UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION FRAMEWORK
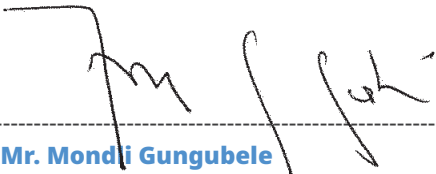**SOUTH AFRICA 2020-2025**

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JOINT STATEMENT AND SIGNATURE PAGE

DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT

The Government of South Africa and the United Nations present the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the period 2020 to 2025.

With just 10 years to go before the 2030 Agenda, the Government of South Africa and the United Nations commit to implementing this Cooperation Framework with a view of catalysing sustainable solutions during the Decade of Action (2020 – 2030). The collective results expected from this Cooperation Framework will help the people of "South Africa to live prosperous and healthy lives in a safe and cohesive society that protects and values environmental sustainability".

In signing hereafter, the participating partners endorse this Cooperation Framework and underscore their joint commitment towards the achievement of its results.

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Mr. Mondli Gungubele   **Mr. Ayodele Odusola, Ph.D**
Minister in the Presidency   **Resident Coordinator a.i.**
Government of South Africa   United Nations in South Africa

We, the United Nations Country Team in South Africa, pledge our commitment to foster cooperation and coordination between all our Agencies to enhance the performance and impact of the UN System by embracing a dynamic system wide coherence for a common UN response to development cooperation with South Africa.

• **UN AGENCY AND SIGNATURE** •
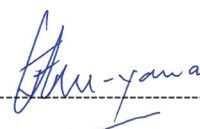
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FAO   **IFAD**
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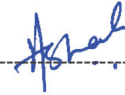
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IFC   **ILO**
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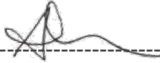
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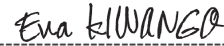
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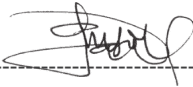
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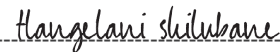
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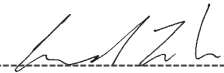
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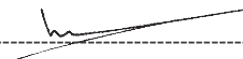
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World Bank
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Country Director

WHO
Dr. Owen Kaluwa
Country Representative

ACRONYMS

AAAA	Addis Ababa Action Agenda	**FAO**	Food and Agriculture Organisation
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome	**GBV**	Gender Based Violence
ANC	African National Congress	**GDP**	Gross Domestic Product
AU	African Union	**GHG**	Greenhouse Gas
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa	**GNI**	Gross National Income
CCA	Common Country Analysis	**HACT**	Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers
CCHIP	Community Childhood Hunger Identification Project	**HIV**	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women	**IDP**	Integrated Development Plans
COGTA	Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs	**IFAD**	International Fund for Agricultural Development
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019	**ILO**	International Labour Organisation
CSCC	Civil Society Coordinating Committee	**IMF**	International Monetary Fund
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	**IOM**	International Organisation for Migration
DaO	Delivering as One	**JWPs**	Joint Work Plans
DFI	Development Finance Institution	**M&E**	Monitoring and Evaluation
DIRCO	Department of International Relations and Cooperation	**MSEs**	Micro and Small Enterprises
DSDM	District Service Delivery Model	**MSC**	Ministerial Steering Committee
DPME	Department for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation	**MTSF**	Medium-Term Strategic Framework
EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation	**NDP**	National Development Plan
FACE	Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures	**NEDLAC**	National Economic Development and Labour Council

OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	**UNAIDS**	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
PGD	Provincial Growth and Development Strategies	**UNCT**	United Nations Country Team
PLHIV	People living with HIV	**UNDP**	United Nations Development Programme
PSC	Public Service Commission	**UNEP**	United Nations Environment Programme
PSCC	Private Sector Coordinating Committee	**UNESCO**	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
RBM	Results-based Management	**UNFPA**	United Nations Population Fund
SADC	Southern African Development Community	**UNHCR**	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
SALGA	South African Local Government Association	**UNICEF**	United Nations Children´s Fund
SBAA	Standard Basic Assistance Agreement	**UNIDO**	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
SETAs	Sector Training Authorities	**UNODC**	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals	**UNRC**	United Nations Resident Coordinator
SMEs	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises	**UNRCO**	United Nations Resident Coordinator´s Office
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections	**UNSDCF**	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
STI	Science, Technology and Innovation	**UNWOMEN**	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
TB	Tuberculosis	**VNR**	Voluntary National Review
ToC	Theory of Change	**WFP**	World Food Programme
TSC	Technical Steering Committee	**WHO**	World Health Organisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (Cooperation Framework) 2020-2025 outlines the UN development system´s collective commitment to support sustainable development in South Africa in line with national, regional, and global development priorities. It is aligned to South Africa´s long-term National Development Plan (NDP) 2030, which recognises the environment and science and technology as central drivers of change, and the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) 2019-2024, and firmly anchored in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UN Charter. With this framework, the UN Country Team seeks to realise the UN Secretary-General´s reform at country level, through improving coordination, integration, and efficiency for real transformative impact for all people in South Africa.

South Africa is an upper-middle income country, with a diverse, young, and growing population of 58 million. Since 1994, the country has been a multi-party democracy. It has a great diversity of biomes, ecosystems, and species, and world-renowned protected areas. South Africa is the second largest and most industrialised economy on the continent and, as the current chair of the African Union (AU) and a member of both BRICS and G20, it holds significant regional influence. However, despite notable development progress, more than half of South Africans live in poverty, nearly one third are unemployed and over a quarter of the population are food insecure. Economic growth is insufficient and overly reliant on carbon intensive energy and climate change sensitive sectors. High levels of violence and crime, and persistent structural racial, economic,

spatial, and gender inequalities impede social cohesion and undermine the national objective of being a developmental state founded on the principles of equality and shared common values.

South Africa´s national development priorities focus on addressing poverty, inequality, and unemployment. The MTSF aims to fast-track implementation and calls for strengthened accountability and closer integration among the three spheres of government. With this Cooperation Framework, the UN in South Africa brings together the expertise and resources of 15 UN agencies to advance national implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Leveraging its global presence, normative role and unique partnerships, the UN will enhance domestic delivery capacity as well as horizontal and vertical policy coherence, and will constantly drive for sustainable innovations that leave no one behind. The UN is also committed to strengthen its internal efficiency and harmonise business operations between agencies. In keeping with the principle of Delivering as One, the framework represents the entirety of the UN's activities in South Africa and UN entity-specific country programmes will be derived from it to guarantee coherent and results-focused programming.

The Cooperation Framework was developed through a participatory process between August 2019 and May 2020. It is based on a situational analysis, including the findings of the draft UN Common Country Analysis (2019). The framework´s overall goal is that people in South Africa live prosperous and healthy lives in a safe and cohesive society that protects and values environmental sustainability, which is underpinned by four strategic priorities[1].

1. Inclusive, just, and sustainable economic growth: reduce persistent social and economic inequalities for men and women in the public and private sector, support re-structuring of the economy to make it more representative and inclusive of all people, promote equality for youth and other

marginalised groups, and increase productivity and enhance value chain development across economic sectors towards a greener, more diversified and more people-centred economy in South Africa.

2. Human capital and social transformation: improve inclusion and access to social services, such as health, well-being, and quality education, and strengthen enjoyment of human rights and protection from violence, discrimination and violations for the most vulnerable and marginalised populations.

3. Effective, efficient, and transformative governance: improve rights-holders' access to justice and participation in democratic processes and ensure effective delivery of public services and functioning of oversight institutions.

4. Climate resilience and sustainably managed natural resources: accelerate South Africa´s just transition to a low-carbon society and strengthen climate change resilience of vulnerable and marginalised communities and improve efficient and environmentally-sound management and utilisation of natural resources.

Within the four strategic priorities are nine multisectoral and inter-dependent outcomes to which the UN in South Africa, in collaboration with government and other national and international partners, will contribute. The framework will be implemented through Joint Work Plans (JWPs) agreed with government ministries and agencies, and will be executed together with a range of implementing partners. The UN will prioritise joint strategies to mobilise resources for the Cooperation Framework and for supporting SDG financing in South Africa. The Joint Steering Committee, co-chaired by the government and the UN, will annually review progress against the framework and unlock potential programmatic or governance bottlenecks to ensure delivery of results.

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[1] *The Cooperation Framework has been finalised in the midst of the global pandemic of Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). While the pandemic is still unfolding, it is evident that the crisis will have significant and far-reaching socio-economic impacts for South Africa and the rest of the world. Consequently, the priorities have been pitched at a high strategic level to accommodate unforeseen changes in the country context and interventions that support preparedness and response for external shocks, have been mainstreamed across all result areas.*

1. COUNTRY PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA

1.1 COUNTRY CONTEXT

Since 1994, South Africa has been a parliamentary multi-party democracy. The country´s democratic dispensation is guaranteed by the progressive 1996 Constitution and its governance structures are robust. However, implementation of laws and policies remains a challenge. In recent years, governance and the independence of institutions has been weakened by wide-spread dissatisfaction with the quality of development, high levels of tax avoidance and illicit financial flows, and frequent allegations of government corruption. South Africans living in conditions of poverty are getting increasingly frustrated at the lack of improvement in their enjoyment of economic, social, and cultural rights.[2]

South Africa has a diverse, youthful, and growing population of 58.8 million, with 28.8% being below the age of 15 years and 16.6% between 15-24 years. While South Africa has progressed in reducing poverty, more than half of the population is still categorised as poor, with rural black women and children being the poorest[3]. More than a quarter of the population live below the food poverty line, and both under-nutrition and over-nutrition are serious challenges[4]. Gender inequality, gender-based violence, and harmful social practices remain wide-spread. Adolescent girls and young women bear the brunt of the continuing HIV epidemic. South Africa is among the top 20 migrant receiving countries globally; its migrant population is 4.2 million. In addition, South Africa plays host to around 266,000 refugees and asylum-seekers[5] on its territory, where a national asylum law is in place to afford protection to persons fleeing persecution from their countries of origin. There have been recurrent attacks against foreigners and incidents of xenophobia and efforts are underway to address these concerns through the adoption of a national plan of action.

South Africa is classified as an upper-middle income country and it has the second largest economy in Africa[6]. However, the country is rated as the most unequal society in the world, with a Gini coefficient of 0.68, and the economy is hampered by high unemployment, insufficient growth[7], weakened international competitiveness[8] and a reliance on carbon intensive energy. Various

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[1] *UN Common Country Analysis (CCA), 2019; Concluding observations on the initial report of South Africa to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, E/C.12/ZAF/CO/1, 29 November 2018.*

[2] *The distribution of poverty across ethnic groups is as follows: 46.6 % of blacks are poor, 32.3 % of coloured, 4.6 % of those Indian or Asian origin, and 0.8 % of whites. The provinces with the largest number of the poor are KwaZulu-Natal at 20.6 %, Gauteng 19 %, Eastern Cape 14.2 % and Limpopo 13.1 %. CCA, 2019.*

[4] *Republic of South Africa, Statistics South Africa, 2019, Sustainable Development Goals: Country Report 2019 – South Africa.*

[5] *UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2019, International Migrant Stock 2019.*

[6] *See: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GNP.PCAP.CD?locations=ZA, 19.1.2020*

[7] *The growth rates averaged around 5% between 2004 and 2007 but have since declined to around 1.3%. Stats South Africa, 2019.*

[8] *South Africa´s rating has declined in the last decade in the Global Competitiveness Index and the Ease of Doing Business Report. CCA, 2019.*

immediate factors contribute to the weakened economic performance, including falling global commodity prices, inefficient state-owned enterprises, reduced investment levels and the impacts of the global financial crisis of 2008. The underlying causes relate to the country's colonial and apartheid history, which created a dual economy and established stark and persisting racial, gender and regional disparities in income, wealth, ownership to land, education, health, housing and access to decent employment, skills and resources.

South Africa has a great diversity of biomes, ecosystems and species, and its protected areas are world-famous. The national policy context provides a solid foundation for environmental sustainability, but the utilisation and management of natural resources amidst mounting resource pressures and intersecting crises remains inefficient, and there is inadequate capacity to transition to a sustainable growth path. South Africa's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per capita are above the average for G20 countries and the effects of climate change are increasingly being felt through changes in temperature, rainfall patterns, droughts, floods and associated infrastructure damage, exacerbating the vulnerability of especially poor communities. The country is investing in disaster-risk reduction and resilience building, and plans to decouple economic growth from environmental

degradation by pursuing resource efficiency, circularity, and technological innovations[9].

The unprecedented worldwide pandemic of Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is unfolding in South Africa and the rest of the world. South Africa reported its first COVID-19 case on 5 March 2020. Since then, infections in the country have grown exponentially to 609,773 identified cases, 506,470 recoveries and 13,059 reported deaths as of 24 August 2020[10]. The crisis is placing health, economic, social protection, education, food security, and other critical sectors under enormous capacity and resource strains. Recovery efforts demand increased investments in research and development, especially in fields of science, technology, and innovation. It is forecast that the Gross Domestic Product will contract by as much as 15% in 2020 and that it will not regain its growth before 2024. The growth contraction is expected to worsen unemployment and increase poverty, inequality, and insecurity in the short term.[11]

1.2 NATIONAL VISION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development in South Africa is guided by the long-term National Development Plan[12] (NDP) 2030 and the accompanying Medium-Term Strategic Framework

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[9] *Republic of South Africa, Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, 2020, Medium Term Strategic Framework 2019-2024.*
[10] *Republic of South Africa, Department of Health, COVID-19 Online and News Portal. See: https://sacoronavirus.co.za, 9 July 2020.*
[11] *UN in South Africa, 2020, COVID-19 in South Africa: Socio-economic impact assessment, draft report, April 2020.*
[12] *The NDP provides an avenue for the domestication of international agreements, including the SDGs, the African Union Agenda 2063, SADC Regional Instruments, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the New Urban Agenda.*

(MTSF) 2019-2024. The MTSF provides the five-year planning and implementation framework through which South Africa´s three spheres of government (national, provincial, and local) will promote a coherent whole of government approach towards achieving Vision 2030. All development instruments at the different levels must align to the MTSF. The national development priorities are closely aligned with global and regional development frameworks, such as Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, the AU´s Agenda 2063, and the Southern African Development Community´s (SADC) Regional Instruments[13].

While recognising South Africa´s remarkable progress in the peaceful transition from apartheid to democracy, the NDP acknowledges that the country "remains a highly unequal society where too many people live in poverty and too few work", where "the quality of education for most black learners is poor" and "a large proportion of young people feel that the odds are stacked against them"[14]. In response, the NDP outlines an integrated framework with the following underlying goals: 1) elimination of poverty (from 39% living below the poverty line to zero); 2) reduction of unemployment (reducing the rate to 6% by creating 11 million more jobs); and 3) reduction of inequality (from the Gini-coefficient of 0.68 to 0.60).

More specifically, the NDP sets out six interlinked priorities:
1. Uniting all South Africans around a common programme to achieve prosperity and equity.
2. Promoting active citizenry to strengthen development, democracy, and accountability.
3. Bringing about faster economic growth, higher investment, and greater labour absorption.
4. Focusing on key capabilities of people and the state.
5. Building a capable and developmental state.
6. Encouraging strong leadership throughout society to work together to solve problems.

Building on the NDP, the MTSF puts emphasis on socio-economic concerns that have become ever greater obstacles for inclusive development, such as restoring trust in state institutions, addressing gender equality and violence against girls, women and people with disabilities, and removing structural impediments to

equality, opportunity, and freedom. The MTSF seeks to improve alignment, coordination, and integration among the three spheres of government, expand partnerships to the private sector, labour organisations, and civil society, and to significantly speed up implementation and strengthen accountability and performance management for greater impact. Policy coherence is identified as a key enabler for the deployment of innovative technology solutions in support of sustainable development. Both the NDP and the MTSF prioritise the societal role of women, youth, and people with disabilities. Interventions that strengthen the socio-economic inclusion of the above three groups are mainstreamed across all pillars[15].

In South Africa, all three spheres of government are accountable for development planning and implementation: the national level through the MTSF; the provincial level through the Provincial Growth and Development Strategies (PGDS); and the local, or district, level through the Integrated Development Plans (IDP). The District Service Delivery Model (DSDM), launched by the President in September 2019, will form the basis for implementation at the local government level. The DSDM aims to improve service delivery and economic development in the 8 metropolitan and 44 district municipalities through better synchronisation, integration, and coordination of planning and implementation. The new model also aims to strengthen citizen participation and collaboration with social partners, and to bring government closer to the people. With the Cooperation Framework, the UN in South Africa will support implementation capacity and the leveraging of partnerships at all three levels of government to fast-track progress towards the national development priorities and the SDGs.

1.3 PROGRESS TOWARDS THE SDGS
South Africa has been an early supporter of global action towards sustainable development, playing central roles in shaping both the African Union´s Agenda 2063 and the United Nations´ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This chapter presents a synthesis of the country´s progress towards key SDGs, based on existing national data and following the grouping of the goals of the 2019 SDG Country Report by Statistics South Africa[16].

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[13] *An assessment conducted by UNDP and the Department for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) showed a convergence ratio of 74% between the NDP and the SDGs. CCA, 2019. Of the 81 specific outcomes in the MTSF, 20 are reportedly aligned to the SDGs and Agenda 2063. Republic of South Africa, Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, 2020, Medium Term Strategic Framework 2019-2024.*
[14] *Republic of South Africa, National Planning Commission, 2012, National Development Plan 2030: Our future, make it work, p. 24.*
[15] *Republic of South Africa, Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, 2020, Medium Term Strategic Framework 2019-2024.*
[16] *To date, South Africa´s reports on the SDGs comprise the 2017 SDG Indicator Baseline Report, the 2019 SDG Country Report and the 2019 Voluntary National Review (VNR) report.*

1 NO POVERTY

2 ZERO HUNGER

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

5 GENDER EQUALITY

Social goals (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) •

- South Africa has experienced a reversal in the positive trend towards poverty reduction. While the proportion of population living below the international poverty line of USD 1.90/day had decreased from 25.4% in 2006 to 16.4% in 2011, by 2015 the figure had regressed to 18.8%.

- The coverage of social protection has increased steadily to 30.3% of the population being covered in 2018. Similarly, the number of social grants has increased and spending on essential services remains high at 20% of the national budget. However, social protection coverage should be further extended to include all population groups (including those in the informal economy) and the complaint mechanisms regarding social protection should be strengthened[17].

- Food insecurity has been halved since 2005, but is still high at 26% of the population. The percentage of children who were considered short for their age rose from 23.9% in 2008 to 27% in 2016, while 13% of children under five years were regarded as overweight.

- Notable progress has been made in reducing maternal mortality, under-five mortality, neonatal mortality, and infant mortality. Strides continue to be made to support the development of new technology to reduce maternal and neonatal

deaths. New HIV infections have slowed down, but prevalence remains high at 20.6% for those aged 15 to 49-years. Nearly 67% of the population have access to health services and financial protection against health care costs is high[18].

- Significant improvements have been achieved in delivering access to schooling, and in reaching gender parity. However, the quality of learning remains a challenge and substantive differences still exists in educational participation between population groups[19]. A large number of children with disabilities do not attend school nor benefit from no-fee schools, and people with albinism face discrimination. Approximately 30% of undocumented migrants, refugees, and asylum-seeking children are not enrolled in formal education[20].

- South Africa has laws and policies aimed at promoting gender equality and eliminating gender-based discrimination and violence, and the parliamentary representation of women is close to 50%. However, these have not effectively translated into positive outcomes for women, as reported physical and sexual violence against women and girls is very high, and women still carry disproportionate responsibilities related to unpaid domestic and care work.

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[17] *UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, E/C.12/ZAF/CO/1, 2018, available at: https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/ treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E/C.12/ZAF/CO/1&Lang=En, UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, CRPD/C/ZAF/CO/1, 2018, available at: https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD/C/ ZAF/CO/1&Lang=En, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, CRC/C/ZAF/CO/2, 2016, available at: https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_ layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC/C/ZAF/CO/2&Lang=En*

[18] *CCA, 2019.*

[19] *In 2016, over 38% of white South Africans, 21% of Indian South Africans, 9% of black South Africans and 8% of coloured South Africans had a post-secondary school attainment. Ibid.*

[20] *UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, E/C.12/ZAF/CO/1, 2018, available at: https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/ treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E/C.12/ZAF/CO/1&Lang=En*
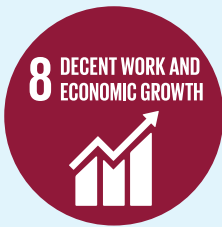
Economic goals (SDGs 8, 9, 10, 12 and 17)

- Economic growth remains slow and domestic material consumption is in decline. The unemployment rate is increasing and the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training, has remained at around 30% since 2013. Groups especially vulnerable to unemployment, and the deficits of the large informal economy that does not guarantee labour rights or adequate social protection, include women, young black South Africans, irregular and undocumented migrants, and persons with disability, as well as street traders, waste-pickers, cross-border traders, precarious workers in agriculture and domestic workers[21]. Many refugees and asylum-seekers find work in the informal sector and rely on unstable levels of income.

- Inequality still takes on a race and gender dimension, with populations in the remotely located former homelands being especially marginalised in access to essential services. The gender pay gap stands at 27% due to persistent vertical and horizontal occupational segregation by gender.

- Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP remains comparatively high (26.4% in 2015), as does the proportion of the national budget that is funded by domestic taxes (85.9%).

Environmental goals (SDGs 6, 7, 11, 13, 14 and 15)

- Access to water and sanitation has improved, with 80% of the population using safely managed drinking water services and 70% using safe sanitation services. However, disparities exist between access in rural (67%) and urban areas (87%). Investments have been made into programmes to pilot innovative sanitation technologies.

- Most of the population access electricity (95.27%), with rural access generally lower. The share of renewable energy of the total energy consumption has increased to 26.2% in 2015, signifying a promising shift away from South Africa´s coal dependency. Progress has been made in investing into renewable technologies.

- The percentage of urban population living in informal dwellings increased slightly to 12.2% in 2017. A cause for concern is the stagnation in the provision of basic services in informal dwellings. An improvement can be noted in the air quality of cities and in the recycling of municipal waste.

- The proportion of marine (15%) and coastal (37%) ecosystems in protected areas remains stable, and a positive trend can be observed in government funding for marine sciences research.

- Protection of terrestrial, freshwater, and forest ecosystems has slightly improved. Land degradation remains a challenge, with 10.71% of total land area regarded as degraded in 2014.

- In some instances, intimidation, harassment, and excessive use of force by private security personnel and law enforcement officials, particularly in the mining and environmental sectors, and in the context of land rights, accountability and transparency issues, is a concern for human rights defenders[22].

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[21] *Concluding observations on the initial report of South Africa to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, E/C.12/ZAF/CO/1, 29 November 2018.*

[22] *UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, E/C.12/ZAF/CO/1, 2018, available at: https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E/C.12/ZAF/CO/1&Lang=En and UN Human Rights Committee, CCPR/C/ZAF/CO/1, 2016, available at: https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CCPR/C/ZAF/CO/1&Lang=En*

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Governance, peace, justice, and security goals (SDG 16)

- South Africa has made significant progress in the submission of its reports to the human rights mechanisms (treaty bodies and Universal Periodic Review) and has a standing invitation to the United Nations special procedures. Further efforts are required to strengthen the inter-ministerial committee on reporting and follow up, with a focus on implementation of recommendations, and the acceptance of pending visits by the special procedures.
- The chapter 9 institutions[23] perform important oversight functions and civil society organisations can operate freely and independently. However, accountability mechanisms require strengthening and in recent years civic space has been constrained as human rights defenders have been threatened and harassed[24]. A safe and favourable environment for the work of human rights defenders to promote and protect economic, social, and cultural rights should be enabled.
- In 2019, South Africa scored 44 out of 100 points in the Corruption Perceptions Index[25]. Many incidents of corruption and state capture have been reported, and concerns have been raised about the lack of accountability. The prevalence of corruption has seriously impacted on South Africa´s ability to meet its obligation to mobilise resources for the realisation of economic, social, and cultural rights[26].

- South Africa continues to experience high levels violence and it has some of the highest gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide rates in the world. The number of murder victims per 100,000 population has increased to 35.9, which is significantly above the global average of 6.1 in 2017[27]. About a third of the women in South Africa aged 15 years and above have experienced sexual GBV in their lifetime, with a predominance of assault (62%). Intimate femicide is the leading cause of female murder representing more than half (56%) of all women killed in the country[28]. President Cyril Ramaphosa has described femicide as a national crisis[29]. Human rights bodies have expressed concerns about xenophobic attacks and the authorities´ lack of capacity to prevent and address these attacks and hold perpetrators accountable[30].
- South Africa is recognised for its distinct separation of powers. However, strong governance practices are necessary so that decisions are based on rules, policies are followed consistently across departments, and an adequate budget is provided for implementation. Stronger coordination is required among the Government, the private sector and civil society. There is a need to work on developing a relationship of trust across these groups[31].

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[23] *The independent state institutions established through chapter 9 of the Constitution for the purpose of strengthening constitutional democracy include the following; the Public Protector, the South African Human Rights Commission, the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities, the Commission for Gender Equality, the Auditor-General and the Electoral Commission.*

[24] *Concluding observations on the initial report of South Africa to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, E/C.12/ZAF/CO/1, 29 November 2018, para 12-13.*

[25] *The Corruption Perceptions Index scores 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, with a score of 100 meaning very clean and 0 meaning highly corrupt. In 2019, South Africa scored 44/100 and was ranked 70/180. Transparency International, 2020, Corruption Perceptions Index 2019.*

[26] *CCA, 2019; Concluding observations on the initial report of South Africa to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, E/C.12/ZAF/CO/1, 29 November 2018.*

[27] *UNODC, 2019, Global Study on Homicide 2019.*

[28] *Republic of South Africa, 2020. National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.*

[29] *Address by President Cyril Ramaphosa at the Joint Sitting of Parliament on the crisis of violence in South Africa, 5 September 2020: https://www.gov.za/speeches/address-president-cyril-ramaphosa-joint-sitting-parliament-crisis-violence-south-africa*

[30] *CAT/C/ZAF/CO/2, paras. 36-37 (2019), CCPR/C/ZAF/CO/1, paras. 14-15 (2016), CERD/C/ZAF/CO/4-8, paras. 18-19, 26-28 (2016), CRC/C/ZAF/CO/2, para. 34 (2016)*

[31] *Republic of South Africa, 2019, South Africa´s Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report 2019.*

1.4 GAPS AND CHALLENGES

The major gaps and challenges for South Africa´s progress towards the 2030 Agenda have been identified through the perspective of the five dimensions of sustainable development: people, prosperity, peace, planet, and partnership.

People

Despite South Africa´s progress in the provision of services such as water and sanitation, social protection, education and health care, gaps still exist across the people dimension. South Africa needs to continue investing in its citizenry given the high inequality, unemployment, and poverty rates, which disproportionally affect women, people with disability, youth and children living in rural and urban informal settlements. A significant number of households are still food insecure despite the country's upper middle-income status. The health system is still overburdened by preventable diseases and access remains unequal affecting the most vulnerable. Gender disparities and GBV continue to be major challenges despite wide-ranging intervention programmes anchored within the Constitution. To leave no one behind, South Africa needs to prioritise the needs of those who are furthest to reach or at risk of being left behind in the society, including people living in inadequate housing, adolescents and young people[32], persons with disabilities, particularly those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons with albinism, as well as children living in vulnerable conditions, such as in rural areas, urban informal settlements and in street situations[33]. Furthermore, asylum seekers, refugees, migrants, and persons with albinism are subject to violence, including xenophobic attacks, and discrimination.

Prosperity

Considerable structural challenges form obstacles for inclusive and sustainable economic growth in South Africa and contribute to today´s limited growth, high unemployment, and extreme inequality. These include: an over-reliance on primary sectors; a declining manufacturing sector; low investment in research and development; low and inappropriate skills; limited productivity competitiveness; racially and gender skewed ownership patterns in land and mineral resources; and a financial sector that excludes the majority from access to capital[34]. The trend in commercial agriculture towards more-capital intensive farms has contributed to rural poverty and the growing informal sector. Creating decent and green jobs is a cross-cutting issue requiring a whole of government approach. Rural development, agricultural, and social protection policies should be strengthened and integrated to eradicate poverty and food insecurity, focusing on small farms and rural households. Young people need support through future of work transitions and older workers require expanded choices to remain economically active. Strengthening women's participation and leadership in the economy will promote gender equality. Evidence-based migration management should be improved to protect the rights and working conditions of especially irregular and undocumented migrants.

Peace

South Africa has commendable experience in finding collective and shared solutions to issues which threaten social cohesion in the country. An example of this is the lauded political negotiations of the 1990s, which led to the first-ever democratic elections, conducted peacefully. However, as it has been shown that inequality and social cohesion are related, maintaining the status quo is becoming a major challenge in the country due to inequality, growing unemployment, and persistent racial inequalities. This is evident in the increasing number of public service-delivery protests and violent attacks on foreign nationals. Pre-1995, many South Africans protested the unjust system of apartheid. Post-1995, these protests continue, however, this time citizens lament poor services and inequitable opportunities. The emergence of COVID-19 has further exacerbated the existing socio-economic challenges, such as unemployment, food security, and access to health and education. Another consequence of the pandemic was an increase in violent crime after the level 5 lockdown regulations were issued. Crime, which is often mirrored in measures of social cohesion,

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[32] *Adolescents and young people in South Africa suffer from significant health and general wellbeing challenges that include sexual and gender-based violence, HIV infection, early and unintended pregnancies, low education completion rates, addiction and unemployment.*
[33] *Additional groups of children who are at heightened risk of exposure to violence and inequality include children living in poverty, refugee, asylum-seeking, migrant and stateless children, children belonging to sexual minorities, children with disabilities, indigenous children and children with albinism.*
[34] *Government of South Africa, 2019, Towards a 25 Year Review, 1994-2019.*

has been a major concern for both government and the citizens. While incidents of crime have been felt across all sectors of society, the most vulnerable are the marginalised and the poor, who cannot afford private security measures. If South Africa is to successfully build a socially cohesive country, economic inclusivity must be addressed as it undermines people's ability to participate and fully engage in all aspects of society.

Planet

The NDP demonstrates commitment to environmental sustainability, resilience to climate shocks and biodiversity protection. South Africa is considered a climate change hot-spot and projected to face a higher frequency of intense climate-related disasters. Economic growth must increasingly be balanced with climate change responses and environmental management embedded across sectors to safeguard the quality of water, air and land. The country must move to less carbon-intensive electricity production, utilise responsibly its rich endowment of natural resources and mineral deposits, improve disaster preparedness, and address developmental challenges in a manner that ensures environmental sustainability and builds resilience of particularly poor communities. Environmental considerations must be mainstreamed into social and economic decisions at all levels.

Partnership

In South Africa, central implementation challenges for achieving the 2030 Agenda have been identified in the areas of financing, fostering partnerships, ability to leverage synergies between SDGs, and access to technology and science. While the country has sufficient domestic resources, these should be more systematically mobilised and invested in line with national development priorities. Efficiency in public spending should be increased, including through improved capacity for policy integration and programme coordination and delivery. Stronger alliances and platforms should be formed between a broad range of stakeholders to target investments, facilitate technology transfers, and encourage new approaches to urgent sustainable development problems. More comprehensive and disaggregated statistical data (by sex, age, ethnicity, migration or displacement status, disability, religion, civil status, income, sexual orientation and gender identity, geographic location) is needed to accurately analyse and monitor which population groups and communities are marginalised or at risk of being left behind[35]. As described below, the Cooperation Framework will aim to address these gaps and challenges both through its programmatic interventions and its prioritisation of implementation strategies and working modalities.

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[35] *UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, E/C.12/ZAF/CO/1, 2018, available at: https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E/C.12/ZAF/CO/1&Lang=En*

2. UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO THE 2030 AGENDA

The UN reform emphasises the role of the Cooperation Framework as the most important instrument for the planning and implementation of UN development activities in each country in support of the 2030 agenda. More specifically, the UN General Assembly resolution[36] that mandated the UN reform calls for Cooperation Frameworks that are revitalised, strategic, flexible and results- and action-oriented and prepared in full consultation and agreement with national governments. With this Cooperation Framework, the UNCT and the Government of South Africa seek to meet the high expectations of the reform, as well as to address recommendations from evaluations of past Cooperation Frameworks and stakeholder consultations, for increased strategic focus and impact of the UN in South Africa.

The Cooperation Framework Theory of Change (ToC), presented below, was developed through a consultative and participatory strategic planning process involving the government, civil society, private sector, and development partners[37]. The process promoted a shared understanding among staff and partners of the organisational purpose of the UN in South Africa in the context of the UN reform.

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[36] The UN Reform is mandated by the UN General Assembly resolution on repositioning of the UN Development System adopted 31 May 2018. See: https://undocs.org/a/res/72/279.
[37] The most important analytical inputs to the Cooperation Framework were the following: CCA 2019, SDG Country Report 2019, VNR report, NDP 2030, MTSF, Towards a 25-year Review (1994-2019), Evaluation of the South Africa Cooperation Framework 2013-2017.

SEEING THE ENVIRONMENT AS THE BASIS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The conceptual framework for the Cooperation Framework is inspired by the model of interdependency and multisectorality of the SDGs developed by the Stockholm Resilience Centre. The model implies that economies and societies are embedded parts of the biosphere. In order to achieve the SDGs, the world must transition to a logic where the economy serves society within the safe operating space of the planet and its ecological boundaries, as shown in figure 1 below[38].

Figure 1: Interdependency of the SDGs

Source: Stockholm Resilience Centre
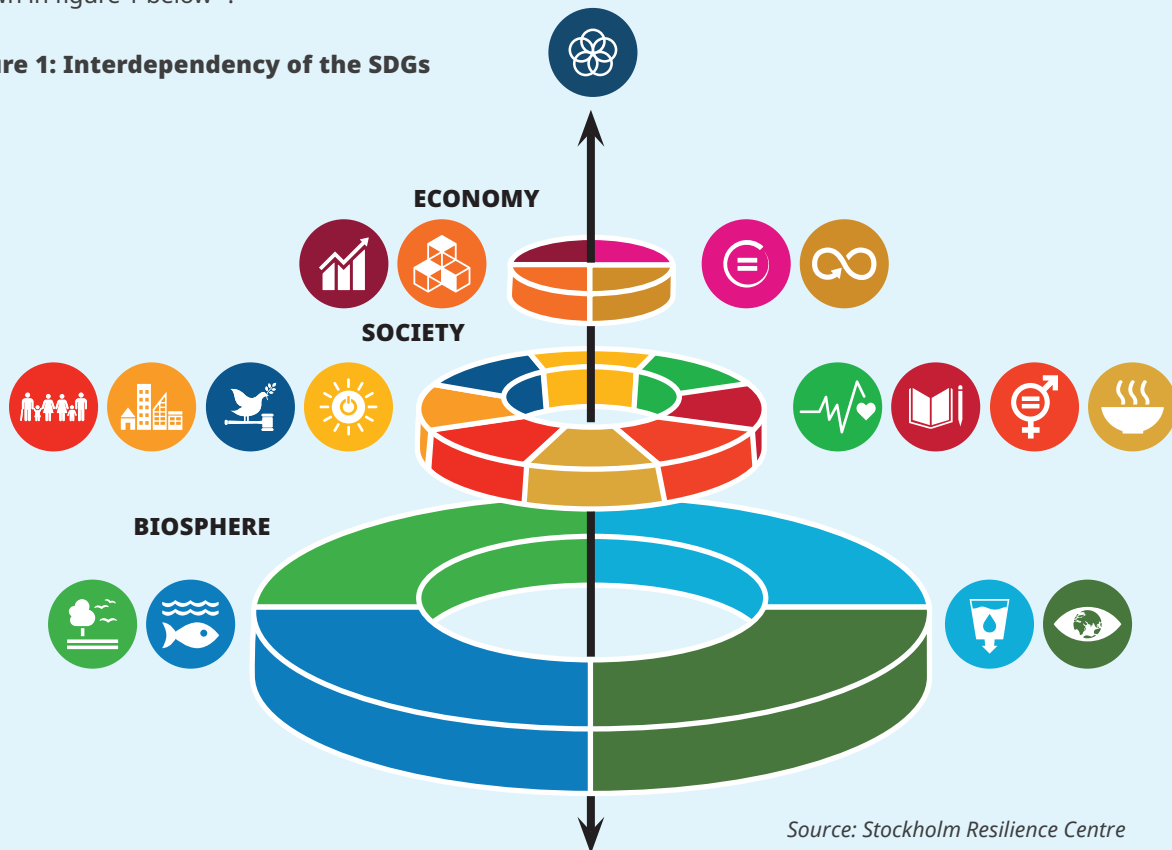
By viewing the environment – the planet – as the foundation on which the pillars of people, prosperity, and peace stand, the UN and its partners in South Africa aim to encourage a paradigm shift in how sustainable development and the attainment of the SDGs is viewed in the country and in the wider region. Central to this view is a recognition of the planet as a non-negotiable; not as a limitation for transformation and prosperity, but as a prerequisite for it. While recognising that this shift will not happen overnight, the UN is committed to embark on a journey of changing minds and actions, inspired by the immortal words of Nelson Mandela: "it always seems impossible, until it´s done".

2.1 THEORY OF CHANGE

The Cooperation Framework ToC shows how the long-term desired change, or impact, will be achieved by realising certain mid-term conditions for change, or outcomes, over the Cooperation Framework cycle. The conditions for change have been grouped into a limited number of higher-level strategic priorities, which serve to make the complexity more manageable and determine what matters most for the overall desired change. The UN in South Africa recognises that the conditions for change are not completely under the control of the agencies implementing the Cooperation Framework but depend on contributions from the government and other partners, and on unpredictable factors embedded in the socio-economic reality of South Africa and the wider regional and global context. The UN´s sphere of control extends to the shorter-term contributions to conditions, or outputs, which are realised through the implementation of inter-agency and agency-specific activities. The Cooperation Framework ToC is meant as a higher-level framework

for change from which more detailed programme and project-level ToCs will be developed for consistent and results-focused implementation.

The identified desired change for the Cooperation Framework is that **people in South Africa live prosperous and healthy lives in a safe and cohesive society that protects and values environmental sustainability.** The desired change is based on an understanding of the inter-connectedness of the three dimensions of sustainable development – economy, society, and environment, and the role of governance as an overall enabler. The desired change can be unpacked as follows:

The word prosperous refers to the importance of quality education, decent work, and entrepreneurial opportunities, especially among the youth, for reducing the persistent high levels of inter-generational poverty and raising living standards of the poorest and most vulnerable populations. This hinges on a growing, open, and inclusive economy that is resilient towards external shocks and serves society through the generation of jobs and predictable contributions to state revenue. Healthy lives refers to the necessity address freedoms and entitlements as well as the social determinants of health, including equitable access to healthy food and to quality and affordable health services that prevent, reduce and treat disease and illness even during emergencies and external shocks, and partly to promoting multisectoral regulations, infrastructure, behaviour and societal practices that help people become and stay healthy in the longer-term. The term safe and cohesive society stems from a recognition of the need to counter the dire levels of inequality, violent crime, gender-based violence, racism and xenophobia, discrimination, corruption and overall lack of trust in institutions and fellow people that characterize today´s South Africa. Strengthening accountability and the currently low levels of social cohesion in the country is seen as a central, cross-cutting ambition in the Cooperation Framework.

Finally, the term protects and values environmental sustainability refers to the foundational understanding that in the era of accelerating climate change and increasing human-inflicted pressures on the living world, all development actions must take place through a radical shift in consumption and production patterns that increase resiliency and protect the environment with its natural resources. This notion is especially true in South Africa, whose scarce water resources are vulnerable to increasing temperatures and reductions in rainfall, and whose economy is dependent on climate and biodiversity sensitive sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fishery, and wildlife tourism[39].

2.2 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

Based on contextual analysis and stakeholder consultations, the UN in South Africa and key partners identified four strategic priorities towards which UN support will be directed to achieve the desired change. The strategic priorities guide the work of the UN system towards national development priorities where the added value of UN engagement is most significant in relation to other national and international actors. Consulted stakeholders identified UN added value in areas such as promotion of climate action and disaster risk reduction, gender equality, social justice and human rights, skills development and quality education, health systems strengthening and emergency preparedness, as well as advocacy for more inclusive, multisectoral and regionally focused development approaches.

The four strategic priorities of the Cooperation Framework are as follows:
1. Inclusive, just, and sustainable economic growth.
2. Human capital and social transformation.
3. Effective, efficient, and transformative governance.
4. Climate resilience and sustainably managed natural resources.

The strategic priority areas are interlinked, reflecting the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda, with progress under each strategic priority area requiring and contributing to progress of the other priority areas. For example, achieving inclusive, just, and sustainable economic growth, hinges on skilled and healthy individuals and a secure, supportive society that allows people to turn their unique talents and other resources into productive use. Furthermore, a vibrant economy requires an enabling legislative and policy environment created by effective, reliable, and predictable governance and the protected existence of well-managed natural resources. Similarly, developing the capabilities of people in South Africa will require sustained investments in all stages of the education, skills, and health systems; a competitive and sustainably growing economy is, in turn, needed to generate the resources that state institutions may redistribute for welfare and well-being generating purposes.

Transformative governance can contribute to growing the economy, creating jobs, improving quality of life and ensuring climate and environmental resilience,

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[39] *UNDP, 2020. See https://www.adaptation-undp.org/explore/southern-africa/south-africa, 14.2.2020.*

but effective and democratic governance is also dependent on the tax revenues generated by businesses and on the informed participation and engagement of all population groups. As demonstrated by figure 1, the biosphere serves as the operating space within which the societal and economic priorities must be achieved. Thus, climate resilience and sustainably managed natural resources both support progress across the other strategic priorities, and are highly dependent on decisions, actions, and investments within these spheres. The strategic priorities and their accompanying nine outcomes are illustrated by the ToC diagram in figure 2 below. Chapter 2.3 below will outline the more detailed ToCs for each of the outcomes and describe the broad partnerships required for their achievement.

Figure 2: ToC diagram

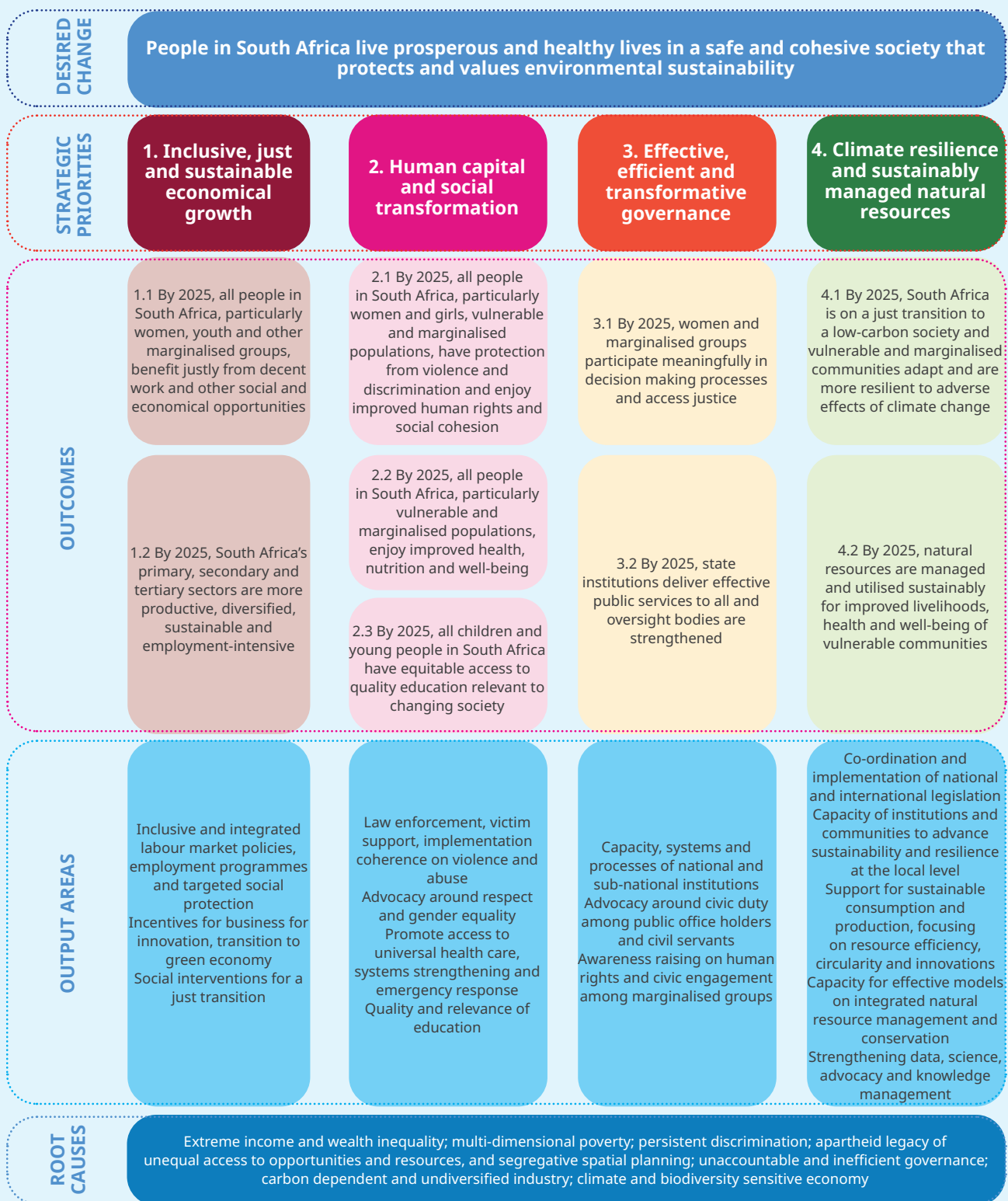| DESIRED CHANGE	**People in South Africa live prosperous and healthy lives in a safe and cohesive society that protects and values environmental sustainability**			
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	**1. Inclusive, just and sustainable economical growth**	**2. Human capital and social transformation**	**3. Effective, efficient and transformative governance**	**4. Climate resilience and sustainably managed natural resources**
OUTCOMES	1.1 By 2025, all people in South Africa, particularly women, youth and other marginalised groups, benefit justly from decent work and other social and economical opportunities	2.1 By 2025, all people in South Africa, particularly women and girls, vulnerable and marginalised populations, have protection from violence and discrimination and enjoy improved human rights and social cohesion	3.1 By 2025, women and marginalised groups participate meaningfully in decision making processes and access justice	4.1 By 2025, South Africa is on a just transition to a low-carbon society and vulnerable and marginalised communities adapt and are more resilient to adverse effects of climate change
	1.2 By 2025, South Africa's primary, secondary and tertiary sectors are more productive, diversified, sustainable and employment-intensive	2.2 By 2025, all people in South Africa, particularly vulnerable and marginalised populations, enjoy improved health, nutrition and well-being 2.3 By 2025, all children and young people in South Africa have equitable access to quality education relevant to changing society	3.2 By 2025, state institutions deliver effective public services to all and oversight bodies are strengthened	4.2 By 2025, natural resources are managed and utilised sustainably for improved livelihoods, health and well-being of vulnerable communities
OUTPUT AREAS	Inclusive and integrated labour market policies, employment programmes and targeted social protection Incentives for business for innovation, transition to green economy Social interventions for a just transition	Law enforcement, victim support, implementation coherence on violence and abuse Advocacy around respect and gender equality Promote access to universal health care, systems strengthening and emergency response Quality and relevance of education	Capacity, systems and processes of national and sub-national institutions Advocacy around civic duty among public office holders and civil servants Awareness raising on human rights and civic engagement among marginalised groups	Co-ordination and implementation of national and international legislation Capacity of institutions and communities to advance sustainability and resilience at the local level Support for sustainable consumption and production, focusing on resource efficiency, circularity and innovations Capacity for effective models on integrated natural resource management and conservation Strengthening data, science, advocacy and knowledge management
ROOT CAUSES	Extreme income and wealth inequality; multi-dimensional poverty; persistent discrimination; apartheid legacy of unequal access to opportunities and resources, and segregative spatial planning; unaccountable and inefficient governance; carbon dependent and undiversified industry; climate and biodiversity sensitive economy			

2.3 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOMES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Following the identification of the four strategic priorities, the UN in South Africa and partners formulated nine outcomes that the UN interventions will contribute towards. Development of the outcomes was informed by the six guiding principles of Cooperation Frameworks as specified by the UN Sustainable Development Group (see box 1). In formulating outcomes, the objectives were to address underlying and root causes to transformative change as identified in the CCA, reflect expected changes in the performance of both duty-bearers and rights-holders, and clearly articulate the overall focus of reducing all forms of discrimination and violations, and improving the lives of those left furthest behind. In addition, the aim was to formulate outcomes that promote synergies across multiple SDG targets and allow measuring against sustainability, resilience, and accountability factors.

Box 1: Guiding principles of the Cooperation Framework
1. Leaving no one behind.
2. Human rights-based approach to development.
3. Gender equality and women's empowerment.
4. Resilience.
5. Sustainability.
6. Accountability.

Table 1 below provides a summary of the Cooperation Framework strategic priorities and outcomes. The below chapter will describe the theory of change, intended priority interventions and main partnerships for each outcome.

Table 1: Cooperation Framework strategic priorities and outcomes

STRATEGIC PRIORITY	OUTCOME
1. Inclusive, just, and sustainable economic growth	1.1 By 2025, all people in South Africa, particularly women, youth, and other marginalised groups, benefit justly from decent work and other social and economic opportunities.
	1.2: By 2025, South Africa´s primary, secondary and tertiary sectors are more productive, diversified, sustainable, and employment-intensive.
2. Human capital and social transformation	2.1: By 2025, all people in South Africa, especially women and girls, vulnerable and marginalised populations, are protected from violence and discrimination and enjoy human rights and social cohesion.
	2.2: By 2025, all people in South Africa, particularly vulnerable and marginalised populations, enjoy improved health, nutrition and well-being.
	2.3: By 2025, all children and young people in South Africa have equitable access to quality education relevant to a changing society.
3. Effective, efficient and transformative governance	3.1: By 2025, women and marginalised groups participate meaningfully in decision making processes and access justice.
	3.2: By 2025, state institutions deliver effective public services to all and oversight bodies are strengthened.
4. Climate resilience and sustainably managed natural resources	4.1: By 2025, South Africa is on a just transition to a low-carbon society and vulnerable and marginalised communities adapt and are more resilient to adverse effects of climate change.
	4.2: By 2025, natural resources are managed and utilised sustainably for improved livelihoods, health and well-being of vulnerable communities.

Strategic priority 1: Inclusive, just and sustainable economic growth

STRATEGIC PRIORITY	OUTCOME
	National priorities: **NDP:** Chapter 3: Economy and employment; Chapter 6: Inclusive rural economy; Chapter 7: South Africa in the region and the world; Chapter 11: Social protection **MTSF:** Priority 2: Economic transformation and job creation; Priority 4: Consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services.
	Sustainable Development Goals: 1: No poverty; 2: Zero hunger; 3: Good health and well-being; 4: Quality education; 5. Gender equality; 6: Clean water and sanitation; 7: Affordable and clean energy; 8. Decent work and economic growth; 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure; 10. Reduced inequalities; 16. Peace justice and strong institutions; 17. Partnerships for the goals.

Cooperation Framework outcomes:
- Outcome 1.1: By 2025, all people in South Africa, particularly women, youth and other marginalised groups, benefit justly from decent work and other social and economic opportunities.
- Outcome 1.2: By 2025, South Africa´s primary, secondary and tertiary sectors are more productive, diversified, sustainable and employment-intensive.

Theory of Change

The first outcome under the strategic priority will focus on reducing persistent social and economic inequalities for women, youth and other marginalised groups. In South Africa, sustainable development and inclusive growth is undermined by unequal spatial development patterns, inequitable access to natural and productive resources such as land, water, finance and employment, coverage of social services and social protection, as well as wage and income disparities. The inequitable access to social protection, social services and protection of rights at work negatively affects internationally accepted human rights norms and standards, including the right to own property, the right to work under just and favourable conditions, the right to equal access to public services, social services and social security, as well as the right to equal pay for work of equal value. The negative impacts of social and economic disparities are disproportionately borne by women, youth, persons with disability, migrants, refugee, and asylum-seekers and other marginalised groups who remain on the economic periphery.

The main assumption underpinning the first outcome is that if marginalised groups and individuals that have so far been largely outside the formal economy are able to access natural and productive resources, enjoy equitable access to public and social services, as well as acquire relevant skills and competencies that are needed in the labour market, including entrepreneurial competencies, then they are in a better position to enter into the formal economy by either starting their own business or by being more employable. Subject to the increased availability of enhanced market and employment opportunities, which are promoted under outcome 1.2, this would in turn generate more income and lead to other socio-economic benefits, raising living standards at both individual and household level. Furthermore, if marginalised groups and individuals have access to equal economic opportunities and treatment, social protection coverage, legal recognition, and protection at work, then they are in a better position to live and work under conditions of security and dignity.

Achieving the outcome will require changes on the part of both rights-holders and duty-bearers, as the strengthened agency of marginalised groups will need to be coupled with inclusive and human rights-based labour market policies, employment and entrepreneurship development programmes, and improved compliance with international human rights and labour standards. It will also necessitate equitable access to natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as targeted social protection and more equitable service delivery.

The second outcome focuses on increasing productivity, growth and employment generation across key sectors and value chains of the economy through support to enterprises of different sizes and varying levels of formality. In South Africa, the private sector is composed of formal and registered enterprises, as well as of a large number of informal economic units. These enterprises differ substantially in terms of needs and challenges, but all play an important role in employment creation and in sustaining livelihoods. On the one hand, micro-enterprises and some of the smaller enterprises (MSEs) are often hampered by low productivity, they remain uncompetitive and thus contribute little to inclusive and sustainable economic growth. On the other hand, formal small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are often older, more established and often provide better and more formal conditions of employment. When supporting enterprise development in South Africa, this distinction is important for targeting of appropriate technical support.

The main assumption underpinning the outcome is that promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth requires, firstly, a regulatory, institutional and investment environment that promotes the transition to formality and actively encourages and spurs informal MSEs to expand and innovate, to create formal employment, and to invest in research, technology, cooperation, and human and natural resources. Secondly, the more formal SMEs will require support to embrace new innovative business models, collaborative people-centred and productivity-driven workplace relations, and targeted interventions in value chains and strategic areas and sectors. Untapped opportunities are found both in traditional sectors, such as agriculture, manufacturing, industry, the blue economy, and mining, and in new, emerging ones,

such as eco-tourism, renewable energy, and the green and digital economy. Targeted action would need to be extended to informal MSEs to draw them into value chains within strategic sectors of the economy. Lastly, the economy would need to be stimulated to promote values of human well-being, social equity, energy and resource efficiency, climate change resilience and biodiversity protection, adhering to internationally agreed standards such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights[40] and International Labour Standards.

Achieving the outcome will require changes on the side of national and sub-national governments in terms of increased incentives and supportive infrastructure for both the largely informal MSEs and the largely formal SMEs to promote economic diversification, value chain development and transition to a greener economy, as well as resilience to external shocks, such as pandemics and natural disasters. Furthermore, the outcome will support the government, civil society and private sector partners to harness the transformative potential of land reform and agrarian transformation as means to enhance the livelihoods and increase opportunities and productivity of the large mass of unskilled rural labour and smallholder farmers.

Due to the severe and most likely long-lasting negative impact of COVID-19 and a subdued economy already downgraded to junk status by rating agencies, comprehensive and ambitious economic policy and fiscal stimulus packages should be established and implemented for economic recovery. This may require seeking financial injections and accommodating loans at an international level. This would include collaboration with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other partners to negotiate debt review and debt re-structuring to better enable the government to address the challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

The UN development system will contribute towards achievement of the above outcomes by:
- Supporting the design, coordination and implementation of integrated legislation, policies, strategies and programmes across the three spheres of government to create more and better employment for all South Africans, through a range of dedicated interventions that enhance

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[40] United Nations, 2011, Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework. See: https://www.ohchr.org/documents/publications/guidingprinciplesbusinesshr_en.pdf

employment-intensive and sustainable growth and investment.

- Promoting access to productive resources for marginalised groups, with a focus on addressing discriminatory norms and practices, especially in labour markets, employment, social protection for the informal economy and land tenure through policy, legislative and programmatic support.
- Supporting the expansion and targeting of social protection and the delivery of public services to include all population groups, including people working in the informal economy, rural and peri-urban communities, non-citizens, children and persons with disabilities, and strengthening the compliance mechanisms for increased accountability and effectiveness.
- Strengthening the capacities of duty-bearers, focusing especially on the labour market, skills training institutions and business development services providers.
- Supporting and strengthening partnership platforms to promote a just transition, green jobs, agro-ecological practices, sustainable smallholder farming, value chain development and public-private partnerships.
- Supporting data collection, including labour market data, research and information sharing for evidence-based policy making, and strengthening of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems.
- Strengthening support services for sustainable MSEs, SMEs and small farms to contribute to the transformation of the bioeconomy, creating business development centres and incubation hubs in communities, fast-tracking preferential procurement, and improving compliance and accountability mechanisms for state-owned enterprises.
- Engaging in advocacy and awareness raising to encourage youth empowerment, gender equality, non-discrimination, social justice and the upholding of human, labour, and land rights.

Partnerships

The expected outcomes will be achieved through partnerships with constituents of the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC), including the Department of Trade Industry and Competition, civil society, and community organisations, business chambers and industry associations. The UN will leverage existing partnerships with organized business to access support from the Sector Training Authorities (SETAs) and large corporations for both MSE and SME programs, funding and skills development. The UN will utilise existing mechanisms and multi-stakeholder

platforms with the Departments of Finance, Trade and Industry, Agriculture Rural Development and Land Reform, Social Development, and Provincial and Local Government to promote an enabling policy, business, banking and financial environment for MSEs, SMEs, small farms and for women entrepreneurships. Partnerships with faith-based organisations will be explored to reach the most rural areas. The UN will engage with international financial institutions and the private sector to support the government to diversify the economy, improve the business environment, enhance the efficiency of financial and banking sectors, promote public-private partnerships and develop necessary skills in people to meet the demands of the labour market. The UN will strengthen its partnership with the Global Compact Network to ensure the integration of especially formal SMEs into local value chains and the integration of largely informal MSEs, and in particularly women-owned enterprises, into corporate strategies as a means to promote the transition to formality.

In the spirit of Delivering as One, the UN will develop a coherent approach to private sector engagement. The UN Resident Coordinator´s Office (UNRCO) will facilitate the establishment of a Private Sector Coordinating Committee (PSCC) to serve as the coordinating mechanism between the UN and the private sector. The UN will leverage its existing relationship with Productivity SA to ensure that productivity measurement tools and strategies are put in place for the promotion of enterprise productivity and competitiveness including resilience to external shocks. The UNRCO will facilitate the establishment of a Civil Society Coordinating Committee (CSCC) to serve as the coordinating mechanism between the UN and civil society organisations.

Strategic priority 2: Human capital and social transformation

STRATEGIC PRIORITY	OUTCOME
	National priorities: **NDP:** Improving education, training, and innovation; Chapter 10: Healthcare for all; Chapter 12: Building safer communities; Chapter 15: Nation building and social cohesion. **MTSF:** Priority 3: Education, skills, and health; Priority 6: Social cohesion and safe communities.
	Sustainable Development Goals: 1. No poverty; 2. Zero hunger; 3. Good health and well-being; 4. Quality education; 5. Gender equality; 8. Decent work and economic growth; 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure; 10. Reduced inequalities; 16. Peace justice and strong institutions.

Cooperation Framework outcomes:
- Outcome 2.1: By 2025, all people in South Africa, especially women and girls, vulnerable and marginalised populations, are protected from violence and discrimination and enjoy human rights and social cohesion.
- Outcome 2.2: By 2025, all people in South Africa, particularly vulnerable and marginalised populations, enjoy improved health, nutrition, and well-being
- Outcome 2.3: By 2025, all children and young people in South Africa have equitable access to quality education relevant to a changing society.

Theory of Change

The outcomes under this strategic priority will focus on improving social services, in particular health and well-being and quality education outcomes, and strengthening protection from violence, discrimination and abuse, as well as the enjoyment of human rights for the most vulnerable and marginalised populations.

The main assumption underpinning the first outcome is that freedom from any kind of violence, discrimination and abuse is a fundamental prerequisite for a cohesive and functioning society. This echoes a central message in the 2030 Agenda: "The new Agenda recognises the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights --, on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions"[41]. With murder and femicide rates that are among the highest in the world, widespread stigmatisation of persons with disabilities, and racism and periodic xenophobic attacks targeted at foreign nationals, the South African context justifies a separate outcome that addresses the deep causes behind the multiple forms of violence, abuse and discrimination. The outcome will mainstream a preventive approach to human rights across the Cooperation Framework and support a multisectoral response to sexual and gender-based violence against women and children. Furthermore, in line with the global UN Disability Inclusion Strategy[42], the outcome will address the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that persons with disabilities face in all spheres of life in South Africa, for example in accessing inclusive education, employment and health care. Achieving the outcome will require changes in law enforcement, access to justice, victim support, and policy implementation and coordination, as well as in societal norms, stigma and attitudes towards women and children and other vulnerable and marginalised populations.

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[41] *UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/70/1, 25 September 2015: Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.*
[42] *UN Disability Inclusion Strategy, 2019.*

The main assumptions underpinning the second and third outcomes are that if poor and vulnerable populations adopt healthier lifestyles and access relevant educational opportunities, then they will be able to better harness their capabilities and pursue a path out of poverty and towards development. In line with the declaration from the Second International Conference on Nutrition[43], the outcomes are based on the recognition that malnutrition, including under-nutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity, affects people´s health and well-being by impacting negatively on human physical and cognitive development, compromising the immune system, increasing susceptibility to communicable and non-communicable diseases, and restricting the attainment of human potential and reducing productivity. In view of South Africa´s persisting high food insecurity rate and growing obesity and stunting rates, as noted above, food and nutrition security will form integral components of all health and education interventions and will be mainstreamed across other Cooperation Framework outcomes to promote sustainable food production and healthy diets. The COVID-19 crisis is likely to further aggravate food insecurity and the nutritional status of children and women[44].

Achieving the health, nutrition and well-being outcome will require changes in the implementation of universal health coverage, in addressing the so-called quadruple burden of disease[45] and the broader underlying determinants of health, as well as in strengthening health systems and improving health emergency preparedness and response. For HIV and TB, the outcome will prioritise support to scale-up cost-effective prevention, treatment, and care interventions

in line with the "focus for impact" approach in the National Strategic Plan. This will include support to develop capacity to locally manufacture active pharmaceutical ingredients. Interventions will target high-burden districts and more deliberately address social and structural factors that increase vulnerability to infection. There will, furthermore, be a stronger focus on nurturing care of children, adolescent girls and young women, and on key and vulnerable populations who remain most affected by the epidemics[46]. Finally, as the ongoing worldwide pandemic of Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has demonstrated, scaling-up of preparedness, readiness and response capabilities for health emergencies, including epidemics, is today more crucially important than ever. As guided by the International Health Regulations[47], interventions under the outcome will support strengthening of core capacities for all health emergencies, including capacity for disease surveillance and response, data management, dissemination, and analysis, as well as generation of timely emergency health information.

In line with SDG 4: Quality education, the NDP puts emphasis on achieving universal access to early childhood development; improving the school system, including learning outcomes, retention rates and teacher training; and providing youth service and community-based programmes to young people to boost life-skills, entrepreneurship skills and participation in community development programmes[48]. Achieving the education outcome will require changes especially in the inclusive access and quality of early childhood development, basic education and post-school education, and in tailoring post-school education to meet the needs of the labour market to facilitate employment.

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[43] *The Second International Conference on Nutrition took place in Rome, Italy, 19-21 November 2014. For the conference outcome document, titled Rome Declaration on Nutrition, see: http://www.fao.org/3/a-ml542e.pdf.*
[44] *UN in South Africa, 2020, Emergency appeal for the impact of COVID-19 – South Africa.*
[45] *South Africa´s quadruple burden of disease consists of communicable diseases such as HIV and AIDS and TB; maternal and child mortality; non-communicable diseases, such as hypertension and cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, mental illnesses and chronic lung diseases; as well as injury and trauma. WHO Regional Office for Africa, December 2016: WHO Country Cooperation Strategy 2016-2020 South Africa.*
[46] *Republic of South Africa, 2017, South Africa's National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs 2017-2022.*
[47] *The International Health Regulations (2005), represent an agreement between 196 countries, including all WHO Member States, to work together for global health security and oblige countries to prevent, protect against, control and respond to the international spread of disease. See: https://www.who.int/ihr/about/en/, 7.4.2020.*
[48] *Republic of South Africa, National Planning Commission, 2012, National Development Plan 2030: Our future, make it work, p. 30.*

The UN development system will contribute towards achievement of the above outcomes by:

- *Supporting the development and implementation of targeted legislation, policies, and strategies at national and sub-national level to:*
  - Prevent and reduce violence, discrimination and abuse, including technical advice for law reform, establishment of a comprehensive prevention framework, support for the implementation of the GBV National Strategic Plan, the National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security, recommendations from the human rights mechanisms, and the National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.
  - Support the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, the 2016 White Paper on the Rights of People with Disabilities and the recommendations issued by the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism based on her visit to South Africa in 2019.
  - Support the implementation of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and its companion Framework for Action issued from the Second International Conference on Nutrition
  - Advance inclusive National Health Insurance, universal health coverage, health systems strengthening and health programmes, addressing especially communicable diseases, including HIV and AIDS and Tuberculosis; non-communicable diseases; reproductive, maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health and nutrition; violence and injuries; and health security. In addition, support will be provided to mainstream health policies across government departments and sectors.
  - Strengthen the education system at national and sub-national levels to offer quality, inclusive and relevant education; encourage and nurture innovations, with a specific focus on reading and numeracy in the foundational years; support

frameworks for effective delivery at all levels from early childhood development to further education and training, such as the Care and Support for Teaching Learning programme.

- *Strengthening capacities at national and sub-national level for:*
  - Multisectoral and multi-stakeholder coordinated and innovative responses to prevent and respond to violence and abuse against women and girls, bringing together the judiciary, the South African Judicial Education Institute, police, social service professionals, private sector, and civil society organisations.
  - Prevent and respond to xenophobia and racism, bringing together national authorities and key stakeholders responsible for implementation of the National Action Plan, border officials, judiciary, police, migrants, host communities, civil society organisations and media actors. The UN will strengthen the capacity of national, provincial, and local authorities and civil society organisations on early warning and action in response to xenophobia and hate speech, including access to justice for victims of xenophobic violence.
  - Establishment of the Independent Monitoring Mechanism under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as the National Preventive Mechanism under the Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture.
  - Implementation of universal health coverage and integrated programmes in especially high-burden districts that address the quadruple burden of disease and focus on the underlying determinants of health. Special attention will be given to supporting the ongoing response and managing continuity of essential health services in the context of COVID-19 and building longer-term core capacities for health emergency preparedness and response through multisectoral coordination using a whole of

government, whole of society approach.

- Improving the quality and inclusiveness of the formal education system from early childhood education to tertiary level by supporting effective curriculum implementation and coverage, and programmes that incorporate life skills and competencies that are essential in a green, diversified economy.

- Improving accountability systems and oversight bodies through strengthening the domestication, reporting, monitoring, and tracking of implementation of international and regional commitments and treaties in human rights, health and education. The UN will also enhance the capacity of civil society organisations, the South African Human Rights Commission, and the Commission for Gender Equality to engage with the UN human rights mechanisms.
- Strengthening evidence generation, M&E, and information management systems to better target and manage health and education programmes, as well as interventions addressing violence and abuse and other forms of discrimination. This will include support to Statistics South Africa in improving data disaggregation on the most disadvantaged groups and those at risk of being left behind, strengthening the national integrated GBV data management system, and developing a specialized survey on GBV. Existing data collection and analysis initiatives will also be strengthened, such as Femicide Watch, GBV command centre and Childline South Africa.
- Piloting of innovative gender-based violence programmes and partnerships, such as primary prevention initiatives, safe public space and social cohesion programmes, and the ending violence against children partnership.
- Supporting the improvement of integrated service delivery models for gender-based violence, health, and education. This includes delivery of gender-based violence rapid results (100 days) and health essential services package at district level, prevention and early intervention services for children and families, and advocacy campaigns for increased education budget allocations for young people and children.
- Supporting the rollout and evaluation of the national school safety framework and associated instruments, and establishment of platforms for teaching life skills outside of the classroom, such as sport for development and avenues for democratic participation for young people.

Partnerships

For realising social goals for people in South Africa in the above outcome areas, strong partnerships will be further consolidated with the Presidency, the Department of Health, Social Development, Women, Persons with Disability and Youth, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development other line departments, the National Treasury, the police, the South African Judicial Education Institute, and the judiciary. Partnerships will also include national institutions for health standards, medical schemes and regulations, Chapter 9 Institutions, the Parliament, the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), civil society and faith-based organisations, development partners, the corporate sector, academic institutions, community leaders, and the media.

Coordination with non-health departments will be particularly key to address the social determinants of health and the multi-dimensional nature of epidemics. The command councils created for COVID-19 response at national, provincial and district level may be leveraged for multi-stakeholder engagement. Partnerships between public and private sectors will be sought to improve access to health, equity, and social justice. New emphasis will be given to community engagement and social and behavioural communication to address underlying causes and drivers of violence against women and children. The social compact model that is being established to respond to COVID-19 can be reproduced for improving safety and security.

Strategic priority 3: Effective, efficient and transformative governance

STRATEGIC PRIORITY	OUTCOME
	National priorities: **NDP:** Chapter 12: Building safer communities; Chapter 13: Building a capable and developmental state; Chapter 14: Fighting corruption; Chapter 15: Nation building and social cohesion. **MTSF:** Priority 1: Building a capable, ethical, and developmental state; Priority 5: Spatial integration, human settlements, and local government; Priority 6: Social cohesion and safer communities; Priority 7: A better Africa and world.
	Sustainable Development Goals: 1: No poverty; 4: Quality education; 5. Gender equality; 10. Reduced inequalities; 16. Peace justice and strong institutions.

Cooperation Framework outcomes:
- Outcome 3.1: By 2025, women and marginalised groups participate meaningfully in decision making processes and access justice.
- Outcome 3.2: By 2025, state institutions deliver effective public services to all and oversight bodies are strengthened.

Theory of Change

The outcomes under the strategic priority will focus, firstly, on rights-holders' ability, with an emphasis on women, youth, persons with disabilities and marginalised groups, to participate in democratic processes, understand and claim their fundamental human rights and access justice. Secondly, the focus will be on duty-bearers´ ability to deliver effective public services to all people in South Africa and on oversight institutions´ ability to hold duty-bearers accountable for the use of power and resources. Therefore, the strategic priority is centred around SDG 16: Peace, justice, and strong institutions, with a clear link to especially outcome 2.1 under strategic priority 2: Human capital and social transformation.

The main assumption underpinning the first outcome is that active participation and engagement of rights-holders in public life and decision-making processes will translate to more inclusive and equitable governance that upholds human rights and provides access to justice for all. Achieving the outcome hinges both on the openness of decision-making structures to allow for fair representation of marginalised groups, and on informed and engaged citizens that are able to demand access to rights and justice. Changes will be needed primarily in strengthening civic education among young people and fostering inclusive dialogue structures and platforms for citizen participation, as well as in addressing barriers and obstacles to access to justice.

The main assumption underpinning the second outcome is that improving governance, namely the strengthening of the systems, processes, and capacity of state institutions, will improve the efficiency, equity and coverage of public services. Another assumption is that if oversight bodies, such as the Parliament, the independent Chapter 9 institutions[49], and the anti-corruption agencies, function effectively, then deep-rooted governance challenges such as various forms of corruption and abuse of power, impunity,

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[49] *The independent state institutions established through chapter 9 of the Constitution for the purpose of strengthening constitutional democracy include the following; the Public Protector, the South African Human Rights Commission, the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities, the Commission for Gender Equality, the Auditor-General and the Electoral Commission.*

limited rule of law, illicit financial and arms flows, and persistent discrimination based on race, sex, ability or location would be reduced. Achieving the outcome will require capacity building across government and non-government institutions, improvements in collaboration and coordination mechanisms, and strengthening of the resource base and operational independence of oversight bodies, but also broader changes in the working culture and sense of civic duty among public office holders and civil servants in line with the Batho Pele principles.

The ongoing COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the need for government institutions to better anticipate, prevent and respond to disasters, including those related to biological hazards. There is a need to strengthen the effectiveness of national, local, and international institutions, public and private, in the preparation for emergency response and recovery, as well as revitalizing the global partnership for development in accordance with the 2030 Agenda. Prioritizing investment in human, technical and technological capacities for response preparedness, recovery and resilience building is a vital component of outcome 3.2, linking into outcomes 4.1 and 4.2, as described below.

The UN development system will contribute towards achievement of the above outcomes by:
- Supporting the design, coordination and implementation of legislation, policies and strategies across the three spheres of government that advance enjoyment of human rights, access to justice and democratic participation of marginalised groups and encourage multi-institutional approaches and collaboration.
- Supporting the establishment and functioning of an Inter-Ministerial Committee to serve as a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up to international and regional human rights mechanisms. The new mechanism is meant to improve the implementation of recommendations and enhance collaboration between government departments. The UN will also support establishing a National Human Rights Recommendations Tracking Database, an electronic system that facilitates the recording, tracking, and reporting on the implementation of human rights recommendations emanating from international, regional, and national human rights mechanisms at the national level.
- Strengthening the capacity of law enforcement agencies, prosecution, judiciary, and programme implementers to address structural barriers to

access to rights and justice. The UN will work with the government to strengthen institutional capacities for reporting and implementation of recommendations from UN human rights mechanisms, such as the Universal Periodic Review, Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council linked to the SDGs, as well as recommendations from regional human rights mechanisms and independent national institutions, such as the South African Human Rights Commission. Furthermore, the UN will enhance the capacity of civil society organisations and national human rights institutions to engage with the UN human rights mechanisms.
- Strengthening the capacity of oversight institutions and Parliament, including Chapter 9 institutions, and community engagement forums to enhance accountability systems and consistency in the application of law at all levels and promote human rights education and literacy
- Supporting the National School of Government to undertake state-wide capacity building of public servants on good governance and the principles and practices of building a capable, ethical, and developmental public service as per national priorities.
- Supporting the Public Service Commission (PSC) to strengthen and enforce the performance management system for more effective and efficient performance within the public service.
- Supporting the improvement of integrated planning, monitoring, data collection, reporting and evaluation at the district level, including for enhanced reporting on SDG 16.

Partnerships
The expected outcomes will be achieved through partnerships with NEDLAC constituents in the development chamber, the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration, and various sector bargaining councils to promote harmony and social dialogue. The UN will work with the PSC, the National School of Government and the South African Local Government Association, to enhance the capacity of the state to discharge its functions, and for the PSC to play an effective oversight and guardianship role to the upholding of the constitutional values of good public administration.

To further strengthen the oversight and accountability mechanisms, the UN will work with institutions supporting democracy, such as the Human Rights Commission, the Commission on Gender Equality,

the Auditor General and the Public Protector. The UN will strengthen the law-making, representation and oversight roles of the legislative sector at national, provincial, and local government levels. Close collaboration with the sector is essential to deepening accountability and ensuring adherence to national and global development goals and international treaties that South Africa is a signatory to.

To combat corruption and prevent illicit flows of money and drugs, the UN will forge partnerships with the Financial Intelligence Centre, and investigative, prosecution and law enforcement agencies under the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development. Ethical leadership and integrity will form the basis for the partnership with these institutions, including the PSC, the Presidency, and civil society organisations that fight and campaign against corruption and malfeasance.

To ensure that marginalised groups have access to justice and decision-making platforms, the UN will work with civil society organisations, the mechanisms afforded by National Action Plans the judiciary, and the South African Judicial Education Institute. On civic and human rights education, the UN will collaborate with the Department of Basic Education, targeting particularly school going children, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, the South African Human Rights Commission, and the Elections Commission of South Africa to strengthen electoral democracy and the participation of women, people with disabilities, and young people in democratic processes. The media will be a key partner to strengthen access to public information.

Strategic priority 4: Climate resilience and sustainably managed natural resources

STRATEGIC PRIORITY	OUTCOME
	National priorities: **NDP:** Chapter 3: Economy and employment; Chapter 4: Economic infrastructure; Chapter 6: Inclusive rural economy; Chapter 5: Environmental sustainability and resilience. **MTSF:** Priority 2: Economic transformation and job creation; Priority 5: Spatial integration, human settlements and local government.
	Sustainable Development Goals: 1. No poverty; 2. Zero hunger; 3. Good health and well-being; 5. Gender equality; 6. Clean water and sanitation; 7. Affordable and clean energy; 8. Decent work and economic growth; 10. Reduced inequalities; 11. Sustainable cities and communities; 12. Responsible consumption and production; 13. Climate action; 14. Life below water; 15. Life on land; 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions; 17. Partnerships for the goals.

Cooperation Framework outcomes:
- Outcome 4.1: By 2025, South Africa is on a just transition to a low-carbon society and vulnerable and marginalised communities adapt and are more resilient to adverse effects of climate change.
- Outcome 4.2: By 2025, natural resources are managed and utilised sustainably for improved livelihoods, health and well-being of vulnerable communities.

Theory of Change

The outcomes under this strategic priority will focus, firstly, on supporting South Africa´s just transition to a low-carbon society and strengthening the adaptive capacity and resilience of marginalised and vulnerable communities to extreme weather events, disasters, biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystems caused by climate change. Climate change impacts directly and indirectly on a range of health and human rights and it often disproportionately affects individuals and communities already in disadvantaged situations due to poverty, gender, race, age, disability, migration status, and ethnic background. Secondly, the outcomes will focus on improving the efficient and environmentally sound management and utilisation of natural resources for the greater benefit of vulnerable and marginalised populations.

Urgent actions are needed to transform the relationship between people and nature. States have legal obligations to prevent and alleviate climate change as recognised by the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights: "all peoples shall have the right to a general satisfactory environment favourable to their development"[50]. A healthy planet is critical to peoples' ability to rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic and to prevent the passing of zoonotic diseases from animals to humans. Integrated ecosystems and biodiversity management will meet multiple objectives – from the provision of food, water and energy to biodiversity protection and job creation. The post COVID-19 recovery process provides an opportunity to initiate transformational and green recovery programmes supported through the government's stimulus package. These should capture opportunities for green investments and nature-based solutions, such as renewable energy, smart housing, green public procurement, public transport, agroecology, and eco-tourism. This will require addressing the current unsustainable patterns of consumption and

production to protect biodiversity, put an end to illegal wildlife trade, safeguard the handling of chemicals and waste, reduce plastic pollution and promote economic recovery plans that take nature and the climate emergency into account. Furthermore, the government will need to invest in safe and environmentally sound waste management technologies, methods, and infrastructure to address the increase of waste generated during the crisis. This strategic priority provides an important foundation for the Cooperation Framework, supporting an integrated approach to the implementation of SDGs and highlighting the urgency to address the unprecedented environmental crisis, rising poverty, resource depletion, migration, food insecurity, loss of livelihoods, infrastructure breakdown, loss of access to essential services such as energy, water, sanitation, health care, and ultimately social cohesion.

Outcome 4.1 is a function of two distinct, albeit interlinked climate change interventions – mitigation and adaptation. An economy wide just transition to a low carbon society is a function of mitigation, whilst climate resilience is built through adaptation actions. Given South Africa's current energy mix and over-dependence on coal, the mitigation challenge is considerable. Achieving mitigation targets will require, firstly, a reduction in GHG emissions[51] largely through the promotion of a green economy[52]. Secondly, the proportion of capital investments for transitions to renewable energy[53] and greener production should be leveraged, including investments into research on renewable energy technologies. Harnessing renewable energy and decentralising interventions will contribute to the creation of green jobs in niche markets where South Africa has or can develop a competitive advantage[54]. Further, climate-smart, energy- and capital-efficient agriculture practices[55] with lower reliance on industrial inputs such as chemical fertilisers and pesticides should be promoted.

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[50] *African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, Article 24.*

[51] *Over 80% of the national carbon emissions are from the energy sector, with cities contributing an estimated 20%.*

[52] *South Africa's National Green Economy Summit (2010) identified nine focus areas and climate change flagships projects: 1) resource conservation and management; 2) sustainable waste management practices; 3) water management; 4) environmental sustainability: greening and legacy-major events and tourism, research, skills, financing and investments; 5) green buildings and the built environment; 6) sustainable transport and infrastructure; 7) clean energy and energy efficiency; 8) agriculture, food production and forestry; and 9) sustainable consumption and production. The Green Economy Inventory for South Africa identifies three key sectors that benefit most from green transitions — Energy, Agriculture and Transport.*

[53] *South Africa must leverage its rich and profitable wind and solar endowments and regional hydropower opportunities, coupled with electricity reform through systematic phasing out of coal. An estimated R500 billion worth of renewable energy infrastructure will need to be built.*

[54] *Department of Public Enterprises, 2019, Roadmap for Eskom in a reformed Electricity Supply Industry. See: https://www.gov.za/documents/eskom-roadmap-29-oct-2019-0000, 16 June 2020.*

[55] *The carbon footprint of chemical fertilisers and production systems based on fossil fuel consumption is very high, especially in fertiliser manufacture, long-distance transport and large carbon and nitrogen emissions in agricultural production.*

To leverage synergies between people, planet, and place in solving system-wide and interlinked challenges, a comprehensive sectoral nexus approach, which mitigates contradictions and promotes holistic cooperative action, should be adopted. Strengthening the engagement of environmental human rights defenders will be important to ensure that the voices of vulnerable and marginalised populations are heard in the shift to sustainable production and consumption patterns. As stated by the CEDAW Committee: "any measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change should be designed and implemented in accordance with the human rights principles of substantive equality and non-discrimination, participation and empowerment, accountability, access to justice, transparency and rule of law"[56]. The regulatory, institutional and investment environment must be geared towards enabling zero emissions.

The primary assumption underpinning the adaptation component of outcome 4.1 is that community resilience is an effective strategy for reducing poverty, increasing access to food, water and energy, and improving living standards among poor disaster-prone communities. There is broad agreement that Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) approaches and nature based solutions are viable options to reduce climate vulnerability and increase the resilience and adaptive capacity of communities in rural and peri-urban settlements and for small-scale farmers and fishers in productive landscapes. When communities are able to prepare, respond and adapt to adverse climate change induced impacts they will rebuild faster and avoid sliding back into poverty. It is critical to systematically include women, persons with disabilities, migrants and other vulnerable groups in disaster risk reduction policies and architecture at the national and sub-national level.

The primary assumption underpinning the second outcome is that sustainable management and utilisation of natural resources will, firstly, remedy immediate ills such as pollution, diminishing freshwater reserves, loss and degradation of biodiversity, and over-exploitation of marine, coastal, and freshwater environments. Secondly, it will enable medium and longer-term benefits in areas of water and energy efficiency, integrated waste management and recycling, food security, health, and in the emergence of a greener and more circular economy. In short, the positive ripple effects are assumed to be wide ranging across all societal spheres, especially for rural communities whose livelihoods and way of life are directly dependent on the state of natural resources. Achieving the outcome will require changes at the technical level to facilitate effective biodiversity conservation, land use, watershed, and wildlife management, and at the attitudinal level for sustainable priority setting and willingness among authorities to engage in new and broader partnerships. New partnerships will especially be needed with industry and corporations to advocate for the adoption of sustainable production and market practices.

The UN development system will contribute towards achievement of the above outcomes by:
- *Supporting the coordination and implementation of legislation, policies, and strategies, that enable:*
  - A just transition to a low-carbon society, such as the 'Green Economy', National Just Transition Plan and the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme.
  - South Africa to achieve its 2030 National Determined Contributions (NDC) target and commitments in other national and international frameworks on climate change and disaster risk reduction, such as the national Ecosystem-based Adaptation Strategy, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the SDGs.
  - More sustainable natural resource management and utilisation for improved livelihoods and well-being of vulnerable communities, including the national Bioeconomy Strategy, the Food and Nutrition Security Plan, the Integrated Water Resource Management Plan and policy instruments for consolidating and strengthening the biodiversity economy and its various value chains, ocean economy, wildlife and watershed management, land use management.
- Promoting new mechanisms for innovative environmental financing solutions and blended public-private approaches, including access to international sources of climate finance.
- Supporting innovative experiments and pilot projects aiming to improve service delivery models and provide green-oriented incentives for business opportunities related to energy efficient technologies, renewable energy, and sustainable utilisation of natural resources. This will include community-led climate change, environment, and wildlife economy projects.
- Supporting government efforts to help vulnerable and marginalised communities adapt and become more resilient to adverse effects of climate change,

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[56] *UN CEDAW Committee General Recommendation No. 37, CEDAW/C/GC/37, para 14, available at: https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/1_Global/CEDAW_C_GC_37_8642_E.pdf*

including through education and awareness campaigns and EbA/nature based actions in order to ensure food and water security and ecosystem sustainability.

- Strengthening the capacity of vulnerable groups and environmental human rights defenders to meaningfully participate in environmental governance, access information and justice in environmental matters.
- Building institutional capacity at national and sub-national levels for integrated resource planning, agro-ecological practices, human capital development, biodiversity assessments, as well as enhanced collection and use of quality, disaggregated data for improved spatial mapping and planning and loss accounting after disasters.
- Facilitating multi-stakeholder engagement, policy dialogue and information sharing at national and sub-regional levels between government, private sector, civil society, academia and communities on community-based climate resilience and technological innovations in climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as on sustainable natural resource management and creation of green jobs. This will include promotion of youth platforms to engage marginalised and vulnerable groups such as youth and women.

The UN will also work with government to strengthen monitoring through the development of a national framework on green economy indicators, to ensure that the country is able to monitor progress toward a green economy, across a specific period of time. Work on the Green Economy Progress (GEP) Measurement Framework will be the main intervention through which this work is done.

Partnerships
The UN system will partner with a range of government departments and agencies and organised labour to advocate 'green' and sustainable practices for a just transition. Regional cooperation, especially through the SADC, the AU and the BRICS, will be enhanced to address transboundary energy and water insecurities. Collaboration with research institutions and the entire National System of Innovation will be strengthened to promote research, policy formulation and strategic planning, as well as in depth analytics on the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework and the NDCs. At the community level, close collaboration with non governmental and community-based organisations, farmers' organisations, fishers' organisations, indigenous people's networks, organisations and networks that deal with migration, and the Department of Social Development will build climate resilience of vulnerable and marginalised communities. The UN will cooperate with the Global Environmental Facility, the Green Climate Fund, and the Adaptation Fund and Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) to raise resources and pilot and scale up prioritised mitigation and adaptation initiatives. The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), SALGA and development partners will be critical partners for interventions to craft and implement Locally Determined Contributions. The UN will leverage partnerships with diaspora communities to support resilience building of families and communities through remittances, knowledge, technology, and skills transfer. A full list of partners, including UN system agencies, is provided in the Annexures.

To support sustainable management of natural resources, the UN system will partner with government departments and agencies, traditional leaders, organised labour and research institutions. At the community level, there will be close collaboration with non governmental and community-based organisations, farmers' organisations, fishers' organisations, indigenous people's network, migrants' networks, and the Department of Social Development to enhance institutional capacity and the meaningful participation of marginalised and vulnerable communities. The UN will cooperate with the South African National Biodiversity Institute to pilot and scale up initiatives and technologies for improving environmental protection and biodiversity conservation. The UN partner with the tourism sector, the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform, and the Department of Science and Innovation to minimise consumption of energy and raw materials, minimise waste and pollution, harness biodiversity loss and restore ecosystems. A full list of partners, including UN system agencies, is provided in the Annexures.

2.4 SYNERGIES BETWEEN COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOMES

The Cooperation Framework strategic priorities and outcomes are designed to address the three dimensions of sustainable development, with sustainable environment forming the overall platform for progress across the other dimensions. This conceptual understanding entails that all the nine outcomes are intertwined and progress in one outcome is closely dependent on progress in all the other outcomes. While the ToC visualisation above (figure 2) portrays the intended results pathways as simple and linear, there will be overlaps among contributions to results at all levels, reflecting the complex and integrated nature of social change processes.

Leveraging synergies between outcomes will be especially important for addressing the following multisectoral issues:

- Inequality: addressing the multiple forms on inequality in South Africa cuts across all strategic priorities. Outcome 1.1 addresses inequalities in economic opportunities by focusing on access to resources and employment, outcomes 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 address inequalities in terms of safety, respect and dignity, especially on the basis of gender, as well as health and education, outcome 3.1 addresses inequalities in participation in democratic processes and access to human rights, and finally, outcome 4.1 addresses inequalities in the way communities are able to overcome climate change impacts. It is worth noting that as inequalities in South Africa are complex and layered, issues of gender, race, ethnicity, and ability will be addressed in all above outcomes.

- Unemployment: while outcome 1.1 has a particular focus on increasing employment opportunities, its achievement will for example depend on 1.2 that supports the creation of a more enabling environment for businesses, outcome 1.3 that aims to equip young people with skills relevant for the labour market and 4.2 that strives to ensure that

the country's rich natural resources will be there to provide work and livelihoods for generations to come.

- Violence and discrimination: outcome 2.1 is designed to address femicide and promote safety and non-discrimination, especially for girls and women, but it will depend on outcomes 3.1 and 3.2 in terms of access to justice and the functioning of state institutions for protection and supportive policies, as well as outcome 2.2 for gender-based violence sensitive health services and 2.3 for bringing up young people that embrace values of respect, tolerance and unity.

2.5 SUSTAINABILITY

The Cooperation Framework supports the most sustainable development choices for South Africa as identified by the CCA and stakeholder consultations and expressed in the NDP 2030 and MTSF. In brief, these focus on addressing South Africa's triple challenges of poverty, inequality, and unemployment. Aligning UN contributions to national development priorities and the achievement of the SDGs serves as the fundamental promise of sustainability.

In order to promote the sustainability of the outcomes, the following principles will guide interventions implemented in collaboration with partners under the Cooperation Framework:

- Emphasis will be on strengthening national implementation systems and mechanisms, with a specific focus on supporting the operationalisation of the District Based Service Delivery system and enhancing oversight institutions, for quality decentralised service delivery, and accountability;
- Capacity building initiatives will build on existing individual and organisational capacities, be carefully tailored to suit the specific social and cultural context, be targeted towards participants with significant influencing power over change processes, and utilise the training of trainers' modality for ownership and scalability;
- Behaviour change approaches will be mainstreamed across interventions to address harmful social norms and promote gender equality, respect for women and girls, healthy lifestyles, community resilience, and overall social cohesion;
- Interventions will be based on strong partnerships and aim to involve and engage local actors in all stages of the project cycle to ensure ownership and relevance;
- New and innovative interventions will be thoroughly piloted to test proof of concept, cost-efficiency, and scalability; and
- Interventions will be informed by past experiences and evaluations, grounded on evidence and best practices leveraging the knowledge networks of the UN, and targeted towards populations left furthest behind.

Furthermore, sustainability of outcomes will be promoted through proper investments in programme and project planning, monitoring, learning and evaluation across all UN agencies. The UNCT will ensure that all programme and project documents are based on a rigorous ToC aligned to the Cooperation

Framework and that the UN system has sufficient programme management and M&E capacity to deliver on the agreed results.

2.6 UN COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES AND UNCT CONFIGURATION

UN Comparative Advantage

The UN system is ideally placed in South Africa to support fast-tracking sustainable development in line with national priorities based on the following comparative advantages:

- A long-standing partnership with the Government of South Africa and recognised convening power: the UN system can mobilise non-state actors behind the MTSF priorities and cultivate regional, cross-border and South-South multi-stakeholder collaboration and development exchange for example to advance the transition to a green economy, foster safety and stability, strengthen preparedness for and resilience to cross-border disasters and conflicts, and accelerate innovations for sustainable development.
- A neutral partner with a normative mandate: the UN system is well-placed to support the implementation of global resolutions, international norms, standards, and conventions, in line with South Africa's international and regional commitments.
- Expertise in financing for sustainable development: the UN system can leverage its in-house expertise and experience to support a comprehensive approach to increasing domestic resource mobilisation and investments for SDGs, including through conducting financial landscape analysis, aligning domestic and international resource flows to MTSF priorities, countering illicit financial flows and loss of tax revenues, advocating for continued official development assistance and fostering public-private partnerships.
- Experience in operationalising the SDG: the UN system has extensive expertise in integrated and multisectoral policy development, know-how in identifying and managing synergies between SDGs for increased vertical and horizontal implementation coherence, and experience in developing cost-efficient systems and practices that enhance coordination and information flow in between and across organisations.
- Technological proficiency and access to knowledge networks: the UN can draw on its broad skills-base and access to worldwide scientific research to utilise innovations in technology and practices to unlock persistent implementation challenges, promote increased scientific cooperation and technology transfers in the region, and advocate for further investments in research and development across

the thematic areas of the Cooperation Framework.
- Capacity to use data for transformation: the UN system has capacity and systems to generate, analyse, and disseminate disaggregated data to better understand complex development challenges, develop evidence-based programmes, target interventions to leave no one behind, and monitor progress for constant improvement and learning.

UNCT Configuration

To ensure that the UN system in South Africa is appropriately positioned and has the necessary capacities to deliver on the Cooperation Framework, the UNCT discussed and agreed on the below configuration (table 2 below). The UNCT also concluded that the following considerations should guide the framework´s modality of delivery:

- The need to strengthen Delivering as One.
- Emphasizing implementation, scalability, and impact.
- Increased sub-national level focus through support of the District Service Delivery Model.
- Growing need to build humanitarian capacity.

The UNCT assessed the collective expertise, capacities and competencies required to deliver on the Cooperation Framework. Identified gaps will be filled through the engagement of non-resident agencies and through the application of different operational models. Based on the review of the capacities, resources and business models, irrespective of the physical location of the UN entities, the UN Resident Coordinator proposes the following UN entities as members of the UNCT that will support the country to realise the four strategic priorities and nine outcomes of the Cooperation Framework.

Table 2: UNCT Configuration

REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE	THROUGH HEADQUARTERS, REGIONAL, SUB-REGIONAL OR MULTI-COUNTRY OFFICE	SEPARATE LIAISON/ PROJECT OFFICE	CAPACITY EMBEDDED IN ANOTHER UN ENTITY, PLEASE SPECIFY	SHORT-TERM TECHNICAL SUPPORT	AGENCY	1. INCLUSIVE, JUST AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH	2. HUMAN CAPITAL AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION	3. EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT AND TRANSFORMATIVE GOVERNANCE	4. CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABLY MANAGED NATURAL RESOURCES
X	X				FAO	X	X		X
X	X				ILO	X			X
X	X			X	IOM	X	X	X	X
	X				OHCHR	X	X	X	X
X					UNAIDS		X		
X	X		X	X	UNDP	X		X	X
X	X		X	X	UNEP	X	X	X	X
	X	X			UNESCO	X	X		X
X	X	X			UNFPA	X	X	X	X
X					UNHCR		X	X	
X	X			X	UNICEF	X	X		
X	X			X	UNIDO	X			X
X					UNODC		X	X	
X	X				UNWomen	X	X	X	X
X	X				WFP		X		
X	X				WHO		X		
	X				UN-Habitat	X	X	X	X
	X				ITC	X			

3. COOPERATION FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Government of South Africa and the UNCT are fully committed to the collective responsibility of implementing the UN reform. Central to the reform is the promise of a more coordinated, integrated, and efficient UN development system that focuses on delivery on the ground and provides tailored support to countries in achieving the SDGs. This Cooperation Framework will introduce significant shifts in how the UN conducts its work over the upcoming implementation cycle to respond to the ambition of Agenda 2030 and the UN reform.

As elaborated below, these shifts entail the following:
- Government ownership and leadership over the implementation of the Cooperation Framework;
- Building an ecosystem of Government and non-state actors collaborating to deliver results;
- A flexible and dynamic programme that is able to respond to a fluid development context;
- More coordinated UN system response based on national needs and priorities across all levels of Government and the ecosystem; and
- Strengthening national oversight and accountability mechanisms.

3.1 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The realisation that achieving sustainable development requires cooperation across societal sectors is a foundational aspect of the 2030 Agenda[57]. In order to tackle South Africa´s systemic and inter-connected challenges, broad partnerships will need to be established and private resources mobilised and redirected towards the SDGs. In line with the principle of leaving no one behind, partnerships under the Cooperation Framework will be extended to the business and private sector, civil society organisations, including youth and gender-based groups and organisations representing people with disabilities, worker organisations, research institutes and academic organisations, as well as development partners, foundations and philanthropic individuals. Recognising that it takes time and resources to establish and manage successful partnerships, the UN will prioritise partnerships that generate both significant added value towards delivering on the SDGs and clear net value for each individual partner[58].

The strong relationship between the UN and the Government of South Africa will continue under the Cooperation Framework, with the Joint Steering Committee serving as the primary platform for high-level collaboration, as described below in chapter 3.2. The UN will prioritise support for the operationalisation of the SDG National Coordinating Mechanism, adopted by the Cabinet, in order to promote greater coordination, collaboration and inclusive

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[57] The preamble to the UN General Assembly resolution Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development states: "All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan." GA/RES/70/1, 25 September 2015.
[58] For more information on how to ensure that partnerships add value in the SDG context, refer to Stibbe, D.T., Reid, S., Gilbert, J., 2019, Maximising the Impact of Partnerships for the SDGs, The Partnering Initiative and UN DESA.

partnerships for the SDGs. The introduction of the DSDM, as described above in chapter 1.2, presents an opportunity to establish new partnerships at the local government level and provide joined-up support for strengthening national implementation capability and public sector performance. In this regard, critical partners for the UN will include COGTA, SALGA and the Provincial administrations, as well as civil society and the private sector.

In order to leverage existing and form new partnerships, the UN will establish sector platforms for a wide range of development actors, such as the private sector, civil society and labour organisations. The sector platforms will form a National Advisory Board, which will assist the UNCT in mobilising resources, introducing new partnerships, and sharing information on emerging issues, such as innovations, tested development solutions and new academic research. Special attention will be devoted to partnerships around gender equality, violence against women and girls, and youth exclusion. The UN will, under the leadership and coordination of the RC, leverage existing initiatives and platforms, such as Generation Equality and Generation Unlimited, and build new coalitions to encourage broad and impactful cooperation among all stakeholders.

Recognising the unique position of South Africa in the immediate Southern African region and the wider African continent[59], the UN will collaborate with the government and other national partners to enhance regional and global cooperation and integration across all the Cooperation Framework outcomes. The COVID-19 crisis is expected to have significant socio-economic impacts for the whole region, calling for ever closer cooperation in terms of both response and recovery. The UN will leverage its global presence, normative role, and access to expertise to support South Africa to expand engagement in international best-practice and knowledge exchange. The UNCT will also continue to build close partnerships with other UNCTs in the region to promote peer-to-peer learning and encourage cross-border dialogue and initiatives.

Other key implementation strategies include the following:

- **Leaving no one behind:** recognising the extreme level of inequality in South Africa, interventions must demonstrate a clear focus on improving the lives of the most vulnerable and marginalised and target structural barriers to equality, justice, resources, and opportunities. The UNCT will develop a dedicated strategy to guide implementation of the leaving no one behind principle.

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[59] *South Africa´s unique position can be ascribed to its progressive Constitution, strong state institutions and its active participation in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union (AU). South Africa is also the only African country in the G20, or Group of Twenty.*

- **Emphasizing implementation, scalability, and impact:** noting South Africa´s strong existing policy environment, interventions will increasingly move away from policy development to strengthening policy coherence and implementation at national and sub-national levels. Similarly, interventions must be scalable, sustainable, and focused on achieving progress across multiple SDGs. Interventions will, to the extent possible, be aimed at strategic leverage points in the economic, social, and environmental systems to generate the broadest possible change throughout value chains.
- **Delivering together:** acknowledging that the added value of the UN in an upper-middle income country is based not on the mandate of any single agency, but on the expertise and resources in the whole UN Development System, the UNCT is committed to deepen its Delivering as One approach for enhanced coordination, effectiveness, efficiency and impact. In line with the UN reform, the UNCT will prioritise closer internal collaboration on the operations side for increased efficiency, including through harmonising back-office functions such as finance, procurement, human resources and IT, and scaling up common premises for a more unified and cost-efficient UN presence.

3.2 THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The overarching principle for the UNSDCF Governance Structure is that it should reinforce the UN Reforms, serving as a mechanism that promotes greater collaboration between the Government, the UN and other national partners. Importantly, the governance mechanism encompasses the entire programme cycle, including the design, implementation, monitoring and reporting phases of the Cooperation Framework. This sub-section outlines the UNSDCF Governance Structure for South Africa. It 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. The UN in South Africa commits to continuously assess, as part of the annual review exercise of the Cooperation Framework, the functioning of the governance mechanisms to ensure that they add value to all stakeholders and remain relevant for delivering results.

The UNSDCF Governance Model will have the following structure:
- **Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC):** The purpose of the MSC is to serve as a high-level forum, bringing together the Government of South Africa, the United Nations and non-state actors to guide and review the strategic direction of the UNSDCF and its associated Joint Work Plans (JWPs). In this endeavour, it will ensure a coordinated approach to implementing the UNSDCF and will respect national leadership and ownership. In addition, the MSC will guide policy dialogues on national, regional and global development agendas, including the country's National Development Plan, the continental plan Agenda 2063, the SDGs -Agenda 2030 , and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) adopted by the Third Conference on Financing for Development. The main objective of the MSC is to institutionalise an annual review and planning mechanism, through which the Government of South Africa, the UN Country Team (UNCT) and non-state actors can monitor progress in the implementation of the UNSDCF. Specifically, it will be responsible for: strategic direction and high-level 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; monitoring progress, challenges and opportunities, and steering the direction of implementation; reviewing the One UN Country Results Report; and supporting resource mobilisation for the Cooperation Framework as well as development of financing opportunities. The MSC will be co-chaired by the Minister of the coordinating department (DPME) and the UN Resident Coordinator, and will include Government representatives of national line function departments: National Treasury, COGTA and DIRCO and all relevant departments that contribute to the outcomes of the Results Groups; the co-chairs of the Technical Steering Group from the Government and the UN; the co-chairs of the Results Groups; and representatives of the Private Sector, CSOs and Academia. It will meet at least once a year to review performance, unlock potential bottlenecks and approve the Joint Workplans (JWPs) for the coming year.

- **Technical Steering Committee (TSC):** The purpose of the Technical Steering Committee is to provide technical support to the MSC. It will: provide technical leadership and oversight for implementation, planning review, monitoring and reporting; provide strategic guidance on key programming issues and decision making; receive and review quarterly reports of the results groups for overall synergy; prepare consolidated programmatic updates for the Ministerial Steering Committee; and lead the process of preparing UNSDCF reports and make proposals of adjustments to the UNSDCF to ensure relevance. The TSC will be co-chaired by the Secretary of the NPC and the UNDP Resident Representative (UN Alternate Lead: Results Group Chairs on a rotational basis). It will include relevant Senior Government Officials from DPME, NT and COGTA (CD and up) and programme managers from line function departments responsible for the SDGs; co-chairs of the Results Groups from the Government and the UN; and representatives of the Private Sector, CSOs and Academia. The TSC will meet once at least once a year.

- **Results & Thematic Groups:** The RGs are coordination platforms responsible for joint planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the JWPs. They are also responsible for the preparation of reports for the TSC. Working with the Theme Groups, the RGs will undertake joint analysis of the policy environment, key development issues and emerging trends related to priority areas to ensure that the RGs' work plans address pressing development constraints. They will track Common Budgetary Framework flows and RG delivery. Above all, they will encourage multisectoral, integrated, and innovative approaches to the identified complex development challenges. Established at the strategic priority level, the RGs comprise all UN Agencies responsible for the implementation of the UNSDCF, in addition to Government line departments and non-state actors. They will be co-chaired by the Government (whose line departments responsible for the outcomes of the Results Groups will decide on who will chair) and the Head of a UN System Agency. It will include UN Heads of Agencies, 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; and the Private Sector, Civil Society, Academia and Research Institutes. The UNSDCF has four Results Groups, which will have the following Leads and Alternates: (i) Inclusive, Just and Sustainable Development – Lead ILO & Alternate Lead FAO; (ii) Human Capital and Social Transformation – Lead UNICEF & alternate Lead WHO; (iii) Effective, Efficient & Transformative Governance – Lead UNDP & Alternate Lead UNODC/OHCHR; and (iv) Climate Resilience & Sustainability Managed Natural Resources – Lead UNEP & Alternate Leads UNIDO/UNHabitat. The Result Groups will meet every three months, in preparation for the Technical Steering Committee meetings. Theme Groups will be responsible for the development and dissemination of research and analysis on the various thematic issues; provide high-level policy advice and lead research by providing data, intelligence analysis and in-depth understanding of the thematic areas that inform the design of the programmes through the Results Groups; identify and integrate normative global frameworks into the design of programmes; and promote and advise on joint programmes between the Results Groups responding to the thematic areas. They will be co-chaired by the Government and the UN and will include UN agencies, Government, the Private Sector, Civil Society, Academia and Research Institutes. The UN Theme Group (four in total) will have the following Leads and Alternates: (i) Youth – Lead UNFPA & Alternate Lead UNESCO; (ii) Gender – Lead UNWOMEN & Alternate Lead UNFPA; and (iii) HIV/AIDS – Lead UNAIDS & Alternate Lead WHO; (iv) Protection – Lead UNHCR & Alternate Leads IOM/OHCHR. They will meet every three months.

A MSC review will take place at least once a year. The RC will present the One UN Country Results Report, evaluation reports, and evaluation management responses and action plan. This will be 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 UN 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 workplan.

Figure 2: Cooperation Framework

COOPERATION FRAMEWORK GOVERNANCE MECHANISM

MINISTERIAL STEERING COMMITTEE:

Co-chaired: Government and UN

DIRCO/NT/DPME/COGTA and UNCT
Platform Chairs: Civil Society, Private Sector and Academia/Research

THEMATIC PLATFORMS:

**Youth
Gender**

UNSDCF TECHNICAL STEERING:

Co-chaired: Government and UN

DIRCO/DPME/COGTA/NT/UN
Chairs: Result Groups

THEMATIC PLATFORMS:

**HIV/AIDS
Protection**

RESULT GROUP 1

Co-chaired: Government and UN

- Government
- UN
- Civil Society
- Private Sector

RESULT GROUP 2

Co-chaired: Government and UN

- Government
- UN
- Civil Society
- Private Sector

RESULT GROUP 3

Co-chaired: Government and UN

- Government
- UN
- Civil Society
- Private Sector

RESULT GROUP 4

Co-chaired: Government and UN

- Government
- UN
- Civil Society
- Private Sector

JOINT WORK PLANS

3.3 JOINT WORKPLANS

The Cooperation Framework will be made operational through the development of annual Joint Work Plans (JWPs)[60] and agency-specific work plans and project documents, as necessary. Developed in consultation with key partners, the JWPs will describe the specific results to be achieved in pursuit of the agreed common outcomes and will form an agreement between the UN system agencies and each implementing partner, as necessary, on accountability for shared results and the use of resources. To the extent possible, the UN system agencies and partners will use the minimum documents necessary, namely the signed Cooperation Framework and signed joint or agency-specific work plans and project documents, to implement programmatic initiatives. However, as necessary and appropriate, project documents can be prepared using, inter alia, the relevant text from the Cooperation Framework and joint or agency-specific work plans and/or project documents[61]. In line with the global calls for increased inter-agency pooled funding[62], the UN in South Africa will continue to utilise Joint Programmes as a modality for strengthened coordination and collaboration in the spirit of Delivering as One.

The Cooperation Framework will be nationally executed under the overall co-ordination of the DIRCO. Government coordinating authorities for specific UN system agency programmes are noted in Annex 1. Government Departments, NGOs, INGOs and UN system agencies will implement programme activities. Cash assistance for travel, stipends, honoraria, and other costs shall be set at rates commensurate with those applied in the country, but not higher than those applicable to the UN system (as stated in the ICSC circulars).

3.4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The UNSDCF 2020-25 is completely aligned to the Government's national priorities as elaborated in the MTSF 2019-24 as well as the SDGs Agenda 2030 and the African Agenda 2063. All these documents have ambitious and transformational inspiration and requires a joint effort by all partners to fund and implement. As stated in the Resource Mobilisation section, neither domestic resources nor Official Development Assistance (ODA) alone are enough to achieve the UNSDCF. It is therefore imperative to harness additional financial flows and capital, as well as finding the adequate resource mix and overcoming market barriers to ensure investments reach those left furthest behind. This can only happen by drawing from all types and sources of finance – public and private, domestic, and international.

SDG financing and funding for the Cooperation Framework are mutually reinforcing approaches. It is important to note that, while the Funding Framework is developed after the signature of the Cooperation Framework document, SDG financing should not be limited to this (post-signature) moment of the Cooperation Framework but needs to be integrated throughout the stages of analysis, including programme design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

(1) Financing the SDGs: The concept of 'Financing the SDGs' is based on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda's call for "nationally owned sustainable development strategies, supported by integrated financing frameworks" to achieve the 2030 Agenda, i.e. about governments mobilising and aligning all sources of finance to implement national plans to achieve the SDGs.

(2) Funding the Cooperation Framework: The concept of 'Funding the Cooperation Framework' refers to the traditional concept of mobilising resources through UN accounts. The aim is to close budgetary gaps of the Cooperation Framework. By contributing to this aim, the framework serves as a UN's primary planning and implementation instrument to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda at the country level.

These two concepts are laid down in documents that guide UNCTs on how to use the resources channelled through the UN catalytically, i.e. in what ways it is possible to (1) address barriers to mobilising financing for national SDG plans; (ii) help governments identify new sources of finance for national SDG plans that do not necessarily (and most likely will not) go through the UN; and (iii) better align existing sources of finance with national SDG plans.

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[60] *As per the UNDG Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for countries adopting the "Delivering as One" approach.*

[61] *In the case of UNDP, the Government Coordinating Authority will nominate the Government Co-operating Agency directly responsible for the Government's participation in each UNDP-assisted workplan. The reference to "Implementing Partner(s)" shall mean "Executing Agency(s)" as used in the SBAA. Where there are multiple implementing partners identified in a workplan, a Principal Implementing Partner will be identified who will have responsibility for convening, coordinating and overall monitoring (programme and financial) of all the Implementing Partners identified in the workplan to ensure that inputs are provided and activities undertaken in a coherent manner to produce the results of the workplan.*

[62] *The UN General Assembly Resolution 72/279 on the repositioning of the UN Development System outlines a commitment to double the use of inter-agency pooled funds and entity specific thematic funds by 2030. See: https://undocs.org/a/res/72/279.*

3.5 JOINT RESOURCE MOBILISATION STRATEGY

Achieving the 2030 Agenda will require significant financial resources. International public finance that is new in addition to traditional official development assistance will be central to meeting this goal, especially in developing countries where new public and private investments will be required. The South African economy continues to make strides in recovery from the Global Economic crisis, as well as the economic fallout caused by the COVID pandemic (and subsequent lockdowns). The fiscal framework has long pursued the Sustainable Development Goals; utilizing public resources (domestic and international) towards the achievement of these globally agreed objectives. However, persistently low growth has meant that the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment remain. Resource mobilization is increasingly relevant for the UN system, due to decreasing international aid, a decrease in voluntary contributions, declining resource flows toward development, and greater demand for accountability.

The UN, will mobilize resources to deliver on the Cooperation Framework and to support financing the SDGs in South Africa based on the following principles:

1. The MSC[1], in consultation with the National Treasury, will approve a Joint Resource Mobilization Strategy. All resource mobilization activities will be based on these instruments.

2. The Joint Resource Mobilization Strategy is complementary to the national financing frameworks (endeavouring not to duplicate efforts or funding allocations) and, in fact, can be used to support the government in identifying new sources of finance for national development plans priorities, which may not necessarily be budgeted for.

3. Cost sharing arrangements[2] may be sought to implement programmes, with the funding towards said programmes providing the opportunity to expand, deepen the implementation, and even fast tracking the implementation. This should be done in accordance with the General Assembly Resolutions. (Such cost-sharing arrangements should not pose any risks to the South African fiscus and must adhere to sound public finance management prescripts[3].)

4. Under the overall guidance of the MSC the UN, in collaboration with National Treasury, will explore various instruments to attract contributions from a wide range of sources, including traditional and non-traditional partners, private sector and foundations to finance UNSDCF activities, including the establishment of a country-level Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

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[1] *The Minister of Finance shall endorse/give concurrence to these resource mobilization activities*
[2] *A working group to work out the possible implementation framework in line with South African Legislation shall be formed between the UN and the GoSA.*
[3] *The exact modalities for each case shall be finalized by the relevant agency, the government department, as well as the National Treasury.*

5. The UN and Government of South Africa will constantly seek opportunities to leverage Joint Programmes, multi-purpose fund, and thematic Multi-Partner Trust Funds to mobilize funding for multisectoral issues that require collaboration between several agencies. In this regard, the UN shall ensure together with the National Treasury, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, the Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation and representatives of the sector departments concerned are consulted in the fund conception, establishment and execution.
6. The UN and Government of South Africa will explore opportunities to access global funding avenues to support unmet governments development priorities.
7. The Resource Mobilization Strategy must be cognizant of gender inequalities and as such include gender-responsive budgeting in the strategy.

Given the mandate of National Treasury as the custodian of the public funds, related legislation; such as the Public Finance Management Act, and Municipal Finance Management Act; and in line with the provisions of the General Assembly on UN operations at the country level, the collaboration among National Treasury, relevant line departments and the UN is vital in the operationalisation of this resource mobilization strategy. The RM Strategy provides the government, donors and other stakeholders with a single reference and overview report of the funding situation of the UNSDCF and joint workplans annually, thereby facilitating increased transparency.

3.6 HARMONISED APPROACH TO CASH TRANSFERS - HACT

The Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) will be implemented as a common operational framework for transferring cash to government and non-government implementing partners. The framework applies to UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF in all situations, including in emergency, crisis, and post-conflict countries. Other UN agencies and inter-agency programmes may adopt the revised framework based on its applicability to their rules, policies, and business models.

All cash transfers to an Implementing Partner are based on the Work Plans (WPs)[63] agreed between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies.

Cash transfers for activities detailed in work plans (WPs) can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:
1. Cash transferred directly to the Implementing Partner:
   1. *Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or*
   2. *After activities have been completed (reimbursement);*
2. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner; and
3. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners.

Cash transfers for activities detailed in work plans (WPs) can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:
1. Cash transferred to the [national institution] for forwarding to the Implementing Partner:
   1. *Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or*
   2. *After activities have been completed (reimbursement);*
2. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners based on requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner;
3. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners.

Where cash transfers are made to the National Treasury, the National Treasury shall transfer such cash promptly to the Implementing Partner.

Direct cash transfers shall be requested and released for programme implementation periods not exceeding three months. Reimbursements of previously authorised expenditures shall be requested and released quarterly or after the completion of activities. The UN system agencies shall not be obligated to reimburse expenditure made by the Implementing Partner over and above the authorised amounts. Following the completion of any activity, any balance of funds shall be refunded or programmed by mutual agreement between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may depend on the findings of a review of the

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[63] *Refers to Results Groups' or agency specific annual, bi-annual or multiyear work plans.*

public financial management capacity in the case of a Government Implementing Partner, and of an assessment of the financial management capacity of the non-UN[64] Implementing Partner. A qualified consultant, such as a public accounting firm, selected by the UN system agencies may conduct such an assessment, in which the Implementing Partner shall participate. The Implementing Partner may participate in the selection of the consultant.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may be revised in the course of programme implementation based on the findings of programme monitoring, expenditure monitoring and reporting, and audits.

In case of direct cash transfer or reimbursement, the UN system agencies shall notify the Implementing Partner of the amount approved by the UN system agencies and shall disburse funds to the Implementing Partner in 5 days.

In case of direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner; or to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners, the UN system agencies shall proceed with the payment within 5 days.

The UN system agencies shall not have any direct liability under the contractual arrangements concluded between the Implementing Partner and a third-party vendor.

Where the UN system agencies and other UN system agency provide cash to the same Implementing Partner, programme monitoring, financial monitoring and auditing will be undertaken jointly or coordinated with those UN system agencies.

A standard Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of the work plan (WP), will be used by Implementing Partners to request the release of funds, or to secure the agreement that [UN organisation] will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. The Implementing Partners will use the FACE to report on the utilisation of cash received. The Implementing Partner shall identify the designated official(s) authorised to provide the account details, request and certify the use of cash. The FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the Implementing Partner. Cash transferred to Implementing Partners should be spent for the purpose of activities and within the timeframe as agreed in the work plans (WPs) only.

Cash received by the Government and national NGO Implementing Partners shall be used in accordance with established national regulations, policies and procedures consistent with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the work plans (WPs), and ensuring that reports on the utilisation of all received cash are submitted to [UN organisation] within six months after receipt of the funds. Where any of the national regulations, policies and procedures are not consistent with international standards, the UN system agency financial and other related rules and system agency regulations, policies and procedures will apply.

In the case of international NGO/CSO and IGO Implementing Partners cash received shall be used in accordance with international standards in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the work plans (WPs), and ensuring that reports on the full utilisation of all received cash are submitted to [UN organisation] within six months after receipt of the funds.

To facilitate scheduled and special audits, each Implementing Partner receiving cash from [UN organisation] will provide UN system agency or its representative with timely access to:
- all financial records which establish the transactional record of the cash transfers provided by [UN system agency], together with relevant documentation; and
- all relevant documentation and personnel associated with the functioning of the Implementing Partner's internal control structure through which the cash transfers have passed.

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[64] *For the purposes of these clauses, "the UN" includes the IFIs.*

The findings of each audit will be reported to the Implementing Partner and UN organisation. Each Implementing Partner will furthermore:

- Receive and review the audit report issued by the auditors.
- Provide a timely statement of the acceptance or rejection of any audit recommendation to the UN organisation that provided cash (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, add and to the SAI) so that the auditors include these statements in their final audit report before submitting it to UN organisation.

- Undertake timely actions to address the accepted audit recommendations.

Report on the actions taken to implement accepted recommendations to the UN system agencies (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, add: and to the SAI), on a quarterly basis (or as locally agreed).

The audits will be commissioned by the UN system agencies and undertaken by private audit services.

4. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

4.1 MONITORING PLAN[65]

Results-based monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is going to be indispensable for the Cooperation Framework´s timely delivery, learning and implementation success. Results-based management (RBM) involves clearly defining what results are expected, monitoring progress made towards achieving results over time, as well as gathering feedback and lessons to promote a culture of accountability and continuous learning. In collaboration with the government, the UN will develop an integrated M&E plan based on RBM principles to accelerate, monitor, and report on the collective implementation of the Cooperation Framework.

The M&E mechanisms will be firmly anchored on government's strategic plans.

The UN will collaborate with the government to leverage and strengthen national data ecosystems to ascertain baselines and acquire reliable up-to-date data for results monitoring. There is a need for innovative, real-time, and quick data gathering, processing and transmission to inform policy and investment choices. There is also a need for harmonisation of indicators and data collection systems across the three spheres of government, whilst ensuring alignment with the national M&E system operated by the DPME in the Presidency; and feeding

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[65] The UN development system must develop a costed multi-year joint monitoring and evaluation plan for the full Cooperation Framework period. The plan should be developed at the Cooperation Framework design phase. A UN M&E group should also be established if not already available.

into the VNR and Statistics South Africa systems. Data disaggregation will be crucial during the whole programme cycle to ensure that interventions target the most vulnerable and marginalised groups, and are at appropriate levels, including district, local and community or neighbourhood level. The grounds of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law provide valuable suggestions for further data disaggregation in order to identify and prioritise those who may be (at risk of) being left behind in South Africa. These include sex, age, ethnicity, migration or displacement status, disability, religion, civil status, income, sexual orientation and gender identity.[66] The

UN will continuously assess and adapt the M&E plan to ensure that it is responsive to emerging issues and national priorities.

The UN will continue to collaborate with national partners through the UNCT and the inter-agency M&E Working Group to implement the joint M&E plan. The monitoring and reporting of JWPs, including on SDG-aligned indicators, will be done through the online platform UN Info. The UN will also support institutionalisation of M&E functions in the implementation of the NDP at national level, and in the implementation of Integrated Development Plans (IDP) at provincial and local level, which are critical in the

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[66] *United Nations, 2018, A human-rights based approach to data: leaving no one behind in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. Guidance note to data collection and disaggregation. See: https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/ GuidanceNoteonApproachtoData.pdf*

attainment of the SDGs. At programme delivery level, capacities of the UN staff will be strengthened to undertake regular monitoring of field activities and provide quality assurance in line with the results framework and project quality assurance guidelines. Financial management and monitoring frameworks for risk management, quality assurance and programme monitoring activities will be implemented to promote efficiencies in UN procurement and resources management.

Implementing Partners agree to cooperate with the UN system agencies for monitoring all activities supported by cash transfers and will facilitate access to relevant financial records and personnel responsible for the administration of cash provided by the UN system agencies.

To that effect, Implementing Partners agree to the following:

1. Periodic on-site reviews and spot checks of their financial records by the UN system agencies or their representatives, as appropriate, and as described in specific clauses of their engagement documents/contracts with the UN system agencies;
2. Programmatic monitoring of activities following the

UN system agencies' standards and guidance for site visits and field monitoring; and
3. Special or scheduled audits. Each UN organisation, in collaboration with other UN system agencies (where so desired and in consultation with the respective coordinating Ministry) will establish an annual audit plan, giving priority to audits of Implementing Partners with large amounts of cash assistance provided by the UN system agencies, and those whose financial management capacity needs strengthening.

4.1.1 Risks and opportunities
The implementation of the Cooperation Framework requires ownership by the government, contribution by various key partners and participation of beneficiaries on the ground. As described above, the UN will develop broad partnerships for the achievement of the Cooperation Framework. This provides great opportunities for success, but it also presents risks if not properly managed and if buy in from the different stakeholders is not ascertained.

The UN will undertake continuous risk analysis to mitigate threats and harness emerging opportunities.

The identified key risks, such as lack of coordination and oversight of Cooperation Framework implementation; lack of political will for the emerging approaches; shrinking of funding base in an upper middle-income country, especially in view of the negative impact of COVID-19 on existing budgets and expenditure; patriarchal and cultural norms; and capacity of the UN to provide needed technical and advisory support, will be mitigated through formation of robust brokering partnerships, advocacy, knowledge sharing and review of UN tools and systems. The UN will ensure preparedness and response for external shocks, including epidemiological and socio-economic consequences of COVID-19, which pose a new set of risks to planned results.

In addition, the UN will implement frameworks and approaches (such as HACT) for managing financial and quality assurance risks including continuous appraisal of social and environmental standards (SES) as well as implementation of programme and project quality assurance standards during the Cooperation Framework cycle. Mechanism for addressing grievances through enhancing stakeholders' engagement, as guided under the Cooperation Framework and SES policy (2019), will be fully implemented.

4.1.2 Cooperation Framework review and reporting
The CCA will be updated on an annual basis and it will inform the formulation of the JWPs and any adjustments in overall strategic approaches. Similarly, the results matrix will be updated in response to major trajectory changes and lessons learnt from annual implementation.

4.2 EVALUATION PLAN
In the penultimate year of the Cooperation Framework, an independent evaluation will be commissioned. The evaluation will assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impact of the Cooperation Framework in contributing to national development priorities and assess if the UN has delivered on its programming principles specifically in relation to leaving no one behind.

The UN will ensure alignment of the evaluation of the Cooperation Framework and any independent country evaluations. All evaluations will follow norms and standards established by the UN Evaluations Group to ensure quality, rigour, and robustness of the evaluations.

ANNEX 1: THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS MATRIX

National Development Priority: Economy and employment
Related Global SDG Target(s): 1, 5, 8, 9, 10
Related National SDG Target(s): Chapter 3: Economy and employment; 4: Economic infrastructure; 5: Transitioning to a low carbon economy; 6: Inclusive rural economy; 7: Positioning South Africa in the world; 11: Social protection.
Cooperation Framework Strategic Priority: 25 1. Inclusive, just and sustainable economic growth

RESULTS	INDICATORS		PARTNERS
Outcome 1.1: By 2025, all people in South Africa, particularly women, youth and other marginalised groups, benefit justly from decent work and other social and economic opportunities	**Indicator:**	Proportion of people living below the lower-bound poverty line (LBPL)	DALRRD, Landmines, National Multi-stakeholder Platform (MSP) on Inclusive Land Governance and Agrarian Transformation,
	Related SDG Indicator:	Indicator 1.1.1	
	Baseline:	39.8 % (2015)	
	Target:	28% (2024)	
	Source:	Living Conditions Survey 2015, Stats SA 2017	
	Indicator:	Gross expenditure on research and development as a percentage of GDP	
	Related SDG Indicator:	Indicator 1.	
	Baseline:	0.82% (of GDP in 2016/17)	
	Target:	1.1% (of GDP by 2024)	
	Source:	National Treasury Estimates of National Expenditure 2016	
	Indicator:	At least 2% annual increase in the representation of Africans in senior and middle management levels by 2024	
	Related SDG Indicator:	Indicator 5.5.2	
	Baseline:	Africans constituted 23.2% and 40.2% at senior and middle management levels as reported by designated employers in 2018 EE Reporting period (2018-2019 EE Annual Report (19th CEE Annual Report)	
	Target:	At least 50% of middle and senior management are African by 2024	
	Source:	2018-2019 EE Annual Report, 19th CEE Annual Report	

RESULTS	INDICATORS			PARTNERS
Outcome 1.1: By 2025, all people in South Africa, particularly women, youth and other marginalised groups, benefit justly from decent work and other social and economic opportunities	**SDG Global Indicator:**	Indicator 8.5.1D: Average monthly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age, and persons with disabilities		DALRRD, Landmines, National Multi-stakeholder Platform (MSP) on Inclusive Land Governance and Agrarian Transformation,
	SDG National Indicator:	Median monthly earnings of female and male employees by occupations (rand values)		
	Baseline:	**Occupation**	**Male**	**Female**	
		Managers	R19 000	R17 000	
		Professionals	R20 000	R18 600	
		Technicians	R7 000	R6 000	
		Clerks	R6 000	R5 000	
		Sales	R3 900	R2 900	
		Skilled Agriculturists	R2 200	R1 200	
		Craft	R4 333	R3 100	
		Operators	R4 116	R3 250	
		Elementary	R2 700	R2 166	
		Domestic Workers	R1 700	R1 733	
	Target:			
	Source:	QLFS 2017, Stats SA		
	Indicator:	NISPIS developed		
	SDG Global Indicator:	Indicator 1.3.1D		
	Baseline:	Fragmented social protection system: LURITS, HANNIS, SOCPEN, DHIS, IR (indigent registers), NISIS, NSFAS, Siyaya, Umehluko, CCOD system		
	Target:	NISPIS fully operational by 2024		
	Source:	Social Pension 2018, DSD		
	Indicator:	Number and percentage of children living in poverty according to national monetary poverty lines		
	SDG Global Indicator:	1.2.1		
	Baseline:	10.03 million, 51.0%		
	Target:	9.1 million, 45%		
	Source:	Living Conditions Survey		
	Indicator:	Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status		
	SDG Global Indicator:	8.8.1		
	Baseline:	South African citizens 313 (2018); Immigrants: 6 (2018)		
	Target:			
	Source:	Umehloko System 2018, DoL		

RESULTS	INDICATORS		PARTNERS
Outcome 1.1: By 2025, all people in South Africa, particularly women, youth and other marginalised groups, benefit justly from decent work and other social and economic opportunities	**Indicator:**	Hectares (Ha) of Land redistributed or acquired and or allocated for agrarian	DALRRD, Landmines, National Multi-stakeholder Platform (MSP) on Inclusive Land Governance and Agrarian Transformation,
	SDG Global Indicator:	transformation, industrial parks, human settlements and rural development	
	Baseline:	1 million Ha	
	Target:	900 000 Ha of land for redistribution and tenure reform DALRRD, DPWI 600 000 Ha of land for land restitution	
	Source:	DALRRD, 2017	
	Indicator:	Number of households electrified through grid connection	
	Related SDG indicator	Indicator 1.4.1D:	
	Baseline:	1.285 million connections between 2014-2019	
	Target:	1 million additional connections	
	Source:	GHS 2017, Stats SA	
Outcome 1.2: By 2025, South Africa´s primary, secondary and tertiary sectors are more productive, diversified, sustainable and employment-intensive	**Indicator:**	Number of households electrified through non-grid connection	
	Related SDG indicator	Indicator 1.4.1D:	
	Baseline:	85 993 connections between 2014-2019	
	Target:	*75 000 additional connections*	
	Source:	GHS 2017, Stats SA	
	Indicator:	GDP growth	
	Related SDG indicator	8.1.1 and 8.2.1	
	Baseline:	0.8% (2018)	
	Target:	2–3 percent by 2024	
	Source:	Stats SA, 2017	
	Indicator:	Number employed	
	Related SDG indicator	Indicator 8.3.1	
	Baseline:	16.3 million	
	Target:	18.3 – 19.3 million	
	Source:	Stats SA, 2017	
	Indicator:	Unemployment rate and youth unemployment	
	Related SDG indicator	8.5.2	
	Baseline:	29.1% (overall) and 38.7% (15-35 Youth unemployment) (2017)	
	Target:	20%-24% (overall)	
	Source:	QLFS 2017, Stats SA	

RESULTS	INDICATORS		PARTNERS
Outcome 1.2: By 2025, South Africa´s primary, secondary and tertiary sectors are more productive, diversified, sustainable and employment-intensive	**Indicator:**	Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)	
	Baseline:	20% (2016)	
	Target:		
	Source:	National Treasury Estimates of National Expenditure 2016	
	Indicator:	Number of youth NEET absorbed in employment	
	Related SDG indicator		
	Baseline:	New indicator	
	Target:	1 million youth jobs by 2024	
	Source:	DEL, Presidency	
	Indicator:	Percentage increase in broadband penetration	
	Related SDG indicator		
	Baseline:	54% of population have access to internet	
	Target:	80% of population have access to the internet by 2024	
	Source:	DCDT	
	Indicator:	Labour productivity level	
	Related SDG indicator		
	Baseline:	19.1% (2018)	
	Target:		
	Source:	https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/ad689ef2-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/ad689ef2-en	

National Development Priority: Improving Human Capabilities i.e. Chapter 9; 10; 11 and 12, 15, Improving education, training and innovation, healthcare for all, Social protection and building safer communities, and Nation building and social cohesion.

Related Global SDG Target(s):
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at ages and wellbeing.
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Related National SDG Target(s):
Chapter 9; 10; 11 and 12, 15, Improving education, training and innovation, healthcare for all, Social protection and building safer communities and Nation building and social cohesion.

Cooperation Framework Strategic Priority: 2. Human capital and social transformation.

RESULTS	INDICATORS		PARTNERS
Outcome 2.1 By 2025, all people in South Africa, especially women and girls, vulnerable and marginalised populations, have protection from violence and discrimination and enjoy improved human rights and social cohesion	**Indicator:**	2a. Social cohesion Index	DOJCD, DWYPWD, DSD, DIRCO, SAJEI/Judiciary, SAHRC, CGE, SAPS, DIRCO
	SDG Global Indicator:		
	Baseline:	46% (2014)	
	Target:	90% (2024)	
	Source:	South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) - HSRC	
	Indicator:	2b. Percentage of ever partnered women and girls aged 18 years and older subjected to physical or sexual violence by any partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age.	
	SDG Global Indicator:	5.2.1	
	Baseline:	7.7 per cent for physical violence and 2.3% for sexual violence	
	Target:	10% decline in incidences of GBV	
	Source:	South African Demographic and Health survey 2016	
	Indicator:	2c. Proportion of population aged 16 and above who experienced at least one incident of assault in the previous 12 months (domesticated indicator).	
	SDG Global Indicator:	16.1.3	
	Baseline:	0.72% (2018)	
	Target:	10% decline in incidences of GBV (2024)	
	Source:	Victims of Crime survey 2017/2018, Stats SA	

RESULTS	INDICATORS		PARTNERS
Outcome 2.1 By 2025, all people in South Africa, especially women and girls, vulnerable and marginalised populations, have protection from violence and discrimination and enjoy improved human rights and social cohesion	**Indicator:**	2d. Independent Monitoring Mechanism on disability under CRPD and National Preventive Mechanism on torture under OP-CAT are established in line with international standards and functional with sufficient technical expertise, financial and human resources.	DOJCD, DWYPWD, DSD, DIRCO, SAJEI/Judiciary, SAHRC, CGE, SAPS, DIRCO
	SDG Global Indicator:		
	Baseline:	As at July 2020, the IMM and NPM are still in the process of being established, with legislative, policy, regulatory and institutional steps required for their full establishment and functioning	
	Target:	Fully capacitated and functional IMM under CRPD and NPM under OP-CAT, in line with international standards.	
	Source:	South African Human Rights Commission	
	Indicator:	Number of mothers, fathers and caregivers reached through parenting programmes.	
	SDG Global Indicator:		
	Baseline:	8,000	
	Target:	64,000	
	Source:	Department of Social Development Report	
	Indicator:	Number of girls and boys who have experienced violence reached by health, social work or justice/law enforcement services.	
	SDG Global Indicator:		
	Baseline:	1,400,000	
	Target:	2,000,000	
	Source:	Department of Social Development Report	
	Indicator:	Percentage of students experiencing bullying, corporal punishment, harassment, violence, sexual discrimination and abuse (ages 13 to 17 years old).	
	SDG Global Indicator:		
	Baseline:	Bullying: 19.7%; Corporal punishment: 7.6%; Physical violence: 19.2%	
	Target:	Bullying: 14.7%; Corporal punishment: 2.6%; Physical violence: 14.2%	
	Source:	TIMSS report	

RESULTS	INDICATORS		PARTNERS
Outcome 2.2: By 2025, all people in South Africa, particularly vulnerable and marginalised populations, enjoy improved health, nutrition and well-being	**Indicator:**	2e. Number of new HIV infections per 1 000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations.	SDG Global Indicator: Academia, Civil Society, Private sector, Government Departments (NDoH, Presidency, DSD, Treasury), OHSC, CMS, SAHPRA ++
	SDG Global Indicator:	*3.3.1*	
	Baseline:	4.94 (2018)	
	Target:	Reduce by 73%	
	Source:	National estimates based on Thembisa model	
	Indicator:	2f. Tuberculosis incidence per 100 000 population.	
	SDG Global Indicator:	*3.3.2*	
	Baseline:	567 per 100 000 (2017)	
	Target:	Reduce by 27%	
	Source:	Global TB Reports 2017, WHO	
	Indicator:	Maternal mortality ratio and under 5 mortality rates.	
	SDG Global Indicator:	*3.1.1, 3.2.1*	
	Baseline:	134 maternal deaths per 100 000 live births (2016)) 32child deaths per 1,000 live births (2017)	
	Target:	<100 maternal deaths per 100 000 live births by March 2024 <25 per 1 000 live births by 2024	
	Source:	Medium Term Strategic Framework 2019-2024	
	Indicator:	Percentage of people living with HIV that are receiving ART.	
	SDG Global Indicator:		
	Baseline:	Total: 66% Children 0-14: 55% Adult males 15+: 60% Adult females 15: 69%	
	Target:	Target for all is 90% and 90% for all subgroups	
	Source:	Tembisa/ Spectrum; District Health Information System (DHIS)	
	Indicator:	Percentage of children fully immunised as per vaccination schedule.	
	SDG Global Indicator:		
	Baseline:	83.1%	
	Target:	90%	
	Source:	Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), DHIS, WHO/UNICEF Estimate	

RESULTS	INDICATORS		PARTNERS
Outcome 2.2: By 2025, all people in South Africa, particularly vulnerable and marginalised populations, enjoy improved health, nutrition and well-being	**Indicator:**	Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population).	SDG Global Indicator: Academia, Civil Society, Private sector, Government Departments (NDoH, Presidency, DSD, Treasury), OHSC, CMS, SAHPRA ++
	SDG Global Indicator:	*3.8.1*	
	Baseline:	61.8	
	Target:	To be increased	
	Source:	South African Health Review 2019	
	Indicator:	Percent of population who spent at least 10% of their household budget (total household expenditure or income) paying for health services (disaggregated information required).	
	SDG Global Indicator:	*3.8.2*	
	Baseline:	Not available	
	Target:	Stop the rise in percent of people suffering financial hardship (defined as out-of-pocket spending exceeding ability to pay) in accessing health services	
	Source:	Household budget surveys (HBS), Household income and expenditure surveys (HIES) Socio-economic or living standards surveys National Health Accounts	
	Indicator:	Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) under 5 years of age ((disaggregated information required).	Academia, Civil Society, Private sector, Government Departments (NDoH, Presidency, DSD, Treasury), OHSC, CMS, SAHPRA ++
	SDG Global Indicator:	2.2.1	
	Baseline:	27% (2016)	
	Target:	Reduce by 30%	
	Source:	SANHANES-1, HSRC and SADHS 2016, DoH, Stats SA, SAMRC and ICF	
	Indicator:	International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness.	
	SDG Global Indicator:	3.d.1	
	Baseline:	70% (2019)	
	Target:	Increase in member states International Health Regulations capacities	
	Source:	SPAR reports (available on the Global Health Observatory); Strategic Partnership for International Health Regulations (2005) and Health Security (https://extranet.who.int/sph/)	

RESULTS	INDICATORS		PARTNERS
Outcome 2.3: By 2025, all children and young people in South Africa have equitable access to quality education relevant to a changing society	**Indicator:**	2g. Proportion of children and young people (a) in Grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex.	Academia, Civil Society, Private sector, Government Departments (NDoH, Presidency, DSD, Treasury), OHSC, CMS, SAHPRA ++
	Related SDG indicator	*4.1.1*	
	Baseline:	Literacy Grade 3: 22% (2016) Literacy Grade 6: 77% (2014) Literacy Grade 9: 48% (2014) Numeracy Grade 3: 65% (2014) Numeracy Grade 6: 35% (2014) Numeracy Grade 9: 3% (2014)	
	Target:	Increase by 24% from baseline	
	Source:	ANA[67], PIRLS[68], TIMMS[69] 2014, DBE	
	Indicator:	2h. Percentage of children attending Grade 1 in the current year, after attending Grade R/0 in the previous year and Proportion of children accessing registered ECD programmes.	
	Related SDG indicator		
	Baseline:	94% of children attended grade 1 (2017) and 704 064	
	Target:	90% of all 4 years olds accessing ECD	
	Source:	GHS[70] and DSD	
	Indicator:	2j. Participation rate of youth in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex and disability status.	
	Related SDG indicator	*4.3.1*	
	Baseline:	15.2% Females, 12% Males, 10.3% People living with a disability (2017)	
	Target:	10% increase from baseline	
	Source:	GHS	
	Indicator:	Percentage of children aged 0 to 4 years old that received early stimulation and responsive care from their parents or caregivers.	
	Related SDG indicator		
	Baseline:	Parents telling stories often: 35.5% Reading books with child often: 27% Naming different things with child often: 47.3%	
	Target:	Parents telling stories often: 75% Reading books with child often: 45% Naming different things with child: Often: 75%	
	Source:	General Household Survey (GHS)	

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[67] *Annual National Assessment*
[68] *Progress in International Reading Literacy Study*
[69] *Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study*
[70] *General households survey*

RESULTS	INDICATORS		PARTNERS
Outcome 2.3: By 2025, all children and young people in South Africa have equitable access to quality education relevant to a changing society	**Indicator:**	Percentage of children 36-59 months attending an early childhood education programme (attendance rate).	Academia, Civil Society, Private sector, Government Departments (NDoH, Presidency, DSD, Treasury), OHSC, CMS, SAHPRA ++
	Related SDG indicator		
	Baseline:	38.4%	
	Target:	70%	
	Source:	General Household Survey (GHS)	
	Indicator:	Learning outcome improvement.	
	Related SDG indicator		
	Baseline:	Math: 372; Science: 358; Reading: 320	
	Target:	Math: 409; Science: 393; Reading: 352	
	Source:	Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) Report, Progress in International Reading Literacy Study Report	
	Indicator:	Percentage of girls writing Math and Science in National Senior Certificate with a score at least 50% and above in those subjects.	
	Related SDG indicator		
	Baseline:	Math: 18%; Science: 27%	
	Target:	Math: 43%; Science: 52%	
	Source:	Education Management Information System	

National Development Priority: Building a capable and developmental state

Related Global SDG Target(s):
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
9. Industry, innovation, and infrastructure
10. reduced inequalities
16. Peace, Justice and strong institutions

Related National SDG Target(s):
Chapter 13 and 14 Building a capable and developmental state; fighting corruption and nation building

Cooperation Framework Strategic Priority: 3. Effective, efficient, and transformative governance

RESULTS	INDICATORS		PARTNERS
Outcome 3.1: By 2025, women and marginalised groups participate meaningfully in decision making processes and access justice	Indicator:	Proportion of seats held by women in the national assembly.	Academia, South African Police Service, Civil Society, Stats SA, Government Departments (NDoH, SAPS, DSD)
	Related SDG indicator:	*5.5.1*	
	Baseline:	Male: 56% and Female: 46% (2019)	
	Target:		
	Source:	Parliament of South Africa 2019	
	Indicator:	Proportion of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distribution.	
	Related SDG indicator:	16.7.1	
	Baseline[71]:	Female judges 37% (2017) African judges 47% (2017) Coloured judges 11% (2017) Indian judges 9% (2017)	
	Target:		
	Source:	Office of the Chief Justice, 2017	
	Indicator:	Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age.	
	Related SDG indicator:	16.9.1	
	Baseline:	92.9% (2017)	
	Target:		
	Source:	Recorded Live Births 2017, Stats SA (based on data from the Department of Home Affairs)	

[71] *unit: percentage of judges that belong to respective population group*

RESULTS	INDICATORS		PARTNERS
Outcome 3.1: By 2025, women and marginalised groups participate meaningfully in decision making processes and access justice	**Indicator:**	Number of adolescent girls and boys who participate in or lead civic engagement initiatives through UN-supported programmes.	Academia, South African Police Service, Civil Society, Stats SA, Government Departments (NDoH, SAPS, DSD)
	Related SDG indicator:		
	Baseline:	0	
	Target:	100,000	
	Source:	Department of Women, Youth and Disability Report	
	Indicator:	Gender Inequality Index.	DPSA, DEL
	Baseline:	0.389	
	Target:	10% improvement	
	Source:	MTSF 2019-2024	
	Indicator:	Gender Pay Gap.	
	Baseline:	28%	
	Target:	50% decline in the gender pay gap by 2024	
	Source:	Department of Labour and SARS	
Outcome 3.2: By 2025, state institutions deliver effective public services to all and oversight bodies are strengthened	**Indicator:**	South Africa's score on the Corruption Perception Index.	DOJCD, COGTA, SALGA, DPME, AUDITOR GENERAL, STATS SA, SAHRC
	Baseline:	44 (out of 100) 2019 Corruption Perception Index 2018 South Africa scored 43/100 and ranked 73/180	
	Target:	Improvement in Corruption Perception Index ranking by 5 (to 68/100)	
	Source:	https://tradingeconomics.com/south-africa/corruption-index	
	Indicator:	Proportion of population aged 16 and above who were asked for a bribe by a public official in the last 12 months.	
	Related SDG indicator:	16.5.1	
	Baseline:	0.09% in 2016	
	Target:	10% decrease from baseline	
	Source:	VOCS 2015/2016, Stats SA	
	Indicator:	Active Citizenship Index.	IEC
	Baseline:	79%	
	Target:	85% by 2024	
	Source:	MTSF 2019-2024	
	Indicator:	Percentage of identified organised crime groups/ syndicates neutralised.	SAPS
	Baseline:	New performance indicator	
	Target:	90% of identified organised crime groups/ syndicates neutralised.	
	Source:	MTSF 2019-2024	

RESULTS	INDICATORS		PARTNERS
Outcome 3.2: By 2025, state institutions deliver effective public services to all and oversight bodies are strengthened	**Indicator:**	SA's border effectively defended, protected, safeguarded and secured.	DoD
	Baseline:	New indicator	
	Target:	22 landward subunits deployed on border safeguarding per year Biometric Access operational at 36 Ports of Entry by 2024 and 10 segments of the land borderline	
	Source:	MTSF 2019-2024	
	Indicator:	Efficient and co-ordinated CJS through integrated digital information systems.	DOJCD
	Baseline:	New Indicator	
	Target:	All CJS member departments digitally connected to exchange meaningful CJS information to fulfil integrated business processes	
	Source:	MTSF 2019-2024	
	Indicator:	National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF) on human rights is functional with sufficient technical expertise and National Human Rights Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD) is rolled out.	
	Baseline:	Inter-Departmental Committee on Treaty Obligations without NRTD.	
	Target:	Fully capacitated and functional NMRF and NRTD established.	
	Source:	DIRCO	
	Indicator:	2d. Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles.	
	SDG Global Indicator:	16.a.1	
	Baseline:	SAHRC (Yes)	
	Target:	Yes (2024)	
	Source:	Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions Sub-Committee on Accreditation	

National Development Priority: Chapter 5: Environmental sustainability and resilience			
Related Global SDG Target(s): 12 SDGs (1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17)			
Related National SDG Target(s): 4. Climate resilience and sustainably managed natural resources			

RESULTS	INDICATORS		PARTNERS
Outcome 4.1 By 2025, South Africa is on a just transition to a low-carbon society and vulnerable and marginalised communities adapt and are more resilient to adverse effects of climate change	**Indicator:**	Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption.	ARC, DTI, DTE, NCPC, SAPS, SANEDI, NBR, NBI, NERSA, Private sector (DBSA), NGOs (WWF, EWT, WESSA), Eskom, Innovation Hub, TIA, CBOs, Indigenous people's network, provincial and local government, research institutions (CSIR, universities), organised labour (DBSA), DARDLR, Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMR&E, Agriculture Resource Centre [ARC], TTA, DWS, Department of Social Development LandNNES, National Multi-stakeholder Platform (MSP) on Inclusive Land Governance and Agrarian Transformation,
	Related SDG indicator		
	Baseline:	26.20%	
	Target:	TBD	
	Source:	Data source: Energy Balances 2015, DoE	
	Indicator:	Number of jobs created through the expansion and implementation of environmental sectors.	
	Related SDG indicator		
	Baseline:	TBD	
	Target:	TBD	
	Source:	Statistics SA	
	Indicator:	Renewable power generation (GW/H).	
	Related SDG indicator		
	Baseline:	TBD	
	Target:	TBD	
	Source:	Statistics SA	
	Indicator:	4a. Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population (based on the Community Childhood Hunger Identification Project (CCHIP) index.	
	Related SDG indicator	2.1.2	
	Baseline:	26% (2012)	
	Target:	Reduce individual's vulnerability to hunger to 6.6%	
	Source:	SANHANES[72], HSRC	
	Indicator:	4b. Percentage of households that were vulnerable to hunger, from 24.2% in 2002.	
	Related SDG indicator		
	Baseline:	10.4% (2017)	
	Target:	Reduce household vulnerability to hunger to 5.7% by 2024	
	Source:	GHS	

[72] *South African National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey*

RESULTS	INDICATORS		PARTNERS
Outcome 4.1: By 2025, South Africa is on a just transition to a low-carbon society and vulnerable and marginalised communities adapt and are more resilient to adverse effects of climate change	**Indicator:**	4c. Number of national and local disaster risk-reduction strategies adopted by South Africa (domesticated indicator).	ARC, DTI, DTE, NCPC, SAPS, SANEDI, NBR, NBI, NERSA, Private sector (DBSA), NGOs (WWF, EWT, WESSA), Eskom, Innovation Hub, TIA, CBOs, Indigenous people's network, provincial and local government, research institutions (CSIR, universities), organised labour (DBSA), DARDLR, Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMR&E, Agriculture Resource Centre [ARC], TTA, DWS, Department of Social Development LandNNES, National Multi-stakeholder Platform (MSP) on Inclusive Land Governance and Agrarian Transformation,
	Related SDG indicator	11.b.1	
	Baseline:	13 strategies (2019)	
	Target:	TBD	
	Source:	National Disaster Management Centre of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affair	
	Indicator:	4d. Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population.	
	Baseline:	15000 (2017)	
	Target:	TBD	
	Source:	World Bank – World Development Indicators http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators	
	Indicator:	4e. Climate change vulnerability (0-1).	
	Baseline:	0.09 ()	
	Target:	10% decrease from baseline	
	Source:	HCSS (http://projects.hcss.nl/monitor/)	
Outcome 4.2: By 2025, natural resources are managed and utilised sustainably for improved livelihoods, health and well-being of vulnerable communities	**Indicator:**	4f. Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources.	
	Related SDG indicator	6.4.2:	
	Baseline:	41.38% (2016)	
	Target:	TBD	
	Source:	HYDSTRA Database, SANBI and CSIR	
	Indicator:	4h. Percentage of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystem types that are well protected (domesticated indicator).	
	Related SDG indicator	15.1.2	
	Baseline:	Terrestrial 28% (2018)	
	Target:	Freshwater 23% (2018)	
	Source:	TBD	
		SAPAD (2018), DEA and SANBI	

SOUTH AFRICA

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

COVID-19 RESPONSE

HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE HEART OF RESPONSE

Relevance of human rights recommendations in responding to the pandemic

OHCHR aims to put human rights at the heart of the response of States, UN partners, civil society and the private sector to COVID-19. It focuses on supporting six priority areas: 1. Respect for all human rights and addressing specific issues which might be less visible or more sensitive; 2. Vulnerable people and groups; 3. Participation, inclusion and access to information; 4. Economic and social rights; 5. Integrating human rights into the UN system response; and 6. UN Human Rights Mechanisms contribution to COVID-19 response.

The graph shows recommendations addressed to South Africa by the UN Human Rights Mechanisms: the Universal Periodic Review, the Special Procedures mandate holders and the Treaty Bodies in the 5 years prior to the pandemic, which OHCHR assesses as particularly relevant in responding to the pandemic in an inclusive and sustainable way. All recommendations addressed to South Africa can be found at the Universal Human Rights Index at https://uhri.ohchr.org/.

Eradicate poverty and improve people's living standards

Ensure effective access to social protection for vulnerable groups

Raise the national minimum wage and regularly adjust it to the cost of living

Combat corruption

(CESCR; CRC; CRPD; IE on albinism; UPR)

1 NO POVERTY

Adopt framework legislation protecting the right to adequate food and nutrition

Eradicate child food insecurity and malnutrition

(CESCR; CRC)

2 ZERO HUNGER

Improve the access and quality of health services across the country

Eliminate the disparity in health-care provision between rural and urban areas

Reduce infant and child mortality

(CRC; CESCR; CRPD; IE on albinism; UPR)

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Improve the access and quality of education, including for children in rural areas and with disabilities and albinism

Prioritize the retention of girls in schools

(CRC; CRPD; IE on albinism; UPR)

Improve conditions in detention centres and avoid overcrowding

Prevent law enforcement and security forces from using excessive force

Protect freedoms of expression and information, association and peaceful assembly

Combat corporal punishment, and harmful traditional, customary or religious practices

(CCPR; CESCR; CAT; CERD; SR VAW; IE on albinism; UPR)

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

5 GENDER EQUALITY

Eliminate discrimination and violence against women and girls, including in informal settlements

Ensure accountability of perpetrators, and redress and means of protection for victims, including shelters

Promote women's empowerment and gender equality

(CCPR; CAT; CRPD; SR VAW; IE on albinism; UPR)

Provide adequate social housing, including in urban areas and informal settlements

Prevent forced evictions, including of indigenous peoples, and provide effective remedies to the victims

(CESCR; CRC; UPR)

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Enable all households, schools and health centres to have access to safe drinking water and sanitation

(CRC; UPR)

Combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Combat and investigate hate crimes and hate speech, and prosecute perpetrators

(CCPR; CERD; SR VAW; UPR)

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Protect LGBTI persons and persons with albinism against stigmatization, violence, harassment and discrimination

Ensure universal accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities

Ensure that people living with HIV have access to affordable antiretroviral drugs

Ensure access to basic services for foreigners, migrants and asylum seekers

(CCPR; CESCR; CERD; CRPD; IE on albinism; UPR)

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Reduce unemployment, regulate the informal economy and combat child labour

Improve access by young people and vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities, to decent work

Close the gender pay gap and address vertical and horizontal segregation

(CESCR; CRC; CRPD; SR VAW; UPR)

Future opportunities to assess the status of implementation of these and other recommendations are during the upcoming review by the Universal Periodic Review in 2022, relevant Treaty Bodies as well as during upcoming visits by Special Procedures mandate holders in the country.

ANNEX 2: THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK LEGAL ANNEX

This Legal Annex refers to the cooperation or assistance agreements or other agreements that are the already existing legal basis for the relationship between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and each UN organisation supporting the country to deliver on the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2020 to 2025).

Whereas the Government of the Republic of South Africa (hereinafter referred to as "the Government") has entered the following relationships:

a) With United Nations Development Programme (hereinafter referred to as UNDP) have entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP's assistance to the country (Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA)), which was signed by both parties on 3 October 1994. Based on Article I, paragraph 2 of the SBAA, UNDP's assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP's Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of 'execution' and 'implementation' enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the UNDG simplification and harmonisation initiative. In light of this decision this UNDAF together with a work plan (which shall form part of this UNDAF and is incorporated herein by reference) concluded hereunder constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA.

b) With the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government and UNICEF on 3 May 1996.

c) With the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) a Country Co-operation Agreement concluded between the Government and UNHCR on 20 September 1993.

d) With the World Food Programme, a Basic Agreement concerning assistance from the World Food Programme, which Agreement was signed by the Government and WFP on 22 May 2003.

e) With regard to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Basic Agreement concluded between the Government and the United Nations Development Programme on 3 October 1994 (the "Basic Agreement") mutatis mutandis applies to the activities and personnel of UNFPA, in accordance with the agreement concluded by an exchange of letters between UNFPA and the Government which entered into force on 17 July 1996. This UNDAF together with any work plan concluded hereunder, which shall form part of this UNDAF and is incorporated herein by reference, constitutes the Project Document as referred to in the Basic Agreement.

f) With United Nations Industrial Development Organisation UNIDO the Agreement between the Government for the establishment of the UNIDO Office was in 19 April 2006.

g) With the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations the Agreement for the opening of the FAO Representation in the Republic of South Africa on 27 August 1997.

h) With the International Labour Organisation of the United Nations the Agreement for the opening of the ILO Representation in the Republic of South Africa on 1995.

i) With the International Organisation for Migration of the United Nations the Agreement for the opening of the IOM Representation in the Republic of South Africa 22 February 1995.

j) With the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of the United Nations the Agreement for the opening of the UNODC Representation in the Republic of South Africa October 1994.

k) With the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations the Agreement for the opening of the OHCHR Representation in the Republic of South Africa is covered under the UNDP agreement.

l) With the UNWOMEN of the United Nations the Agreement for the opening of the UNWOMEN Representation in the Republic of South Africa is covered under the UNDP agreement.

m) With the United Nations Environment Programme the Agreement for the opening of the UNEP Representation in the Republic of South Africa is under the UNDP-UNEP agreement for Provision of administrative services and reimbursable support service arrangements – Signed in 2008.

n) With the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) the Headquarters Agreement between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the International Fund for Agricultural Development for the establishment of the IFAD's Country Office as established in 2019.

For all agencies: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency's governing structures.

The COOPERATION FRAMEWORK will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.

The Government will honour its commitments in accordance with the provisions of the cooperation and assistance agreements outlined in paragraph on the Basis of the Relationship.

Without prejudice to these agreements, the Government shall apply the respective provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (the "General Convention") or the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialised Agencies (the "Specialised Agencies Convention") to the Agencies' property, funds, and assets and to their officials and experts on mission. The Government shall also accord to the Agencies and their officials and to other persons performing services on behalf of the Agencies, the privileges, immunities, and facilities as set out in the cooperation and assistance agreements between the Agencies and the Government. In addition, it is understood that all United Nations Volunteers shall be assimilated to officials of the Agencies, entitled to the privileges and immunities accorded to such officials under the General Convention or the Specialised Agencies Convention. The Government will be responsible for dealing with any claims, which may be brought by third parties against any of the Agencies and their officials, experts on mission or other persons performing services on their behalf and shall hold them harmless in respect of any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is mutually agreed by Government and a particular Agency that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of that Agency, or its officials, advisors or persons performing services.

Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Government shall insure or indemnify the Agencies from civil liability under the law of the country in respect of vehicles provided by the Agencies but under the control of or use by the Government.

(a) Nothing in this Agreement shall imply a waiver by the UN or any of its Agencies or Organisations of any privileges or immunities enjoyed by them or their acceptance of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising of this Agreement.

(b) Nothing in or relating to this document will be deemed a waiver, expressed or implied, of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations and its subsidiary organs, including WFP, whether under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13th February 1946, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialised Agencies of 21st November 1947, as applicable, and no provisions of this document or any Institutional Contract or any Undertaking will be interpreted or applied in a manner, or to an extent, inconsistent with such privileges and immunities.

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