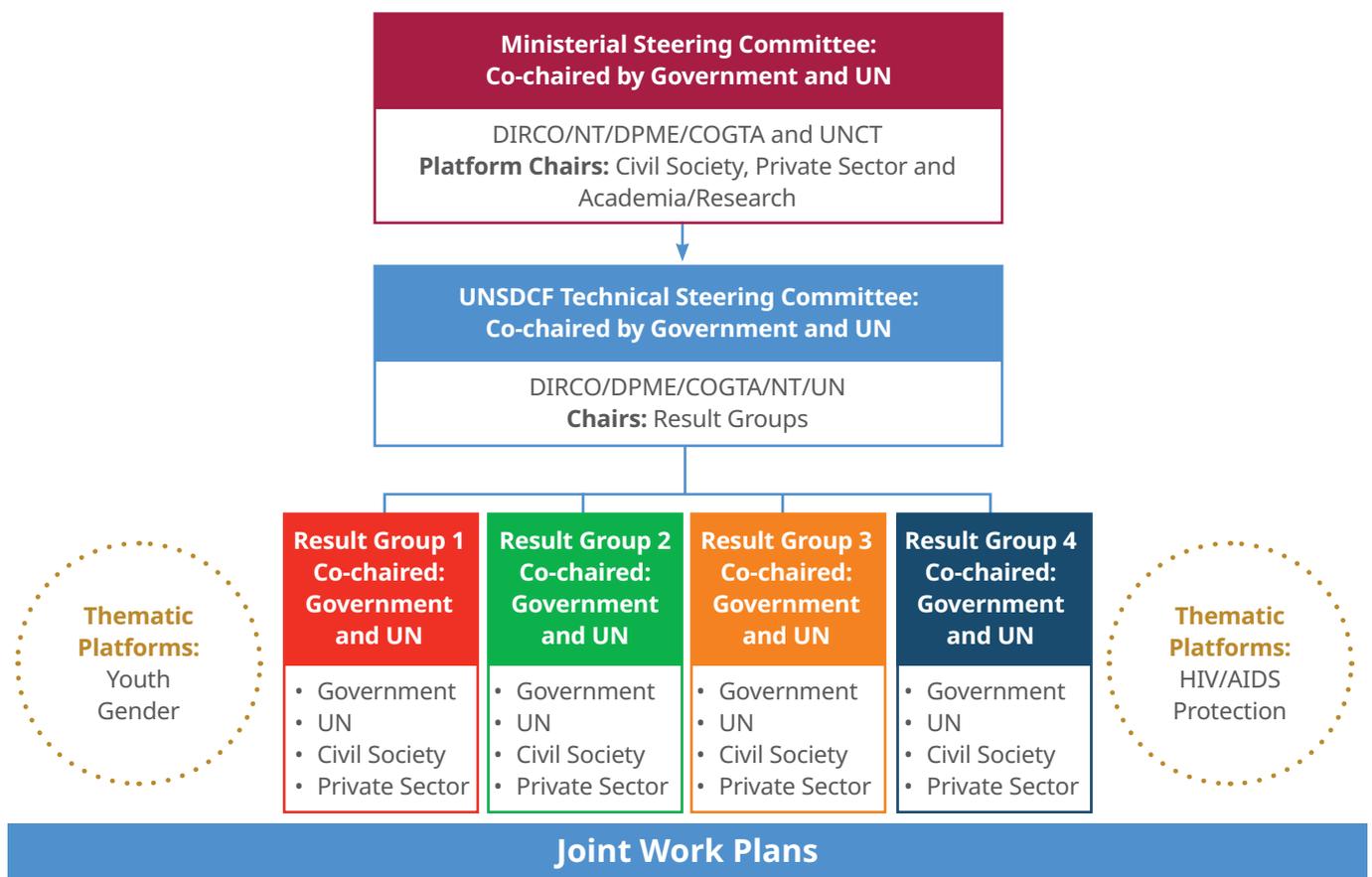
As we move towards the implementation of the UNSDCF (2020 - 2025), the focus shifts to establishing a UNSDCF governance model that embraces these principles of the UN Reform.

UNSDCF Governance Model Proposed for South Africa

The overarching principle for the UNSDCF Governance Models is that it should reinforce the UN Reforms at a countrywide level, serving as a mechanism that promotes greater collaboration between the host Government, the UN and other national partners. Importantly the governance mechanism is responsible for the entire programme cycle, including the design, implementation, monitoring and reporting phases of the Cooperation Framework.

To this end, this section outlines the proposed Governance Model for South Africa. The proposal takes into consideration lessons from the concluding Cooperation Framework cycle, examples of governance models in other countries, and ultimately the shifts in the new UNSDCF.

Cooperation Framework Governance Mechanism



a) Ministerial Steering Committee

Leadership:

- Co-chaired by the Minister of the coordinating department (Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME), and United Nations Resident Coordinator.

Composition:

- The Ministerial Steering Committee will include representatives of national line function departments: Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF), National Treasury (NT), Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) and Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), as well as all relevant departments that contribute to the outcomes of the Results groups.
- Co-Chairs of Technical Steering Group from Government and the United Nations (UN).
- Co-Chairs of the Results Groups.
- Representatives of Private Sector, CSOs and Academia.

Functions:

- Ensures strategic direction and oversight of the Cooperation Framework.
- Alignment with national, regional and international development processes, mechanisms and goals.
- Links with other processes such as the Voluntary National Reviews.
- Monitors progress, challenges and opportunities, and steers the direction of implementation;
- Reviews the One UN Country Results Report.
- Supports resource mobilization for the Cooperation Framework as well as development financing opportunities.

Frequency of Meetings:

- It will meet at least once a year to review performance, unlock potential bottlenecks, and approve the Joint Workplans (JWPs) for the coming year.

b) UNSDCF Technical Steering Committee

Leadership:

- Co-chaired by the Secretary of National Planning Commission (NPC) and the UNDP Resident Representative (UN Alternate Lead: Results Group Chairs on a rotational basis).

Composition:

- Secretary of National Planning Commission (NPC).
- UNDP Resident Representative.
- Relevant Senior government officials from DPME, DEFF, NT and COGTA (CD and up) as well as programme managers from line function departments responsible for the SDGs.
- Co-Chairs of Results Groups from Government and the UN.
- Representatives of the private sector, CSOs and academia.

Functions:

- Serves as an operational coordination mechanism for the delivery and monitoring of the Cooperation Framework outcomes, including JWPs.

- Provide technical leadership and oversight for implementation, planning review, monitoring, and reporting. They will also provide strategic guidance on key programming issues and decision making.
- Receive and review quarterly reports of the results groups for overall synergy.
- Prepares consolidated programmatic updates for the Joint Steering Committee.
- Leads the process of preparing UNSDCF reports.
- Make proposals of adjustments that need to be made to the UNSDCF to ensure relevance.

Frequency of Meetings:

- The Technical Steering Committee will meet at least once a year.



c) Result Groups

Leadership:

- Co-chaired by Government (government line departments responsible for the outcomes of the results groups to decide on who will chair) and head of the UNSystem Agency.
- UN Result Group Leads
 - Inclusive, Just and Sustainable Development – Lead ILO and Alternate Lead FAO.
 - Human Capital and Social Transformation – Lead UNICEF and Alternate Lead WHO.
 - Effective, Efficient and Transformative Governance – Lead UNDP and Alternate Lead UNODC/OHCHR.
 - Climate Resilience and Sustainably Managed Natural Resources – Lead UNEP and Alternate Leads UNIDO/UNHabitat.
- Government Results Group Leads:
 - Government to finalise on departments that will co-chair each of the Results Groups.

Composition:

- UN Heads of Agency responsible for strategic priorities and outcome of the Results Groups
- Government line departments that contribute to the outcomes of the Results groups across all spheres of government (national, provincial, and local government).
- Members of the Results and Thematic Groups.
- Private Sector, Civil Society, Academia and Research institutes.

Functions:

- Development and implementation of Joint Work Plans (JWP).
- Monitoring and reporting on implementation of JWPs.
- Preparation of reports for the Technical Steering Committee.

Frequency of Meetings:

- Once every three months

d) Theme Groups

Leadership: Co-Chaired by Government & United Nations

- UN Theme Group Leads
 - Youth – Lead UNFPA and Alternate Lead UNESCO
 - Gender – Lead UNWomen and Alternate Lead UNFPA
 - HIV/AIDS – Lead UNAIDS and Alternate Lead WHO
 - Protection – Lead UNHCR and Alternate Leads IOM/OHCHR
- Government Theme Group Leads:
 - Deputy Director Generals of Government Line Department to be determined by Government (TBC)

Composition:

- UN Agencies
- Government

- Private Sector
- Civil Society
- Academia/Research

Functions:

- Development and dissemination of research and analysis on the various thematic issues.
- Provide high-level policy advice and lead research by providing data, intelligence analyses, and in-depth understanding of the thematic areas that inform the design of the programmes through Results Groups.
- Identify and integrate normative global frameworks into the design of programmes.
- Promote and advise on joint programmes between Results Groups responding to the thematic areas.

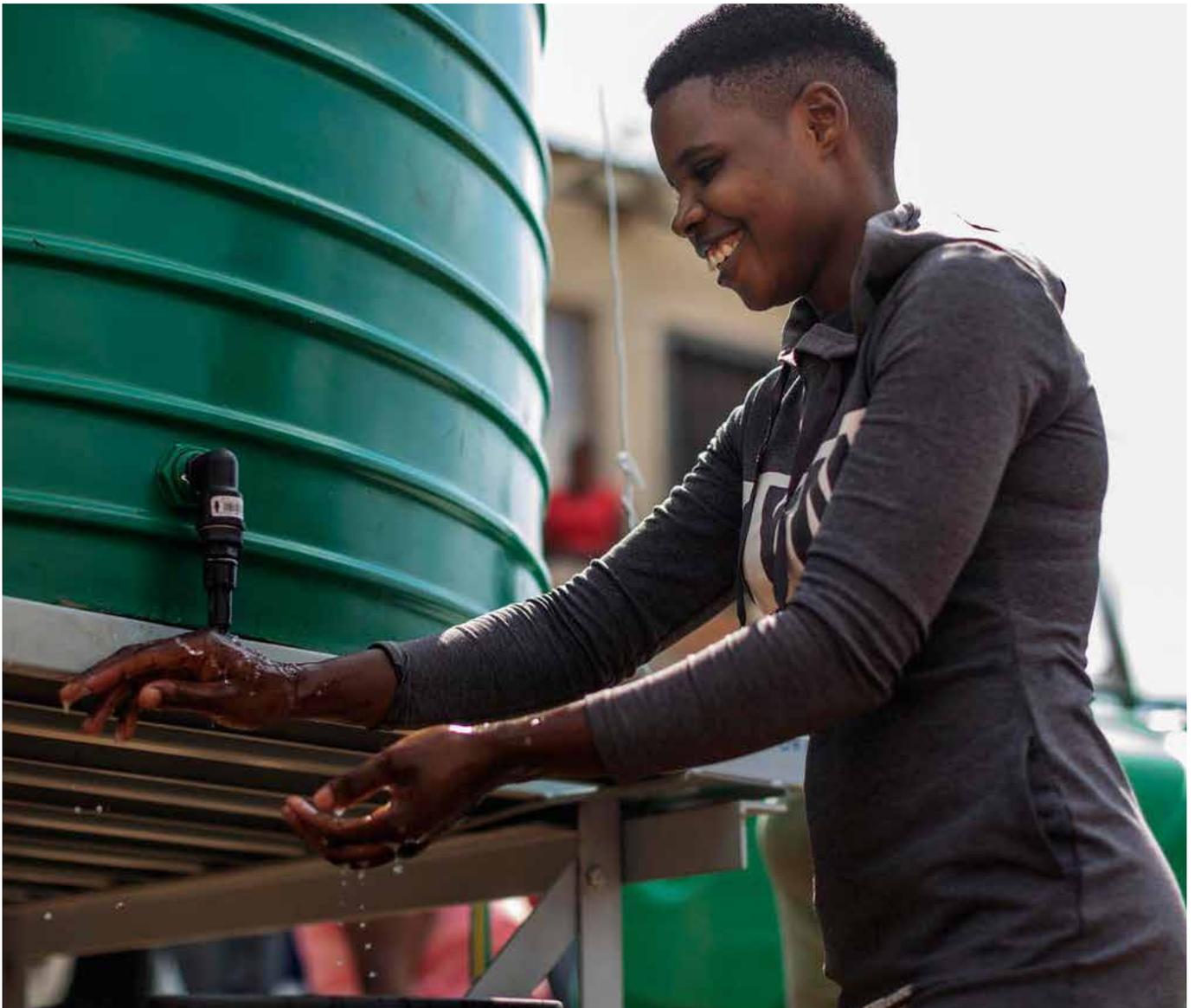
Frequency of Meetings:

- Theme Groups will meet once every three months

e) A MSC review takes place at least once a year

The RC presents the One UN Country Results Report, evaluation reports, and evaluation management responses and action plan. This is an opportunity to amend the Cooperation Framework to ensure continued relevance in the face of evolving national circumstances. These may include humanitarian, economic, political, or other unexpected situations of a magnitude that demands modified or immediate

responses by the United Nations development system and its partners, reallocation of human and financial resources, and other measures. During the review, the MSC co-chairs will determine if a formal revision of the Cooperation Framework is required or changes can be documented in the annual review report and reflected in the next joint work plan. UN information must be updated to reflect the amendments.







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