



South Africa- United Nations Strategic Cooperation Framework 2013-17 Final Draft, May 10, 2012

BACKGROUND AND PROCESS

The South Africa-United Nations Strategic Cooperation Framework (SCF) 2013-17 is the overall framework for the UN system's work in South Africa. The SCF has been developed in a participatory process, coordinated by DIRCO and the UN Country Team. The SCF includes the presentation of the situation in South Africa overall as reflected, inter alia, in the New Growth Path(NGP) , the Draft National Development Plan(NDP) and the Medium Term Strategic Framework (2009-2014)which in turn has led to the identification of four pillars of UN collaboration (i.e. inclusive growth and decent work; environmentally sustainable development; human capabilities; and governance and participation). Also included is a brief analysis of past cooperation and lessons learned (including those identified in the 2009 Joint Evaluation of the Role and Contribution of the United Nations System in South Africa), and the planned results to be achieved through UN collaboration (at the outcomes level). The SCF also considers the role of South Africa in the region and the world. A results matrix, including outputs, indicators, baselines, targets, means of verification, risk and assumptions, is attached as an annex to provide further details on each of the outcomes in the SCF.

1. INTRODUCTION

South Africa has made significant progress in both economic and social development since the end of apartheid in 1994. Human rights are part of the national discourse, enshrined in one of the most progressive Constitutions in the world; governance issues and challenges are freely and openly debated in a free press and with a highly dynamic civil society. Multi-party elections are held regularly, and there is a functioning separation of powers amongst the three branches of government. More people are accessing health care, with free health care services available to all pregnant women and children under 5 years of age. More children are receiving an education, more women and men are employed and more vulnerable groups are protected by a robust social protection system. People living with HIV and AIDS have increased access to ARVs and other forms of treatment, care and support. In 2011, 56% of the population with advanced HIV infection had access to ARV, compared to 14% in 2005.¹

While applauding South Africa's overall progress it is equally important to recognise some of the major developmental challenges facing the country, namely persistently high levels of poverty and inequality and associated problems of the inability to produce adequate skills to meet market demand, high unemployment and crime. According to the government's

¹HCT Campaign and Treatment Expansion Review report, NDOH 2011.

Development Indicators 2010, nearly 50.0% of the population lives below the poverty line. As of end 2010, it was estimated that the richest 20 % of South Africans earned 70 % of national income, while the poorest 10.0% earned less than 0.6 %. The Gini coefficient was 0.7, among the highest in the world. Compared to a child growing up in the richest 20 % of households, a child in the poorest 20 % of households is two times less likely to be exposed to early childhood development programmes; three times less likely to complete secondary education and seventeen times more likely to experience hunger.²

Uneven access to essential social services such as education, health, housing and sanitation also remains a major source of inequality, with deprivations experienced in one sector (e.g. access to quality education) being reinforced by deprivations across other sectors (e.g. low income, inadequate housing). This context of ‘intersecting inequalities’ means that disadvantaged South Africans face multiple obstacles to the full enjoyment of their human rights as enshrined in the Constitution, and thus require multi-faceted strategies and interventions to help them overcome these obstacles.

While the Government has articulated its medium-term priorities in the 2009-2014 Medium-Term Strategic Framework and its commitment to 12 national development outcomes, the draft National Development Plan presents a longer-term vision for the country based on addressing nine major challenges:

1. Too few people work
2. The standard of education for most black learners is of poor quality
3. Infrastructure is poorly located, under-maintained and insufficient to foster higher growth
4. Spatial patterns exclude the poor from the fruits of development
5. The economy is overly and unsustainably resource-intensive
6. A widespread disease burden is compounded by a failing public health system
7. Public services are uneven and often of poor quality
8. Corruption is widespread
9. South Africa remains a divided society.

The list covers economic, social, environmental, and governance issues, indicating the broad and multi-faceted nature of the development challenges faced by South Africans. The UN’s focus is to support in those areas where it can make the most difference in contributing towards addressing these challenges.

While the country has a highly developed and comprehensive national policy framework guiding planning, economic and social development, effective implementation and policy alignment remains a consistent challenge. Hence, disparities in social and economic outcomes can be attributed largely to inadequate policy *implementation* and *alignment* across all provinces and districts. The skills and competencies required for effective policy implementation and alignment remains an under-developed area in the South African context, and there are shortcomings with regards to performance monitoring and evaluation (also noted in the UNEG report as an area where the UN could make a contribution). However, Government has recognised the inadequacies in human resources capacity, and efforts are underway to address in more systematic ways the skills and PME gaps in different sectors,

²Department of Women, Children, and People with Disabilities, South Africa Human Rights Commission and UNICEF, South Africa’s Children: A Review of Equity and Child Rights, Pretoria, 2011.

e.g. the establishment of the Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation in January 2010 and the commitment to the 12 national outcomes approach.

South Africa's population is estimated at 50.59 million, with young people (14-35 years) constituting 42 % of the national population and women at about 52 %. South Africa's total fertility rate has declined from an average of 2.92 children per woman in 2001 to 2.35 children in 2011.

The South African economy continued its recovery from the recession of 2008-2009, although at a pace that is generally considered fragile and inadequate to reduce the country's high unemployment rates. Towards the end of 2011, government revised the growth rate downwards from the previous estimate of 3.4% to 3.1%, partly in response to ongoing weaknesses in the global economy. For the medium term (2012-2014), the economy is expected to grow by 3.4 %, 4.1 %, and 4.3 %, respectively. A number of factors, such as low real interest rates and increased public sector spending, are expected to facilitate this optimistic outlook.

Vulnerable groups, including women, youth, children, people living with HIV and AIDS, and others, face additional challenges by virtue of their particular status. Gender inequality remains a stark reality in the country. Female-headed households are significantly more likely to live in poverty, with more than half (51.4%) of female headed households having an income of less than R570 per capita per month, compared to less than a third (29.5%) of male-headed households in 2010.³ Gender-based violence (GBV) continues unabated in South Africa, with a woman raped every 26 seconds and one in four girls having been sexually abused.⁴ Despite improvements in women's access to political power and decision making, women (particularly Black) in rural areas and those disabled continue to be disproportionately burdened by poverty, socio-economic inequality and the persistence of gender based violence. Youth face particular challenges, including very high unemployment and an education system that often does not prepare them adequately to compete in the market. There are also multiple factors contributing to children's vulnerability, including violence in schools, homes and communities; almost 4 million children orphaned; and over 50% of children living in poverty. Maternal mortality remains unacceptably high, estimated at 310 per 100,000 live births⁵.

South Africa continues to have the largest HIV epidemic in the world, driven largely by sexual transmission. On the positive side it is now showing signs of stabilizing. New HIV infections continue to fuel the epidemic with 390,000 new HIV infections in 2009 alone and an estimated 5.6 million adults and children were living with HIV in 2009, including 3.3 million females and 330,000 children.⁶ People living with HIV still face discrimination and stigma, due to a variety of factors, such as lack of understanding of the illness, inadequate access to knowledge, fear, prejudice and socially sensitive issues, such as sexuality and gender identity.⁷ Some 3.92 million children are currently orphaned due to loss of one or both parents,⁸ more than half (2.01 million) due to AIDS.⁹

³Social Profile of South Africa, 2002-2010, Pretoria: Statistics South Africa, 2011.

⁴The Commission for Gender Equality, "*MDG+10 Gendered Review in South Africa*"

⁵National Health Data Advisory Coordinating Committee

⁶UNAIDS 2010 Global Report on the AIDS Epidemic

⁷National Strategic Plan on HIV, TB, and STIs 2012-2016, SANAC, Pretoria, 2011

⁸Children's Institute. *South African Child Gauge 2009/2010*: 103.

Climate change has become one of the key priorities of the government. Its inherent consequences, that amongst others include droughts, floods and diseases, have the potential to reverse positive achievements that have been made towards the attainment of the MDGs. The poor and vulnerable communities in both rural and urban areas will be the most exposed to the negative impacts of climate change. The adoption of the National Climate Change Response White Paper prior to the beginning of the 17th climate change Conference of Parties (CoP17) showed the government's commitment to addressing the challenge. The policy articulates key climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes to be implemented in order to ensure the transition of South Africa's economy into a climate-resilient, equitable and internationally competitive lower carbon economy and society.

South Africa is also unique in the region in that it has articulated a clear vision of how it intends to maximise and leverage its geo-political influence/role at the sub-regional, regional, and global levels. The Government is actively taking advantage of venues such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union (AU), BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa), IBSA (India, Brazil, South Africa), and the UN General Assembly and Security Council to advance a stronger role for South Africa, including through the promotion of South-South Cooperation and expansion of global networks of knowledge. South Africa is the only African country in the G20, which further raises opportunities to speak and advocate for Africa in this grouping.

With the planned establishment of the South African Development Partnership Agency (SADPA) coinciding with the start of the present SCF, there is potential for the UN to support South Africa as it defines and executes a more active role for itself in official development assistance. This would include its engagement in the global dialogues around development effectiveness, post-MDG sustainable human development priorities, promotion of global normative standards related to human rights and global public goods, and 'value for money' approaches that focus on the least developed countries. As a middle-income country facing an unfinished socio-economic development agenda and as an emerging regional donor, South Africa brings its own experience with ODA to shape the regional and global discourse around development cooperation, as well as newer challenges such as climate change and social protection. South Africa has also been active in peace and security issues in Africa, having played a facilitating role in resolving tensions and supporting peace processes in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Madagascar, South Sudan, and Zimbabwe amongst others. It is also the largest troop-contributor country for peacekeeping missions on the African continent, providing resources and equipment and its institutional experience..

South Africa is also increasingly playing a role in Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development and Humanitarian Affairs in the African continent and beyond. DRC, Sierra Leone, South Sudan Somalia Zimbabwe and Haiti have all benefited technical expertise and financial support from the country. In recent times the support has been extended to training of African diplomats, civilian and military peacekeepers, officials that will lead recovery, reconstruction and peace-building climate efforts as well as climate change negotiators.

⁹ Statistics South Africa. *Mid Year Population Estimates*. July 2011.

South Africa's regional and global roles also offer rich potential to promote South-South Cooperation through the BRICS, G20, SADC, AU, and other such bodies. Knowledge sharing with other countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America should be amongst the key strategies deployed under the SSC framework for a country with such robust research and academic expertise.

South Africa must manage large migratory flows of both internal and cross-border migrants. As one of the leading economies in the sub-Saharan region, South Africa has for years attracted migrants from neighbouring countries as well as from overseas seeking to improve their well-being. Experiences elsewhere have shown that migration plays an important, constructive role in development providing labour, technical skills, capital and knowledge where these constitute a shortfall. Yet migrants, both internal and cross-border, often face particular challenges and risks impeding them to fully contribute to the development of the country; this is especially the case for undocumented migrants or with unclear status, national identity or citizenship that remain in the country without proper integration in the production structures and social networks. Effectively managing migration while promoting a "Better South Africa, Better Africa and a Better World" will continue to be a challenge for the South African government, particularly as they seek to ensure the rights and interests of both host communities and migrant populations.

The issues related to migration, conflict resolution, peacekeeping, knowledge sharing, climate change south-south cooperation and others of normative consideration in the area of human rights and development exchange offer a potential for strengthened collaboration between the UN and the Government of South Africa beyond the areas covered by traditional UNDAFs.. It is in this regard that the present Strategic Collaboration aims to assist South Africa to meet its domestic developmental challenges and strengthen its role in regional and global affairs.

The remaining analysis in this section is divided into the four Focus Areas of UN collaboration in South Africa: inclusive growth and decent work; environmentally sustainable development; human capabilities; and governance and participation.

A) Inclusive Growth and Decent Work

Achieving full employment, decent work and sustainable livelihoods is one of the key strategic priorities adopted by the Government towards eradicating poverty and reducing inequality. According to the Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2005/2006, while 10% of the population continues to earn more than 50% of household income, the poorest 40% of the population accounts for less than 7% of household income¹⁰. Much of the poverty and inequality is driven by high levels of unemployment and underemployment that have disproportionately affected the majority of the black population. This is largely due to the legacy of apartheid. The internationally comparable unemployment rate in 2011 was 24.9%¹¹. Women in general and the youth in particular have borne a disproportionate share of unemployment, constituting two-thirds of all unemployed¹². Poverty and unemployment are

¹⁰Statssa, Income and Expenditure of Households 2005/2006 available at <http://www.statssa.gov.za>

¹¹StatsSA, Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) for 4th quarter of 2011; available at <http://www.StatsSA.gov.za>

¹² National Planning Commission, National Development Plan: Vision for 2030, November 2011 available at <http://www.presidency.gov.za>

particularly high in the rural areas where the employment to population ratio is 26.2% as against 48.5% in urban areas in 2010¹³. Significantly, the productivity of the South African workforce is threatened by a high burden of preventable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, and curable diseases including TB as well as accident and injury that affect primarily working age adults.

Post-apartheid South Africa has also not been able to create jobs at a fast-enough pace to absorb new entrants to the labour force and those rendered unemployed by declining sectors of the economy, such as manufacturing and mining. For this reason, Government policy and legislative frameworks have focused on creating an economy that is more inclusive and in which the fruits of growth are shared more equitably. Government's strategy is to move away from an unsustainable economy characterized by resource and capital intensity towards a more diversified economy that lends support towards labour absorbing activities. In particular public investment in infrastructure development constitutes a critical aspect towards fostering inclusive economic growth.

The labour market is highly segmented and is characterized by a core, a larger periphery of vulnerable unorganized and low paid workers in the formal and informal sectors, and a marginalized group of the unemployed. While labour regulation takes account of the first two groups by providing them with basic protections and rights, the bulk of the vulnerable workforce and the unemployed are without such protection. As decent work deficits are addressed one of the challenges will be to strike a balance between promoting an enabling environment for faster expansion in employment opportunities and at the same time safeguarding the protection of human rights.

The draft NDP underscores the critical importance of regional trade and expanding South Africa's share of the global market to the country's development agenda for faster and more inclusive economic growth. The growth potential of South Africa in the region will depend on how the region deals with barriers to trade and investment and the successful, implementation of agreements on regional integration.

B) Environmentally Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is development which meets present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. It encompasses the social, environmental and economic dimensions of development. The use and conservation of environment and other natural resources, the economic development and reducing the negative health environmental impact, e.g. climate change, remains important. It requires an integrated and coherent approach to sustainable development priorities, namely a) enhancing systems for integrated planning and implementation, b) sustaining ecosystems and using natural resources efficiently, c) economic development via investing in sustainable infrastructure d) creating sustainable human settlements and e) responding appropriately to emerging human development, economic and environmental challenges.

Even with under emission scenarios that are more conservative than current international emission trends, it has been predicted that by mid-century the South African coast will warm by around 1 to 2°C and the interior by around 2 to 3°C. By 2100, warming is projected to

¹³ Ibid.

reach around 3 to 4°C along the coast, and 6 to 7°C in the interior. With such temperature increases, life as we know it will change completely, parts of the country will be much drier and increased evaporation will ensure an overall decrease in water availability. This will significantly affect human health, agriculture, other water-intensive economic sectors such as the mining and electricity-generation sectors as well as the environment in general. Increased occurrence and severity of veld and forest fires; extreme weather events; and floods and droughts will also have significant impacts. Sea-level rise will negatively impact the coast and coastal infrastructure. Mass extinctions of endemic plant and animal species will greatly reduce South Africa's biodiversity with consequent impacts on eco-system services.

The first national green economy summit (held in May 2012) helped catalyse national efforts towards a resource efficient, low-carbon and pro-employment growth path. References to greening and green jobs have also recently begun to emerge as a key aspect of general policy framework development. Transition to the green economy is viewed as a pathway for job rich growth (green and decent) targeting, amongst others, the most vulnerable groups. The need to reduce South Africa's footprint with regard to greenhouse gas emission, increase the percentage of power generation from renewable sources and to mitigate the catastrophic impacts of climate remains a key priority towards this end. The transition to a green economy also requires science and technology as a key input, and this also represents a potential area for South-South Cooperation.

The agriculture and forestry sub-sectors utilize large proportions of the South Africa's land for food and timber production. Nearly 25 % of land in South Africa is already badly degraded and the environmental footprint of food systems is extremely large. There is currently a lack of incentives to promote sustainable use of natural resources. Furthermore, invasive alien species will result in the destruction of much of South Africa's wildlife and this will have a knock on effect with regard to poverty as more jobs will be threatened. There is skill shortage, limited research and development and a lack of regulatory supportive legislation to advance green agriculture.

Keeping South Africa's biodiversity intact is vital for sustainable economic growth and development because it ensures an ongoing provision of ecosystem services such as the production of clean air, clean water and food. Roughly 30% of endemic terrestrial species in South Africa may be at an increasingly high risk of extinction by the latter half of this century if climate change is not mitigated. Consideration should, therefore, be given to limit further loss of natural habitat in threatened ecosystems by more deliberate preservation and conservation of protected areas.

South Africa is a water scarce country with a highly variable climate and has one of the lowest run-offs in the world – a situation that is likely to be significantly exacerbated by the effects of climate change. Uniquely, South Africa shares four of its major river systems with six neighbouring countries. These four shared catchments amount to approximately 60% of South Africa's surface area and approximately 40% of the average total river flow. Based on current projections South Africa will exceed the limits of economically viable land-based water resources by 2050. The adequate supply of water for many areas can be sustained only if immediate actions are taken to stave off imminent shortages. Water demand is expected to rise by 52% over the next 30 years while supply of water is likely to decline if current trends due to leakage from old and poorly maintained municipal infrastructures and the loss of wetlands persist. This would make the prospect of water shortage a frightening reality in the

near future. To better cope with the unpredictable and severe impacts of climate change, adaptation plans for key sectors of the economy need to be developed. To reduce the rate of hunger and ensure national food security, the percentage of land affected by soil degradation must decrease from 70% to 55% and land reforms strengthened. Increased support for small holdings and subsistence farmers will be required.

The negative impacts of climate change on the socio-economic standing of the most vulnerable communities, and the consequences in terms of food security and the nutritional status of individuals within these communities threatens to further undermine their resistance to diseases such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. Thus the high HIV and TB incidence and prevalence in high density informal and agricultural settlements needs to be urgently addressed.

Coordination and alignment of policies and actions is central to achieving climate resilience and a smooth transition to a green economy. A comprehensive review of all government legislation, policy, strategies, plans and regulatory frameworks will underpin the successful implementation of the National Climate Change Response Policy. The review will be undertaken in terms of Outcome 10 which focuses on environmental assets and natural resources that are well protected and continually enhanced. Achieving climate change resilient development and the transition to a green economy requires both horizontal and vertical integration of climate change into government planning, and needs to involve all sectors of society at national, provincial and municipal level.

C) Human Capabilities

South Africa has made progress in increasing access to health services, but faces a quadruple burden of preventable disease and injury consisting of HIV and tuberculosis (TB); high maternal and child mortality; non-communicable diseases and; violence and injuries. It also currently ranks the third highest in the world in terms of the TB burden, with an incidence that has increased by 400% over the past 15 years. Since 1994 life expectancy has reduced by almost 20 years—mainly because of the rise in HIV-related mortality¹⁴—and average life expectancy at birth is now 50 years for men and 54 years for women.¹⁵ South Africa is also one of only 12 countries in the world in which mortality rates for children younger than 5 years have increased since 1990¹⁶.

Malnutrition among children aged six months to five years has decreased between 1993 and 2008. Outbreaks of measles in recent years and national surveys indicate gaps in immunization coverage among children.¹⁷ The maternal mortality ratio has increased from an

¹⁴ Mickey Chopra, Joy E Lawn et al Achieving the health Millennium Development Goals for South Africa: challenges and priorities. *The Lancet*, Volume 374, Issue 9694, Pages 1023 - 1031, 19 September 2009.

¹⁵ Statistics South Africa. Mid-year population estimates. Statistical release P0302. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa, 2008.

¹⁶ *The Lancet*, August 2009

¹⁷ Shisana O, Simbayi LC, Rehle T, Zungu NP, Zuma K Ngogo N, Jooste S, Pillay-van-Wyk V, Parker W, Pezi S, Nwanyanwu O, Dinh T percent SABSSM III Implementation Team. 2010. South African National HIV Prevalence, Incidence, Behaviour and Communication Survey, 2008: The health of our children.

estimated 150 per 100,000 live births in 1998 to 310 per 100,000 live births in 2008,¹⁸ with more than 43.7 % of maternal deaths attributed to AIDS related illnesses.¹⁹

The combination of acute and chronic diseases spanning all age-groups and socioeconomic strata imposes a massive burden on the public health-care delivery system, which is dealing with challenges in administrative management, low morale, lack of funding, and a “brain drain”. Following successful consolidation of a fragmented public health service, South Africa is still working to establish an effective district health system.

The Negotiated Service Delivery Agreement (NSDA2010-2014) commits the Minister of Health and the Members of the Executive Council (MECs) of the nine provinces to four main outputs: increasing life expectancy; decreasing maternal and child mortality; combating HIV and AIDS and decreasing the burden of disease from Tuberculosis; and strengthening health system effectiveness. The Minister of Health is actively pursuing the re-engineering of the Primary Health Care system which includes the progressive introduction of National Health Insurance. In this Strategic Cooperation Framework, the response to HIV and TB is addressed in the Governance and Participation section because of the urgent need to drive a truly comprehensive and multisectoral response to these development challenges.

In the education sector, the government has worked to transform all facets of the education system since 1994. The fragmented and racially duplicated institutions of the apartheid era have been replaced by a single national system including nine provincial subsystems.²⁰

In the area of Early Childhood Development (ECD), there is a supportive legislative and policy environment. However, in 2009 only around 43 % of children aged 0-4 years were exposed to some form of ECD activities²¹. Racial disparities persist; only 42 % of Black children under the age of five years had access to some form of ECD stimulation activities in 2009 whereas the percentage among White children was 69 %. Exposure to ECD activities is low due to lack of means at household level, insufficient and poor quality supply at institutional level and lack of appropriate norms and standards at policy level. While ECD policy and policy thinking is comprehensive in scope and aspiration, current ECD provision is largely confined to Early Child Care and Education (ECCE). Health services are not integrated into ECD, ECD services for 0-3-year old children are lacking, including nutrition; and there is an absence of child care support for working parents/families needing assistance and of parenting, and home- and community-based programmes.

The country is on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goal on access to primary education (MDG 2). Gross enrolment rate in primary education (Grades 1-7) is 98 % and in secondary (Grades 8-12) is 85 %, and there is gender parity.²²

Retention, especially for adolescents, remains a concern. Early pregnancy often compels girls to drop out from school; in 2008, 13 % of 13-19 year old girls were out of school because

¹⁸National Health Data Advisory Coordinating Committee

¹⁹ National Committee on Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths. Saving Mothers 2005-2007: Fourth Report on Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths in South Africa.

²⁰OECD. *Review of National Policies for Education. South Africa. 2008.*

²¹Department of Education (2001): The National Audit of ECD Provisioning in South Africa.

²²Statistics South Africa. 2010. *General Household Survey 2009.*

they were pregnant.²³ Anecdotal evidence suggests that children living in farms tend to drop out from school earlier than children living in formal settlements. Nationwide about 660,000 children are out of primary and secondary school. The most frequently cited causes are: no money for fees (20 %); education is below standard or not interesting (15 %); disability (14 %); illness (11 %); and unable to perform at school (7 %).²⁴ There is a clear need to address adolescent risk behaviour in South Africa; the Integrated School Health programme (ISHP) and the Care and Support for Teaching Learning (CSTL) programme present opportunities to address issues of high risk sexual behavior and drug abuse amongst adolescents, through improved quality youth-friendly services, rights based sexual and reproductive health information and effective referral systems.

Learners' achievement in national and international assessments is generally poor, with South Africa ranking lower than Zimbabwe, Kenya and Tanzania²⁵. The chances of learning successfully are very unequally spread across the country. Learners in rural areas and children in the poorest households tend to have lower achievement levels. Some of the underlying causes for the poor quality of education include inadequate qualifications and low motivation of educators; large class sizes especially in disadvantaged areas; poor physical conditions at schools; lack of proper sanitation facilities especially in rural areas; and widespread violence in and around schools. Issues of financing and resourcing continue to be of great concern, as does the need for greater inclusion, especially of younger children and those with special education needs. Altogether, in bridging inequity gaps in quality education, there is the urgent need to ensure access by all students to learning inputs, step up teacher effort through focused support and oversight, establish reliable and timely systems for student assessment, and build capacity of districts.

In the area of social protection, South Africa is known globally for its comprehensive system. The country's social protection system includes five major social grants (the Child Support Grant, state Old Age pension, Disability Grant, Foster Child Grant and the Care dependency Grant), and three primary social insurance mechanisms (Unemployment Insurance Fund, Compensation Funds and the Road Accident Fund). The state also regulates voluntary funds, including voluntary insurance schemes, such as medical schemes and retirement funds. In addition the state provides a 'social wage' to poor families through water, electricity and housing subsidies and through the provision of meals at schools in the poorest quintile.

The role of social protection programmes in poverty reduction has been significant. Estimates show that child poverty would have been about 9% higher in 2007 without the Child Support Grant (CSG)²⁶. The CSG has also been observed to impact positively and significantly on school attainment, access to health care and adolescent risk reduction. Nevertheless the high levels of poverty in the country point to the need to further consolidate social protection programmes in the country. Reforms should aim at addressing three issues: (a) establishing a (minimum) floor of social protection, under which no citizen or family should fall; (b) having in place a common/targeted approach that ensures that the poor have access to essential

²³ Statistics South Africa. 2009. *General Household Survey 2008*

²⁴ Statistics South Africa (2010) *General Household Survey 2009*. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

²⁵ Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality (2010) *SACMEQ III Project Results: Pupil achievement levels in reading and mathematics*.

²⁶ UNICEF and Financial and Fiscal Commission, 2010

services at the same time; (c) strengthen outreach and delivery capacities of government agencies to reach all excluded but eligible families.

COMMENT: This section still reads pretty much as a section for health and education. It does not talk much about the skills needed for job creation, empowerment of women and disaster risk reduction. It does not talk about the much needed policy, systems and institutional development to enable citizens to realize their full potential to curb social malaise, violence and crime, foster national harmony and regional peace. In other words I find this section narrowly defined while it is the one that should make the entire UN feel it has something to contribute, from UNESCO to UNODC, from the World Maritime Organisation to the World Meteorological Organization, from OCHA, UNAIDS to UN-Habitat and EOSG. This is the section where most of our programmes aimed at assisting South Africa to strengthen its role in regional and global affairs should find cover.

D) Governance and Participation

The draft National Development Plan outlines the progress South Africa has made since 1994 in consolidating the fragmented and exclusive apartheid-era institutions into three complementary spheres of government to foster equitable national development. In 1996, South Africa adopted a new Constitution with a Bill of Rights establishing a comprehensive set of civil and socio-economic rights, many of which reflect international human treaties and conventions. The Constitution also sets out the distribution of powers and functions between the three spheres of government (i.e., national, provincial and local) to ensure the effective formulation and implementation of development policies. However, the country's inter-governmental framework is still relatively new and requires institutional strengthening to be able to deliver essential social and economic services to the public.

As a result of the above, many challenges, such as high crime rates and low levels of youth development, remain. Although there has been a decline in reported crime in recent years, with a 2.4 % overall fall in 2011, South Africa still has high levels of crime in general and violent crime in particular. The national murder rate of 31.9 per 100 000 is still 4.5 times greater than the international average. Violence against women and children remains high, as statistics indicate that one in two women might be raped in her lifetime and one in four girls has been sexually abused.²⁷

The draft National Development Plan draws attention to corruption as a major obstacle to the vision that it espouses, noting that the costs of corruption fall most heavily on the poor through poor-quality public services. The Plan states: 'Overcoming the twin challenges of corruption and lack of accountability in our society requires a resilient system consisting of political will, sound institutions, a solid legal foundation, and an active citizenry that is empowered to hold public officials accountable.'²⁸

High and rapid rates of urbanization also pose challenges to effective service delivery. The draft National Development Plan states that South Africa is slightly more urban than the

²⁷ The Commission for Gender Equality, *"MDG+10 Gendered Review in South Africa"*

²⁸ National Planning Commission. *National Development Plan Vision 2030*, p. 413.

global average: about 60% of the population lives in urban areas. This is projected to reach 70% by 2030. Informal settlements are a manifestation of weak governance and service-delivery systems. Increasing inward migration has also necessitated a more comprehensive management of migration involving the control and protection of immigration, asylum seekers and refugee rights and the promotion of safe and dignified migration process is of paramount importance.

The development of South Africa's youth (15-34 years), constituting 42 %²⁹ of the population and 70 % of the unemployed³⁰, is being threatened by health risks (notably high-rates of HIV and teenage pregnancy). This calls for a multi-sectoral response across government policies and programmes. The Department for Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities notes that since 1994, South Africa has made significant progress in putting in place a legislative and policy framework for advancing equality and empowerment for women. While progress has been made on a number of fronts and several gains and many milestones have been achieved in this process, challenges nevertheless remain in the creation of an environment that help remove constraints to the advancement and empowerment of women, children and people with disabilities.

South Africa has a generalised HIV epidemic. The 2009 HIV prevalence in the adult population (aged 15–49) was estimated to be 17.8%³¹ with the TB incidence estimated at 981/100 000.³² The epidemic has stabilized at these very high levels. On average, annually around 250,000-300,000 newborns are exposed to HIV. An estimated 2 million children have been orphaned due to AIDS. The HIV pandemic disproportionately affects women. HIV prevalence among female youth is almost four times higher than prevalence among males. Data show, however, that the country is finally making progress against a number of indicators. HIV prevalence among children 2-14 years old decreased from 5.6 % in 2002 to 2.5 % in 2008 and HIV prevalence among youth aged 15-24 years decreased from 10.3 % in 2005 to 8.6 % in 2008.³³ In addressing HIV/AIDS, access to sexual and reproductive health services remains critical especially for young women and key populations. While 83% of women utilize contraception services³⁴, the promotion of family planning among young people requires further attention to reduce teenage pregnancy and unsafe abortions.

HIV and TB thus pose one of the greatest challenges and threats to the development agenda facing post-apartheid South Africa. Without acting quickly to protect the country's most valued resources: children, young people, women and the workforce, South Africa will not achieve most of its Millennium Development Goals. The United Nations Country Team therefore has placed HIV and TB within its development support to South Africa. A comprehensive, sustainable development response across every sector of society: government, private sector, labour and civil society is required and is articulated in the National Strategic Plan for HIV STI's and TB (NSP) for 2012–2016

²⁹ Statistics South Africa Labour Force Surveys 2011

³⁰ The South African Youth Context: The Young Generation, National Youth Development Agency, 2011

³¹ DoH, 2010.

³² WHO, 2010.

³³ Data from the KwaZulu-Natal impact study shows this is directly related to age difference between partners.

³⁴ South African Health Demographic Survey

2. PAST COOPERATION, LESSONS LEARNED AND UN COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE IN SOUTH AFRICA

In 2008 the Government of South Africa and the United Nations jointly commissioned an evaluation of the role and contribution of the United Nations System in South Africa. The evaluation, conducted by an independent team of national and international experts, found that, although the UN System, through its various agencies and funds provided useful support to a number of government departments, the partnership between the two fell short of its potential.

The evaluation recommended, amongst other things, that:

- The UN System in South Africa and the Government of South Africa jointly develop a framework for future cooperation that extends beyond the traditional scope of an UNDAF to respond South Africa's growing influence at the regional and global level;
- The UN leadership at the country level be strengthened; and
- The UN should focus on high-end value-adding activities that generate knowledge and information for policies and programmes, and activities where it has a comparative strength.

Based on the experience of the past UNDAF, the Joint Evaluation as well as other relevant analyses³⁵, several key principles and lessons learned guide this SCF. First, the UN must organise itself to contribute more effectively and efficiently to improve people's lives – specifically to help South Africa achieve the MDGs and the vision of the Millennium Declaration, the NGP, the Government's 12 National Development Outcomes, the vision outlined in the draft National Development Plan 2030, and other national development priorities.

Second, the UN must approach the partnership with South Africa from the perspective of its position as a unique development partner, based on its comparative advantage for the promotion of internationally recognised norms and standards related to human development and human rights.

Third, the South Africa-UN partnership must recognise and capitalise on the tremendous potential of South Africa as a middle-income country, regional and global actor, and source of some of the best technical expertise in the world.

In order to help ensure the greatest relevance of this SCF, the UN system identified its comparative advantages in the South African context. These include:

- The UN has a recognised and **strong ability and expertise around international normative standards** enshrined in international law and other instruments, including

³⁵ This includes the annual SCF reviews, Repositioning UN in South Africa discussion paper (2010), the UN report on "United Nations Contribution to National Outcomes 2007-2010" and a paper on the UN's role in Middle-Income Countries (2012).

human rights and gender equality; as such, the UN is the international ‘custodian’ of the UN MDGs and other international normative instruments and standards;

- The UN is seen as a **neutral, impartial convenor** of various actors, whether Government, civil society, academia, etc. around current key issues (e.g. climate change, human rights);
- The UN is a **repository of strong technical knowledge and expertise** in specific areas of relevance to South Africa’s development trajectory (e.g. social protection, regional and international peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building, employment, crime prevention, HIV, health surveillance systems, monitoring and data systems, youth, children, gender equality, environmental issues and sustainability, humanitarian assistance and disaster risk prevention and reduction), and is able to draw upon this expertise at the global, regional and national levels through its various agencies and offices;
- The UN **works inter-sectorally and inter-departmentally**, thereby creating opportunities for dialogue and collaboration across departments and directorates, e.g. around employment, health, education, gender equality, HIV, and data and monitoring;
- The UN engages with Government structures at **national and sub-national levels**, thereby allowing it to have a more comprehensive understanding of how to achieve results in South Africa across the three spheres of government (national, provincial, municipal). Under the human rights based approach, the UN focuses its efforts on ensuring that the most disadvantaged groups and areas in South Africa are given full attention and priority, while at the same time working to support national-level policy and systems-building to benefit all South Africans.
- The UN engages at **all stages of the policy cycle**, from data analysis and evidence generation, to policy advice, to policy development, to policy implementation through guidance and capacity building, to monitoring and evaluating the impact of policies on the ground. This **concurrent ‘upstream-downstream’ engagement** helps it to be an effective partner to Government at all levels.

In brief, the strength of the UN’s contribution to South Africa is best measured not in monetary terms, but in terms of its technical know-how and ability to help South Africa translate its commitments to international norms/standards and to national priorities (e.g. to human rights standards, climate change protocols, trade agreements, etc.) into results on the ground.

3. PLANNED RESULTS FROM UN COOPERATION

The overall goal of the GoSA-UN cooperation for 2013-2017 will be: eliminating poverty and reducing inequality. The Millennium Declaration, MDGs and the global development agenda post-MDGs (i.e. post-2015) will also form the overall framework for the UN’s work in SA, as in every country in which the UN works.

The UN will employ many strategies including focussed policy advice and technical support, research and knowledge generation, and capacity building in the areas noted below. A major strategy for the UN across all results areas will be supporting South Africa to more effectively play its regional and global roles and contribute to international debates around development, maintenance of international peace and security, human rights and other issues, including through multilateral bodies such as IBSA, BRICS, AU, SADC G-20 and the UN

General Assembly. Facilitating South-South cooperation is a strategy that will be used across most of the outcomes described below, in keeping with South Africa's emerging role as a provider of official development assistance through the South African Development Partnership Agency (as well as continuing to be a recipient). Supporting these regional and global roles is a particularly unique kind of support that the UN can offer as a multilateral institution.

The SCF will be a flexible framework to allow the UN to prepare and respond to emerging issues (e.g. disaster risk reduction, climate change) in an evolving middle-income context such as South Africa.

The UN will agree and coordinate its work with the relevant Government departments, as per the principles of aid effectiveness and the Paris Declaration. It will also collaborate with other development partners in order to ensure synergy and most efficient use of resources in a given sector. The UN will seek synergies amongst its agencies in each Focus Area, with a view to maximising the impact of its resources and contributions.

Three areas have been identified as cross-cutting priority areas where the UN system has a comparative advantage. These three areas are: HIV/AIDS, gender equality and youth development. The UN will focus its support to South Africa in four main Focus Areas: inclusive growth and decent work; environmentally sustainable development; human capabilities; and governance and participation. Each of these is explained in detail below.

A) Inclusive Growth and Decent Work

Outcome 1: Strengthened national capacity for the harmonization and implementation of policies aimed at promoting inclusive economic growth and decent work.

Rationale: Presently the implementation, integration and alignment of strategic planning among different spheres of government is a challenge which is exacerbated by different budget cycles between municipalities and provincial/national governments. UN support responds to the priority of the Government to contribute to efforts at implementing and harmonizing policies, systems and structures to reduce disparities, duplication and lack of inter-operability between institutions, to promote inclusive economic growth.

How results will be achieved, and with whom: UN Agencies together, with other development partners, will provide technical support to the Government of South Africa in the area of integrated strategic planning. Capacity support will be provided to support Government's development strategy of fostering inclusive economic growth through the promotion of growth oriented sustainable and competitive enterprises which will include strengthening national capacity to mainstream decent work in all its employment initiatives. The UN agencies will also provide guidance and capacity support towards the enhanced adoption and application of normative standards that uphold the rights of citizens, and migrants (both regular and irregular) to access decent work and employment, and to ensure that participants in the labour market work under conditions of freedom, security, equity and human dignity. UN support will also be provided to enhance the capacity of Government to

implement employment intensive infrastructure programmes that integrate rights, social protection, entrepreneurship and social dialogue aspects of the decent work agenda.

Outcome 2: Increased employability of vulnerable groups through skills building and SMME development³⁶.

Rationale: UN support responds to the national priority to work towards a skilled and capable workforce that can support an inclusive growth path. The capacity of key national labour administration structures to provide effective public employment services has been hampered by resource constraints to effectively facilitate the participation and entry of young job seekers into the labour market. A key factor that has caused high levels of youth unemployment in the country is the apparent disconnect between skills produced and the skills required by the labour market. Part of Government's response to weaknesses reflected in the post school system is to strengthen the quality of the public further education and training (FET) college sector and to ensure that this sector expands the number of qualified people entering the workforce. An additional challenge confronting skills development relates to the fact that Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) have not been very effective in ensuring greater alignment of SETA facilitated training with the needs of the economy. The National Qualifications Framework has also proved inappropriate for the training and learning needs of the education sector. Women, youth in urban, rural and peri-urban areas, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups are afforded particular attention for focused interventions since they bear the brunt of urban and rural unemployment, poverty and economic deprivation.

How results will be achieved: The UN will work in close partnership with the department of Higher Education and Training, national Skills Development institutions, employers, workers and other key social partners. The UN agencies will provide support towards strengthening the capacity of skills development and tripartite institutions to link skills supply and demand as well as to linking skills to development strategies. In addition, technical support will be directed towards supporting strategies for simplifying the regulatory framework and National Qualifications Framework; evaluating and developing strategies for improving the effectiveness and relevance of training in FET colleges; supporting programmes towards worker education and training; sharing of international best practices on partnerships between the private sector and educational institutions in affording young people critical work experience and skills acquisition; strengthening sectoral skills strategies for increased growth and employment creation; strengthening public employment services; strengthening public private partnerships in skills development and in improving workplace learning. The UN will also share comparative best practices from countries that have a range of post school education and training programmes to assist the quest by Government to identify alternative post school education and training institutional forms that can adequately cater for the unique training needs of severely disadvantaged out-of-school youth. South –South cooperation will be pursued with countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America for policy dialogue on skills development systems and experiences gained.

³⁶ In the context of the Strategic Cooperation Framework, the term 'vulnerable groups' is used to refer to the following: children, youth, women, people with disabilities, migrants, the poor.

Technical and capacity support will be directed towards strengthening local SMME support services, and the business environment for the promotion of competitive enterprise activity particularly within priority sectors such as tourism and the green economy. The UN will also employ relevant tools to strengthen national efforts and capacity to redress existing gender imbalances in enterprise development. Technical support will also be provided towards supporting national efforts at promoting an entrepreneurship mindset among young people. With particular focus on women, youth and other vulnerable segments of the rural population, support will be directed towards strengthening the policy environment and national capacity for pro-poor cluster development initiatives in agro-business.

B) Environmentally Sustainable Development

Outcome 1: Government transition successfully to a ‘green economy,’ through creation of green jobs, increased energy production from renewable sources and increased reliance on low carbon development.

Rationale: UN support responds to the government priorities to promote the transition to a green economy (in green jobs, increase energy access and lower carbon development) in South Africa. Green jobs are expected to contribute to South Africa’s challenges of alleviating poverty and reducing inequality. In order to ensure secure and sustainable provision of energy and transition to a low carbon economy there is an urgent need to diversify South Africa’s energy mix. Policies and measures are being put in place to ensure smooth transition. Government has committed to 10 000 GWh of renewable energy contribution to final energy by 2014 and installation of one million solar water heaters by 2013. Energy efficiency is widely recognised as one of the most fundamental short-term imperative for rapid, ambitious and cost-effective climate change mitigation measure.

How results will be achieved: Particular areas of focus include developing national capacities for climate change adaptation and mitigation, transitioning into a green economy and ensuring energy access for all. This will be done by providing technical support for awareness campaigns to low carbon economy focusing on green jobs, sustainable energy, mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The government departments involved will include Department of Science and Technology (DST), the Department of Minerals, Department of Energy, Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Department of Health (DOH), etc.

Outcome 2: Government integrates environmentally sustainable development approaches into policies aimed at reducing poverty and promoting equitable socio-economic development.

Rationale: Sustainable management of environmental assets, protection and enhancement of natural resources are key priorities of Government. The environment is intertwined with socio-economic development as it provides resources for habitation, production and consumption, while serving as a sink for waste products. The South African Environment Management Act advocates for integration of social, economic and environmental factors into

planning and implementation in order to ensure that economic and social development is reconciled with environmental protection. Poor communities continue to suffer negative environmental health effect due to poor housing, sanitation, waste disposal and access to bare necessities such as clean water. Climate change is expected to magnify the existing inequalities and exacerbates existing vulnerabilities. Women and rural residents continue to be more vulnerable to environmental hazards such as air and water pollution which can cause various illnesses. This is a relatively new area of work and thus there will be a need to provide support to bring the awareness of environment, green economy, and poverty reduction to special targeted groups such as young people, women and children.

South Africa has a high rate of vulnerability to food insecurity and this is exacerbated by the overarching lack of market access by prospective small scale famers. The Zero Hunger Programme (ZHP) of Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), seeks to address this anomalies in partnership with other social Cluster Departments as guided by the Integrated Food Security Strategy (IFSS). UN support will respond to the National government priorities to work towards a skilled workforce to support the monitoring of food security and regional water issues in line with scarcity of available water.

How results will be achieved: The UN agencies and partners together with government departments will provide leadership in review and change of policies, plans and strategies in relation to poverty reduction and need of young people, women and children. This will be done by providing technical support to review policies and to develop implementation plans, and build capacity in order to monitor implementation. The UN will enhance coordination among UN agencies to promote the integration of nutrition, food-safety and food security programmes at all levels and incorporate them into national development policies. The UN agencies will provide technical support in capacity building at all levels of government and support review and development of policies and legal regulations to be developed for South Africa. The government departments involved will include Department of Science and Technology (DST), the Department of Mineral Resources, Department of Energy, Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Water Affairs (DWA), Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), etc.

C) Human Capabilities

AGAIN THIS SECTION IS NOT INCLUSIVE ENOUGH. The Outcomes need to be more accommodativeto the needs of UN system. I belive we need a bit more of work in this section.

Outcome 1: Improved access to equitable quality basic education for children in South Africa³⁷ (needs Reformulation)

Rationale: Having achieved near universal access to basic education and gender parity at this level of education, South Africa needs to urgently improve the quality of teaching and learning experienced in the classroom. The UN has made strong contributions to the education sector in the past UNDAF in the areas of improving access to education at all

³⁷The access in this context is related to accessing quality teaching/learning as opposed to access to schooling.

levels, promoting gender parity in education, and supporting curriculum revision/development including in the areas of Early Childhood Development (ECD) and life skills.

How results will be achieved: Building on past efforts, the UN support to South Africa in the education sector will focus on strengthening the capacity of authorities at all levels (national, provincial, district, school) to improve the quality of teaching and learning, while ensuring more equitable access especially for the most disadvantaged learners. The UN will help ensure that all children are able to get the possible start in life, with access to quality ECD services, and that as they grow, learners will be able to develop their full potential in a learning environment that is safe, empowering, health-promoting, and gender-sensitive. UN agencies will work closely with the Departments of Basic Education, Social Development, Sport and Recreation, and Health amongst others.

Outcome 2: Accelerated progress towards the sustainable achievement of the health MDGs (too narrow)

Rationale: The MDGs on health are the ones where South Africa is most lagging behind in terms of progress. More fundamental are the health inequalities which are still evident along the lines of race, gender, income bracket and region/province. UN support will be directed at addressing health policy gaps and their implementation at all levels, thereby increasing the capacity of government and key stakeholders in management of the processes of achieving the health MDGs as well as national health goals and targets, and ensuring this achievement is sustained beyond 2015 through strengthened health systems at all levels.

How results will be achieved: In order to accelerate progress towards these critical MDGs, and towards the national priorities and outcomes identified for health, the UN will support South Africa in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, maternal and child health, health emergencies, health systems and non-communicable diseases). This will include support to improve health information systems for more informed decision-making; to build national capacity around non-communicable diseases, immunisation, risk surveillance systems and other public health challenges; scale up proven high-impact interventions to save the lives of women, children and adolescents including through improved reproductive and child health services; build the capacity of the health workforce (including community health workers as part of the PHC re-engineering); and improve the nutritional status of infants and children, including through the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and improved infant and young child feeding practices. Technical assistance, evidence generation, capacity building and policy advice will be the key strategies. The UN will work closely with SANAC, South-South partners, development partners, government departments, the private sector and key civil society organizations.

Outcome 3: Increased access by vulnerable populations to social protection services.

It is unclear how this outcome is related to our contribution in enhancing human capabilities in South Africa

Rationale: Although social protection in South Africa is relatively comprehensive, there is a need to increase access to social protection for the most disadvantaged and ensure that the system works most efficiently and effectively to protect against risk and shocks. The UN has over the years built strong alliances with the Department of Social Development, National Treasury, and South African Social Security Agency for the delivery of social protection services for vulnerable population groups.

How results will be achieved: In line with its comparative advantages, the UN will continue to support government in specific policy reform areas, including (i) how to reach groups with low uptake (very young children and adolescents), (ii) how to remove serious policy design bottlenecks that prevent early uptake of programmes, (iii) how to reach vulnerable families in a comprehensive way. In particular, and as required by Vision 2030, the UN will support government to establish a “Social Floor” for all vulnerable groups. In this context, the UN will support a more comprehensive approach to poverty reduction, including policies that link beneficiaries of the social assistance programmes to other (‘social wage’ type) state support services for deprived children and their families, and care-givers to emerging livelihood opportunities. Furthermore, the UN will support more strongly, policy reforms towards having capable institutions to deliver results for vulnerable population groups. The main government partners in this area include SASSA, National Treasury, Department of Social Development, amongst others.

D) Governance and Participation

Outcome 1: Improved capacity of national, provincial and local governments to plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate government policies, systems and capabilities for improved service delivery and strengthened participatory democracy

Rationale: Despite generally strong national institutions, progressive policies and relatively strong economic performance since the end of apartheid in 1994, translating legislative and policy directives into effective and efficient service delivery remains a challenge across the three spheres of government. Currently, South Africa has a dual public service structure with provincial and national administrations governed by the Public Service Act and the Public Finance Management Act, and municipality administrations governed by the Municipal Systems Act and Municipal Structures Act, and the Municipal Finance Management Act. Furthermore, the myriad of national, regional, provincial and municipal offices often leads to fragmented service delivery which requires multiple visits to different spheres of government to access a single service in the case of some public services. To ensure that all in South Africa benefit equitably and efficiently from public services, it has become imperative to strengthen national and sub-national institutions, and the relationship between these institutions. To achieve this objective, Government has already set up the Department for Performance Monitoring and Evaluation at the Presidency. The UN, drawing upon its own technical capabilities and global best practices, is in a position to offer support the South African government in meeting this development objective.

Social cohesion and peace based on mutual understanding and cooperation among government, communities, civil society is essential to eradicating poverty and promoting a more inclusive society. Civil and political rights are a fundamental area of rights enshrined in

the South African Constitution, and the UN has a comparative advantage in supporting government and other duty-bearers to help fulfill these rights. While South Africa has a strong tradition of promoting social dialogue among workers, employers and government, in recent years the traditional institutions for fostering such dialogue appear to be overwhelmed and insufficient; the government has stated the need for some reforms.

How results will be achieved:The UN in South Africa will engage in strategic upstream support in the form of policy advice and/or technical support for public sector reforms. Various UN agencies will work closely with relevant government departments to strengthen their capabilities for development management and service delivery. The UN will support in facilitating social cohesion among relevant stakeholders. Using its normative mandate, the United Nations is well placed to provide support to the Government in mainstreaming human rights and gender into existing governance structures. UN support to South Africa will also focus on strengthening governance structures and systems at national, provincial and district levels to enable the participation of the most vulnerable (i.e. people living with HIV and TB, women, youth, children, people with disabilities, etc.). Sharing of international best practices, drawing on the UN's global network of practitioners, will form part of the strategy to achieve this outcome. The UN will work with The Presidency, Department of Women, Children and Disabilities and other line departments, South African National AIDS Council on HIV, TB and STIs (SANAC), National Youth Development Agency, Human Rights Commission, Parliament, DPSA and other stakeholders.

Outcome 2: Strengthened capacity of state institutions and systems to provide access to service, social welfare and justice for all.

Rationale: Vision 2030 describes safety as a core human right and a prerequisite for sustainable human development. Although overall crime levels have fallen somewhat in recent years, there is a general belief that much more can be done, especially with respect to organized crime, towards creating safer communities for all people living in South Africa. Women, and particularly those in rural areas, continue to be burdened by poverty, inequality and the persistence of gender-based violence. Children also continue to be deliberately targeted by violence including sexual violence against children under the age of 10 years. The UN can provide support to Government to strengthen the legislative and policy frameworks and translate them into effective programmes to reduce violence, particularly against the most vulnerable groups, and create safer communities in South Africa.

How results will be achieved: Building on its record of support so far, the UN will work with relevant state agencies (e.g. SAPS, DoJ, etc.) for immediate as well as medium-to-long term solutions to crime in South Africa and crime in the region affecting South Africa. Among other things, this will include the sharing of global experiences in addressing organized crime, access to justice and social welfare services for vulnerable groups, and focus on the youth and children.

Outcome 3: A multi-sectoral and sustainable response to HIV, STIs and TB developed and implemented at all levels in line with the NSP.

Rationale: The epidemics of HIV and TB are a critical development issue for South Africa. UN support responds to the priorities of the Government of South Africa to combat HIV and to reduce the burden of disease from tuberculosis. There are approximately 5.5 million people living with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and 0.5 million new cases of TB disease every year, making South Africa the country with the highest burden and 3rd highest TB burden of HIV infection in the world. The effects of HIV and TB are concentrated among the most productive age groups and it imposes significant costs on enterprises through falling productivity, increased labour costs and the loss of skills and experience. In addition, fundamental rights at work are often violated on the basis of real or perceived HIV status, particularly through discrimination and stigmatization directed at workers living with and affected by HIV and AIDS. The development and implementation of workplace policies and programmes on HIV and AIDS facilitates access to prevention, treatment, care and support services for workers and their families and dependants, thereby also reaching out to the larger community. High density urban informal and agricultural settlements are associated with the highest prevalence of HIV and TB nationally. Interventions should be integrated into Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and spatial analysis while addressing the associated vulnerabilities as a strategy to reduce the incidence of new HIV infections, reduce stigma and discrimination and improve access to health services.

How results will be achieved: The UN will help build the capacity of government, labour, private sector and civil society partners to develop and implement a comprehensive culturally relevant, gender appropriate and age-sensitive combination HIV and TB prevention and integrated treatment, care and support interventions at all levels in line with the National Strategic Plan for HIV, STIs and TB 2012-2016 (NSP). In this regard, the South African National AIDS Council and provincial and district AIDS councils and departments, will be key partners in leading the multisectoral response to HIV and TB. The UN will work to improve access to quality EMTCT services that virtually eliminate vertical transmission of HIV and secure HIV free survival for children. National capacity to achieve universal access to quality integrated treatment, care and support services and supplies for people living with and affected by HIV and TB, including children and young people, will be strengthened, including through social protection approaches. In addition to SANAC, all government departments will be supported to develop and implement plans in line with the NSP, in particular the Departments of Health, Basic Education, Correctional Services and Social Development.

Coverage and implementation of HIV and TB workplace programmes will be extended to Small Medium Enterprises and informal sector. Working in close partnership with key national departments, and local government authorities within the context of the Community-based Workplace Programmes and Expanded Public Works Programme, support will be provided to enhance the capacity of community based organizations for income generating opportunities through providing services in the ARV and NHI roll-out programmes. The UN will collaborate with relevant organizations and structures, including social dialogue mechanisms that are relevant to address matters of HIV and TB in the world of work such as the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC), National Economic Development Labour Council (NEDLAC), Mines Health and Safety Council (MHSC) and other public service institutions.

4. MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

In order to ensure appropriate oversight of the SCF, a Steering Committee, comprised of Department of International Relations and Cooperation, National Treasury, the Presidency, Economic Development and Social Development Departments and the UN system, will be established. The Committee will provide strategic direction and guidance to the Government departments and UN agencies implementing the SCF.

The SCF will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis, through annual SCF review meetings with Government and other stakeholders as appropriate. Progress will be monitored using the results matrix in the annex.

The Government and UN will determine together the best modality for ensuring collaboration at the technical level. UN agencies will develop joint annual workplans and hold joint reviews and monitoring activities as much as possible, in the interests of alignment and harmonization, and to reduce transaction costs for Government. Joint programming will become an increasingly important approach in areas common to several agencies.

Operationally, the UN agencies will accelerate efforts for more coordinated and harmonized operational procedures, including a more consistent application of the Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) and implementation of the HACT Joint Assurance Plan. Efforts will continue for a UN House to accommodate more UN Agencies in a more conducive and secure environment.

A joint Government-UN Communications Strategy for the SCF is needed to communicate its key messages to stakeholders in South Africa, including UN development partners, the private sector, donors as well as the media, civil society, academic and research institutes and local communities. The Strategy will focus on the role and contributions of the UN to South Africa's growth and development. A key objective will be to raise awareness of and therefore support for the work of the UN system among South Africans. A central message is that the SCF provides a framework whereby the UN shares its expertise to strengthen South Africa's capacity to lead regional and global dialogues especially as they relate to UN and other intergovernmental initiatives in Africa and the world.