

**UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM
CONFIGURATION**
for implementation of the United Nations
Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
2021-2025 in Uzbekistan



**UNITED NATIONS
UZBEKISTAN**



INTRODUCTION

This joint statement represents the collective agreement between the UN Development System entities, on the configuration of the UN Country Team, in support of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025 for Uzbekistan (CF).

The joint statement has two key objectives:

(1) to ensure the most adequate, needs-based, demand-driven and responsive configuration of support to Uzbekistan for the implementation of the national priorities identified for the Cooperation Framework, and

(2) to enhance the coordination, transparency, efficiency and impact of UN development activities, in accordance with national development policies, plans and country needs.

This collective agreement derives from multi-stakeholder consultations with Parliament, Government, civil society, media, and other non-UN entities, including development partners, which were held during the CF prioritization exercise, in which the challenges and capacities needed to support the country to implement the results defined for the CF were discussed. To facilitate the discussion, the UN system in Uzbekistan, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, carried out an assessment and mapping of the UN system capacities and resources required to deliver on the strategic priorities, outcomes and outputs defined in the CF, including consideration of individual entities' mandates and comparative advantages to ensure value is added and to identify gaps, synergies and overlaps.

An invitation to provide input based on the criteria below was extended to 32 UNSDG members, including UN Secretariat Departments and Regional Economic Commissions¹:

- any form of previous and current programme/project engagement with national stakeholders in Uzbekistan;

- participation in regular UNCT meetings and contribution to the implementation of the current UN Development Assistance Framework for 2016-2020;

- participation in the Common Country Analysis and Cooperation Framework design processes;

- willingness to sign the new CF, following the inclusive prioritization exercise during the period November 2019 – February 2020;

- commitment to abide by the terms of the UNSDG Management and Accountability Framework in implementing activities in Uzbekistan.

The initial analysis of these collective capacities revealed significant alignment with national development objectives and priorities.

In all, 24 UN entities, including the 13 UN entities that are signatories to UNDAF 2016-2020, participated in the consultation, which reviewed:

- the relevance of the UN system entities to the stated CF goals and objectives;
- UN system entities' plans to deliver on the commitments within the CF;
- the capacities and resources of the UN system entities to deliver on the CF Strategic Priorities and Outcomes;
- new or innovative modalities that UN system entities can offer within the CF;
- modalities to deliver on the CF, including directly or through partnerships.

1 DESA, FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITC, ITU, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNDRR, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNICRI, UNIDO, UNODC, UNOPS, UNRCCA, UNV, UN Women, WFP, WHO

CONFIGURATION OF THE UN COUNTRY TEAM 2021-2025

Based on the review of technical and functional capacities, resources and operational business models of UN entities (irrespective of the physical location), the UN Resident Coordinator proposes the following 24 UN entities, as members of the UN Country Team in Uzbekistan, to support the realization of the three strategic priorities and five outcomes set forth in the CF 2021-2025: FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITC, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNDRR, UNECE, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNEP, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNICRI, UNIDO, UNODC, UNOPS, UN Women, WHO.

Currently (September 2020), 15 UN entities have a presence in Uzbekistan (including those embedded in the RC office). Other UN entities will deliver on their commitments from a remote location through a regional office or headquarters.

If UN entities signing the CF within the proposed configuration face capacity gaps in any of the areas identified jointly with the Government of Uzbekistan, the UNCT may source additional support from relevant UN entities beyond this configuration. Additional capacities and resources may also be requested from national institutions (ministries, departments, other national entities), IFIs, development partners and the private sector, as outlined in the CF Results Framework.

Please see Annex 1 for a table of participating UN entities, disaggregated by type of presence and deliverables per outcomes.

2.1 UN VALUE PROPOSITION IN THE COUNTRY CONTEXT

The United Nations Development System (UNDS) is committed to

harnessing its comparative advantages to work jointly and effectively with partners to achieve national development priorities within the 2030 Agenda.

The United Nations is uniquely placed to support implementation of the joint priorities and outcomes, as well as to leverage financing, partnerships and knowledge to support the national Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is based on the following comparative advantages: a longstanding in-country presence since 1992; being a neutral partner, upholding international commitments, norms and standards in line with Uzbekistan's international commitments; being a convener of current and potential partners supporting SDG achievement (including, central and local governments, Parliament, civil society, employers' and workers' associations, academia, the private sector and international financial institutions); the application of cross-sectoral approaches to address cross-cutting issues such as exclusion and vulnerability ('no one left behind'), gender equality and women's empowerment, climate change, and human rights-based approaches to development; evidence-based policy advice and technical expertise, including advocacy for vulnerable groups on laws, policies, and national and sectoral programmes; and, expertise in the collection, analysis, and use of disaggregated data in line with international standards.

These attributes confer on the UNDS unique relevance and responsibility in relation to specific efforts led by the Government to achieve the country's aspirations for a just, equal and resilient society. It envisions that by

2025 the Government will make significant progress towards achieving its national development goals, aligned with the SDGs, with UN support within the following three strategic priorities: **(1) Effective governance and justice for all; (2) Inclusive human capital development leading to health, well-being and resilient prosperity; and (3) Sustainable, climate-responsible and resilient development.**

The UN system's support to the country within the Cooperation Framework will

be offered in an integrated manner to ensure that progress in one area will require, or contribute to, progress in other priority areas. None of the priorities concerns a single sector or single stakeholder, rather they embody a nexus of collaboration and partnerships which require the mobilization of a range of UN agencies and partners working together. This wider approach to leveraging capacities, and building on comparative strengths, is a key difference from the preceding UNDAF 2016-2020. As part of this effort, the UN in Uzbekistan

will enhance its cooperation with the national SDG Coordination Council as a platform for development partner coordination.

2.2 UN ENTITY SUPPORT BY COOPERATION FRAMEWORK STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

This section provides an overview of UNCT members' capacity and expertise to support the implementation of each strategic priority of the Cooperation Framework.

Strategic Priority 1: Effective governance and justice for all

The UN will provide support to the government of Uzbekistan in the areas of inclusive political processes, such as electoral support and parliamentarism (UNDP), civil society and media participation (OHCHR, UNDP, UNESCO and UNHCR), promotion of the rule of law and scaling up law enforcement systems (ILO and UNODC), public administration reform (UNDP, UNICEF, UNODC, ILO and WHO), and expertise in international norms, rights and standards (ILO, OHCHR, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC).

UNDP will step up its efforts in 2021-2025, including by providing technical support for the newly established Anti-Corruption Agency. It will also support proper legal and institutional frameworks for effective, transparent and inclusive governance mechanisms and institutions. UNODC and UNDP will work together to enhance institutional capacities to prevent corruption as key international partners of the State Anti-Corruption Programme and the Anti-Corruption Agency.

UNICEF will provide technical support in ensuring evidence-based and inclusive decision-making, and financing for social development in line with the national SDGs and international standards in favor of the most marginalized children and youth. It will also provide normative

expertise and guidance, particularly regarding the Convention on the Rights of the Child reporting and the translation of international/UN Treaty Bodies recommendations and standards, including child-friendly justice related best practices into policies and practice.

UNODC will support the Government to strengthen the rule of law and counter create an Integrated National Financing traditional and emerging threats of transnational organized crime, drug trafficking and terrorism, in addition to fostering criminal justice reforms.

WHO with other partners will support the Government to design a comprehensive health information system with health financing and result indicators to make the health sector more transparent, support better strategic governance and anti-corruption measures, and to introduce an efficient legislative framework.

UN Women will provide normative expertise and guidance, particularly regarding the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) reporting and the integration of international/UN Treaty Bodies recommendations and standards into policies.

UNFPA will support the Government and civil society to promote gender equality and implement the

provisions of CEDAW, by strengthening the national capacities to prevent and respond to gender-based violence (GBV), to end early and forced marriages, to collect data on GBV, working with all partners to address stereotypes and norms which perpetrate violence and inequality in society.

The UN in Uzbekistan will also provide support to strengthen policy coherence, evidence-based decision-making, and financing for development in line with the national SDGs. Guided by the UN Secretary-General's strategy for Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN entities (UNDP, UNODC, WHO), led by UNDP as SDG integrator, will bring their tools and expertise to support the country to create an Integrated National Financing Framework to finance the SDGs.

UNCTAD, UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCAP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, and WHO statistical expertise will be harnessed to build the national capacities of the State Statistics Committee and sectoral ministries to produce and report quality disaggregated data and forward looking projections based on population data for developing evidence-based policies, strategic planning and budgeting, and for performance monitoring across all priority areas.

Strategic Priority 2: Inclusive human capital development leading to health, well-being and resilient prosperity

The UN will strengthen the capacities of national institutions to implement effective active labour market policies and decent work and skills development programmes for NEET youth, women, and people living with disabilities (ILO, IOM, ITC, UNDP, UNECE, UNHCR, UNICEF).

The UN will support the Government to empower local communities to implement and sustain innovative business practices and development initiatives, such as responsible tourism with the goal of improving livelihood opportunities for youth, women and vulnerable groups (FAO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNOPS, and WHO).

UNICEF will continue promoting investment in human capital development by focusing on the importance of investments in early years, providing technical support in the field of gender-responsive neonatal, child and adolescent health, nutrition, quality education and learning opportunities as well as an integrated social protection system (cash and services) that are child-sensitive, shock-responsive.

The UN will promote enabling conditions to ensure equal and inclusive access to sustainable livelihoods and basic resources, new technologies, modern infrastructure, including ICT, road safety community services, affordable housing and financial services for youth, women and vulnerable groups taking into account projected demographic and migration trends (FAO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNOPS and WHO).

The UN will support the government to strengthen the capacities of the health system to implement efficient and transparent innovative and inclusive Universal Health Coverage (UHC)-focused policies and programmes, to promote healthy lifestyles and health literacy, and to prevent drug use and the HIV/AIDS epidemic among all age groups (UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, UNOPS and WHO).

The UN will support the capacity-building efforts of the Government and other educational stakeholders to provide access to equitable, inclusive and quality education at all levels and promote lifelong learning (UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, and UNOPS).

The UN will enhance the national social protection system to deliver progressive universal social security benefits and community-based family services and an inclusive multi-sector response to vulnerabilities and gender-based violence, with particular focus on the needs of people with disabilities in line with international standards (ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN-Habitat, UNODC, UN Women).

Strategic Priority 3: Sustainable, climate-responsible and resilient development

The UN will provide support to the Government to implement innovative and sustainable climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives in agriculture, health, water, transport and building/housing sectors at national and regional levels in particular through the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea. The UNCT will prioritize the promotion of integrated solutions to developing the regions and sub-regions that are lagging furthest behind based on small-area data to be generated by the census (FAO, IFAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNOPS, WHO).

UNDP will continue its efforts to scale up energy-efficient and low carbon housing in all regions of the country, to improve the living conditions and resilience of rural people to climate change impacts.

The UN will provide capacity-building support to national and local levels of government to implement green decision-making, sustainable policies and programmes on conservation and use of terrestrial and water ecosystems, as well as environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste in line with international obligations (UNDP, UNECE, UNEP, UNICRI, UNIDO, UNOPS).

Governance system capacity and regulatory framework on disaster risk reduction and natural/cultural heritage preservation will also be strengthened to effectively deliver on obligations under the Sendai Framework on DRR (UNDP, UNEP, UN Habitat, UNDRR, UNESCO, UNOPS).

***Participation of each UNCT member per strategic priorities and outcomes is summarized in Annex 1, and detailed information on capacities for each entity is provided in individual UN Entity statements in Annex 2 and consolidated by outcome/outputs in Annex 3.

2.3 SYNERGIES ACROSS PRIORITIES AND OUTCOMES

The UN entities will complement each other in those areas of the Cooperation Framework where they have strongest capacities and resources to contribute to implementation. For instance, within the people-centered governance and justice priority area, UNDP, UNODC and WHO will combine their expertise to support the Government to establish an integrated national financing framework. This will enable resources to be allocated more effectively across all government national priorities, while leaving no-one behind, thereby accelerating impact across other priorities under the CF. Similarly, efforts will be made by UNDP, UNESCAP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, and WHO to enhance the statistical capabilities of the Government which will in turn inform the development of evidence-based policies across all three strategic priority areas.

The implementation of the CF over the next five years will benefit from the expertise and support of 24 UN entities, delivered through a wide range of business models, and will draw on country presence, liaison/project offices, support from headquarters, regional and multi-country offices, staff embedded in the RCO and short-term consultancies. For example, UNDRR has deployed a UNV national officer on DRR issues who is embedded in the RC office. UN-Habitat is likewise contemplating deploying resources in the country.

Some of the UN entities, with no country presence, will need operational support to deliver on the agreed programmatic results. In this case, UNDP is open to providing operational support, leveraging on its mandate

to integrate development solutions and its ability to manage large-scale operations in the country, including procurement, finance, HR and administration, subject to UNDP's capacity, policies and procedures and corporate agreement with such UN entities, as exists and may be applicable. UNICEF is also considering providing some of the support services in the future.

To facilitate the exploration and adaptation of innovative delivery modalities, UNCT members will involve partners, especially from civil society, academia, IFIs and the private sector, including South-South and Triangular Cooperation (all UN entities), joint programming initiatives on specific issues (e.g. youth) and developing regional and transboundary solutions which benefit neighborhood communities. The UNCT will ensure strategic dialogue with neighbouring UNCTs to facilitate effective sub-regional cooperation.

All UNCT members will benefit from RCO coordination and substantive support including analytical capacities in strategic planning, economics, partnerships and financing for development, data monitoring and reporting, and communications and advocacy. In addition, the RCO will support the UNCT by:

- championing jointly agreed advocacy and programmatic priorities in strategic interactions with national and international partners;
- searching for and bringing in relevant expertise from across the UN system and beyond to implement the joint programming activities agreed within the UNCT to respond to the emerging development needs of the Government;

- sharing global tools and methodologies for SDG data collection, analysis and reporting at regular meetings of the joint CF Results Groups and Steering Committee;

- reaching out to non-traditional UN partners and leveraging their contributions to the CF;

- producing and sharing analytical economic development reports and papers, as well as communication and advocacy materials for the purposes of the Cooperation Framework.

IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

To ensure an effective and coherent UN response to the Government's SDG-related needs, the implementation and coordination of the Cooperation Framework will be aligned to the existing National SDG Council, while the national / UN Joint Steering Committee will ensure strategic direction and oversight of the Cooperation Framework.

The UNCT will deliver on its commitments within the CF by applying various business operations modalities through regular meetings of Results, Thematic and Programme support groups. Regular monthly UNCT meetings will be held, inviting all UN entities to take part in discussions. All UNCT members, regardless of their physical location, will participate in relevant UNCT consultations and decision-making processes, including through VTCs. The UNCT may hold ad-hoc internal consultations on specific issues, to which UN entities with expertise in the related areas will be invited.

Given the rapidly evolving country context, the effectiveness and efficiency of the UNCT configuration will be reviewed annually during the CF annual progress review at the Annual CF Steering Committee meeting. In the event that a UNCT capacity is no longer required in the country, or that the capacity of a new UN entity is required, it is expected that entities will need time to implement changes to their capacity arrangements. To facilitate this, there will be a phase-out of current outstanding obligations and a phase-in for new entities.

If the Government decides to request additional UN capacities that are not part of the configuration determined through the Cooperation Framework

process, the UN entity concerned will inform the RC and the UNCT of the request from government and subsequent changes will be made to the Cooperation Framework and UNCT capacity configuration. Any UNDS entity operating in Uzbekistan is bound by agreed UNDS policies and procedures concerning UNCT participation, including the Management and Accountability Framework, and agrees to follow the Cooperation Framework guidance.

SIGNATURES



**Food and Agriculture
Organization (FAO)**

Viorel Gutu

Sub-Regional Coordinator for Central
Asia & FAO Representative in Uzbekistan



International Trade Center (ITC)

Ashish Shah

Director, Division of
Country Programmes



**UN Development Programme
(UNDP)**

Matilda Dimovska

UNDP Resident Representative
Uzbekistan



**International Fund for
Agricultural Development (IFAD)**

Vrej Jijyan

Country Director, Near East,
North Africa and Europe Division



**Office of the UN
High Commissioner
for Human Rights (OHCHR)**

Ryszard Komenda

OHCHR Regional Representative
for Central Asia



**UN Office for Disaster
Risk Reduction (UNDRR)**

Octavian Bivol

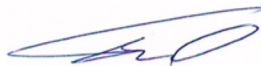
UNDRR Chief Regional Office
for Europe



**International Labour
Organisation (ILO)**

Olga Koulaeva

Director, ILO Country Office for
Eastern Europe and Central Asia



**Joint UN Programme on
HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)**

Alexander Golusov

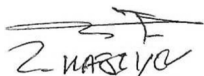
Regional Director a.i.,
UNAIDS Regional Support Team
for Eastern Europe and Central Asia



**UN Economic Commission
for Europe (UNECE)**

Nicolas Dath-Baron

Officer in Charge, Programme
Management Unit



**International Organization
for Migration (IOM)**

Zeynal Hajiyev

Sub-Regional Coordinator
for Central Asia, IOM Chief of Mission
in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,
Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan



**UN Conference on Trade and
Development (UNCTAD)**

Isabelle Durant

UNCTAD Deputy Secretary-General



**UN Environment Programme
(UNEP)**

Aidai Kurmanova

Head of UNEP Sub-regional office
for Central Asia



**UN Economic and
Social Commission for Asia
and the Pacific (UNESCAP)**

Nikolay Pomoshchnikov
Officer in Charge, Subregional Office
for North and Central Asia



UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)
Hans Friedrich Schodder
UNHCR Regional Representative for
Central Asia



**UN Office on Drugs and Crime
(UNODC)**
Ashita Mittal
UNODC Regional Representative,
Regional Office for Central Asia



**UN Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

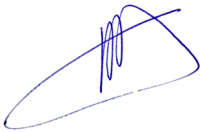
Jan Hladik
UNESCO Representative to Uzbekistan



UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Munir Mammadzade
UNICEF Representative in Uzbekistan



**UN Office for Project Services
(UNOPS)**
Moin Karim
UNOPS Regional Director for
Europe and Central Asia



UN Population Fund (UNFPA)
Yu Yu

UNFPA Representative in Uzbekistan



**UN Interregional Crime and Justice
Research Institute (UNICRI)**
Antonia Marie De Meo
UNICRI Director



UN Women
Alia El-Yassir
UN Women Regional Director for
Europe and Central Asia



UN-Habitat
Rafael Tuts
Director, Global Solutions Division



**UN Industrial Development
Organization (UNIDO)**
Mr. Ciyong Zou
Managing Director
Directorate of Programmes,
Partnerships and Field Coordination



World Health Organisation (WHO)
Lianne Kuppens
WHO Representative in Uzbekistan

#	UN ENTITY	Business Model					Effective governance and justice for all		Inclusive human capital development leading to health, well-being and resilient prosperity		Sustainable, climate-responsible and resilient development.
		Representative Office	Through headquarters, regional, sub-regional or multi-country office	Separate liaison/project office	Staff embedded in the RC Office	Short-term technical support	1. all people and groups in Uzbekistan demand and benefit from enhanced accountable, transparent, inclusive governance systems and rule of law institutions for a life free from discrimination, violence and threats	2. the population of Uzbekistan benefits from more harmonized and integrated implementation of the reform agenda due to strengthened policy coherence, evidence-based decision-making and financing for development in line with the national SDGs	3. youth, women and vulnerable groups benefit from improved access to livelihoods, decent work and enabling opportunities generated by inclusive and equitable economic growth	4. the most vulnerable benefit from enhanced access to gender-sensitive quality health, education and social services	5. most at risk regions and communities of Uzbekistan are more resilient to climate change and disasters, and benefit from increasingly sustainable and efficient management of natural resources and infrastructure, enhanced climate action, environmental governance and protection
1	FAO	✓	✓						X		X
2	IFAD		✓	✓		✓			X		X
3	ILO	✓	✓				X		X	X	
4	IOM	✓	✓						X	X	
5	ITC	✓	✓						X	X	
6	OHCHR	✓	✓				X				
7	UNAIDS	✓	✓				X		X	X	
8	UNCTAD		✓					X			
9	UNDP	✓	✓				X	X	X	X	X
10	UNDRR		✓		✓						X
11	UNECE		✓						X		X
12	UNEP		✓						X		X
13	UNESCAP		✓					X	X		X
14	UNESCO	✓	✓				X	X	X	X	X
15	UNFPA	✓	✓				X	X	X	X	X
16	UN-Habitat		✓				X	X	X	X	X
17	UNHCR		✓				X		X	X	
18	UNICEF	✓	✓				X	X	X	X	X
19	UNICRI			✓							X
20	UNIDO		✓						X		X
21	UNODC	✓	✓				X	X		X	
22	UNOPS		✓				X		X	X	X
23	UN Women		✓				X	X		X	
24	WHO	✓	✓				X	X	X	X	X



UNITED NATIONS
UZBEKISTAN



**United Nations Country Team configuration for
implementation of the UN Sustainable Development
Cooperation Framework 2021-2025 in Uzbekistan**

Uzbekistan

www.un.uz

Signed: 24 September 2020