UNITED NATIONS
KAZAKHSTAN

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

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Table of Contents

Declaration of Commitment and Signature Page 3
List of abbreviations 7
Executive Summary 8
CHAPTER 1: Country progress towards the 2030 Agenda 10
CHAPTER 2: UN Development System Support 16
2.1. Rationale behind adopted priorities and Theory of Change 16
2.1.1. United Nations support in the upper-middle-income country context 16
2.1.2. Principles of the United Nations-Government partnership 17
2.1.3 Strategic focus on interconnected accelerators to achieve SDGs - pathway to CF priorities 18
2.2. Theory of Change 19
2.3. Intended Development Results – Cooperation Framework Outcomes and Partnerships 21
Result Area 1. Empowered People and Strong Institutions 21
Result Area 2. Resilient and Inclusive Economy 23
Result Area 3. Sustainable Environment 26
Result Area 4. Strengthened Social Cohesion 29
2.4. Partnerships 31
2.5. Priorities interconnectedness, trade-offs and linkages to the SDGs 32
2.7. UN comparative advantages and configuration 32
2.8. Risks and Opportunities 33
CHAPTER 3: Implementation Plan 36
3.1. Cooperation Framework Governance 36
3.2. Cooperation Framework Management Structure 36
3.3. Sustainability 37
3.4 Resourcing the Cooperation Framework 38
3.4. Derivation of UN entity country programming instruments from the Cooperation Framework 39
3.5. Joint Workplans 39
3.6. Business Operations Strategy 40
CHAPTER 4. Monitoring and Evaluation 40
ANNEX 1: Results Framework 43
ANNEX 2: Monitoring and Evaluation Plan 66
ANNEX 3: Legal Annex 70
Annex 4: HACT 73

Declaration of Commitment

The Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the UN Country Team reaffirm their shared commitment to forge a dynamic partnership that will drive progress towards Kazakhstan's national development priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Together, we pledge to work alongside the people of Kazakhstan to foster an inclusive, prosperous, and sustainable future where every individual can reach their full potential.

As a rapidly advancing upper-middle-income country, Kazakhstan has achieved notable progress, yet important development challenges remain. The UN Country Team will embrace a transformative role as a convener and thought leader. By offering technical expertise, policy advice, capacity development, and fostering knowledge exchange, the UN Country Team aims to support innovative approaches to sustainable development tailored to Kazakhstan's evolving needs. The Government's and UN's joint efforts to address development challenges will be guided by the principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, emphasizing national ownership, transparency, and mutual respect. Through collaborative engagement with government institutions, civil society, and the private sector, we will champion the needs of groups in situations of vulnerability, ensuring that no one is left behind.

The Cooperation Framework will serve as our partnership's foundation for joint action, prioritizing systemic changes in policy and regulatory frameworks while fostering the capacity of public institutions and civil society at scale.

Together, we will inspire ambition, innovation, and solidarity to achieve a healthier, more prosperous, and sustainable Kazakhstan for generations to come.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Serik Zhumangarin
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan

On behalf of the United Nations Country Team

Stephen O'Malley
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List of abbreviations

BOS	Business Operations Strategy
CCA	Common Country Analysis
CSO	Civil Society Organization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IFAS	International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea
ILO	International Labour Organization
INFF	Integrated National Financing Framework
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
JSC	Joint Steering Committee
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
MIC	Middle-Income Country
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OMT	Operations Management Team
PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNRRCA	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WHO	World Health Organization

Executive Summary

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (Cooperation Framework) 2026-2030 for Kazakhstan is a bold and transformative blueprint designed to accelerate progress towards sustainable development. Anchored in national priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, this Cooperation Framework represents a strategic partnership between the UN Country Team and the Government of Kazakhstan, ensuring that no one is left behind as the country advances towards inclusive prosperity. The Cooperation Framework is the result of analytical, consultative and collaborative work of the UN Country Team with the Government, civil society, experts, youth representatives and private sector. These partners were involved in two foresight exercises, through focus group discussions and other consultations. Regional UN offices and Issue-Based Coalitions were consulted as well.

A Vision for a Sustainable Future

Kazakhstan, an upper-middle-income country, has made remarkable strides in economic growth, social progress, and institutional development. With a diverse and resource-rich economy, the country has maintained strong growth, yet it faces challenges such as heavy reliance on oil exports, regional economic disparities, demographic shifts, and environmental sustainability concerns. The UN Country Team, leveraging its expertise, convening power, and commitment to international norms, will support Kazakhstan in overcoming these challenges while fostering innovation, resilience, and equity.

Strategic Priorities and Approach

The Cooperation Framework is built around four key priority areas:

1. **Empowered People and Strong Institutions – By 2030, the well-being of all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, is improved and they fully enjoy human rights and equal access to age and gender-responsive and increasingly digitalized and people-centered public and private services, provided by inclusive, effective, and accountable institutions.**

The UN will provide technical support to strengthen governance, ensure the alignment of national policies with international human rights standards, and enhance digitalized public service delivery. Special emphasis will be placed on capacity-building for public institutions, expanding access to quality healthcare and education, and supporting legal and social protections for vulnerable groups.

2. **Resilient and Inclusive Economy – By 2030, all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from sustainable, rights-based, gender-responsive, diversified, and innovative economic development that promotes decent work, productivity, and entrepreneurship.**

The UN will facilitate knowledge exchange, improve access to skills development, and promote sustainable industries to enhance economic resilience and inclusion.

The UN will promote economic diversification by supporting policies that foster innovation, digital transformation, and sustainable industries. The UN will work to improve vocational training and skills development, particularly for youth and women, ensuring their participation in emerging industries and labor markets. Additionally, the UN will support fair labor practices, enhance social protection mechanisms, and facilitate public-private partnerships to create inclusive economic opportunities.

3. **Sustainable Environment – By 2030, all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from enhanced age and gender-sensitive environmental resilience, as well as inclusive, rights-based climate, nature, and pollution action and sustainable management of natural resources.**

The UN will support Kazakhstan's transition to a low-carbon economy by promoting renewable energy, sustainable land and water management, and climate adaptation policies. Strengthening disaster risk reduction strategies, advocating for environmental governance reforms, and enhancing community resilience to climate change will be central to UN interventions. The UN will also engage in regional cooperation on water and biodiversity conservation to ensure sustainable resource management.

4. **Strengthened Social Cohesion – By 2030, all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, have equal access to fair justice and the rule of law in line with international human rights standards, and inclusive, meaningful, and gender-balanced participation in decision-making for all, as well as enhanced civic engagement.**

The UN will work to enhance access to justice, improve legal protections for marginalized communities, and support governance reforms that promote inclusive and accountable institutions. Efforts will also focus on empowering civil society, strengthening media, and fostering civic engagement to build a more participatory and transparent governance system. The UN will work with national partners to advance gender equality, prevent discrimination, and create opportunities for youth and underrepresented groups to engage in decision-making processes.

The UN Country Team will focus on systemic policy shifts, institutional capacity building, and innovative financing solutions to drive lasting impact. Special attention will be given to digital transformation, youth engagement, and gender equality throughout.

Implementation and Partnerships

The UN Country Team will work with national and local governments, civil society organizations, the private sector, and international financial institutions to align efforts and maximize impact. Cooperation Framework governance structures will be strengthened to ensure effective coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of progress. In its partnerships, the UN Country Team will facilitate multi-sectoral collaboration, strengthen policy coherence, and enhance institutional capacities to ensure sustainable and inclusive development outcomes for all.

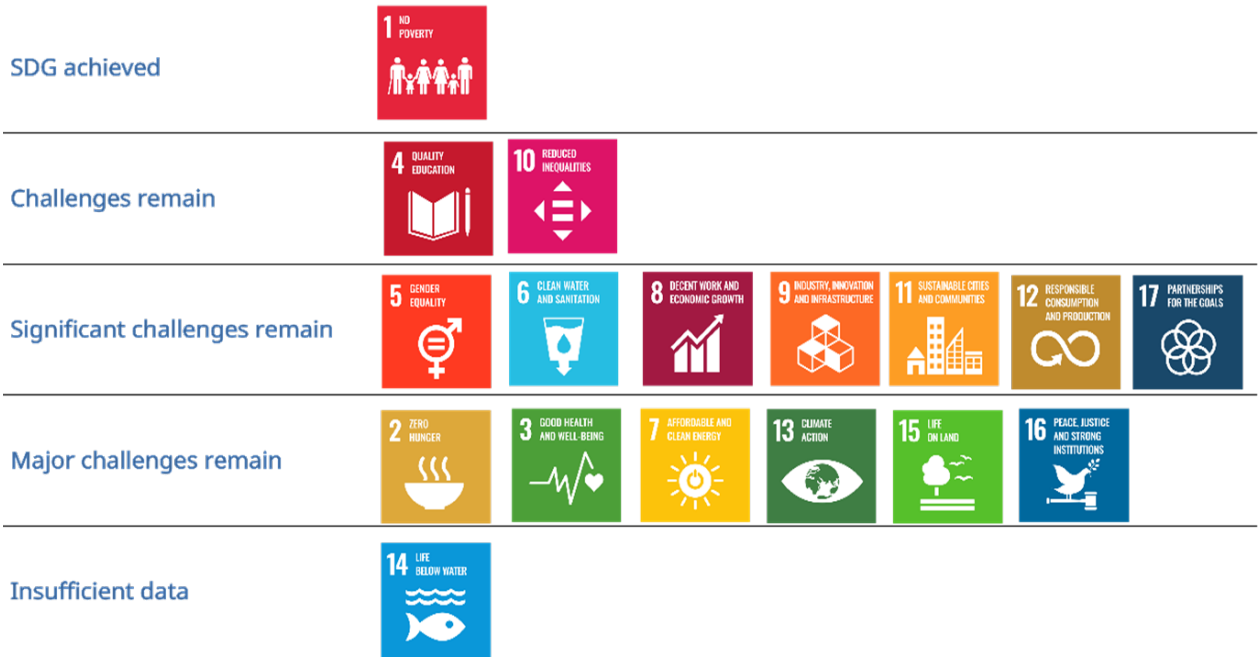
A Focus on the Future

This Cooperation Framework is more than a development strategy—it is a commitment to a shared future where every individual in Kazakhstan can thrive. By fostering innovation, inclusivity, and resilience, the UN Country Team and the Government of Kazakhstan will chart a path towards a prosperous, sustainable, and equitable society. Together, we will turn aspirations into reality, supporting Kazakhstan to emerge as a regional leader in sustainable development by 2030.

CHAPTER 1: Country progress towards the 2030 Agenda

Overall SDGs progress

Kazakhstan graduated to the upper-middle income status in 2006. Since then, it has continued to strive to improve its economy, drive social reforms and ensure social cohesion. Kazakhstan's national vision towards achieving the 2030 Agenda is articulated in its National Development Plan 2029 and is grounded in the principles of sustainable development, inclusivity, and economic diversification. Kazakhstan has made considerable progress towards achieving the SDGs. In 2024 Kazakhstan ranked 66 out of 166 countries, performing better than the global average. Kazakhstan is on track to achieve 42.6% of its SDG targets by 2030, highlighting its strong performance and commitment to sustainable development, while globally, only 16% of SDG targets are on track to be met by 2030. SDG 1 (No Poverty) has been fully achieved and maintained. On the other hand, there is still considerable work to be done to achieve sustainable development. Some 33.8% of SDG targets in Kazakhstan are showing limited progress, and progress has been reversed for the remaining 23.5%.



Source: The SDGs and the UN Summit of the Future. Sustainable Development Report 2024 (https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/)

Index	Value	Global Ranking	Year	Organisation
Human Development Index (HDI)	0.802	67th out of 193	2022	UNDP
Gender Inequality Index (GII)	0.177	42nd out of 146	2022	UNDP
Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index	71.11	66th out of 167	2024	UN
Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI)	0.710	76th out of 146	2024	World Economic Forum
Global Innovation Index (GII)		78th out of 133	2024	World Intellectual Property Organisation
Global Competitiveness Index (GCI)		55th out of 140	2019	World Economic Forum
Economic complexity index:	-0.36	85th out of 145	2022	World Bank
Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)	39	93rd out of 180	2023	Transparency International
Global Peace Index (GPI)		76th out of 163	2023	Institute for Economics and Peace

Ranking of Kazakhstan on global indices

Demography

Kazakhstan is undergoing significant demographic shifts. The population is projected to grow from close to 20.3 million people today to 24.3 million in 2050 (an expansion of 23%). This growth is driven by increased life expectancy and relatively high fertility rates of 3 live births per woman, which is notably higher than the rates of other upper MIC countries. Demographic disparities persist – women live eight years longer than men – contributing to the 'feminization of poverty' among older age groups, particularly in rural areas.

Kazakhstan is among the "younger countries" in the world - the average age of citizens is only 32 years. Kazakhstan's youth, defined as individuals aged 14 to 35, make up 31% of the population, and have experienced strong progress in employment and equality but face challenges in health, education, civic participation, and mental well-being, and therefore require the adoption of policies to address these challenges.

Despite its youthful age structure, Kazakhstan is beginning a demographic transition. The 65+ population will double from 8% to nearly 15% by 2050. This aging trend underscores the need for expanded senior care and healthcare services. Kazakhstan's dependency ratio, measuring the proportion of children and older persons relative to the working-age population, remains high at 75 dependents per 100 working-age individuals, exceeding global and upper-middle-income country averages and posing challenges for economic sustainability and social support systems.

In Kazakhstan, women make up approximately 51.5% of the population, while men account for 48.5%. Around 58% of Kazakhstan's population lives in urban areas, while 42% resides in rural regions, reflecting an ongoing urbanization trend.

Basic social services

In the last 30 years, Kazakhstan has made important strides to deepen and broaden the reach of its public services. Kazakhstan has 100% coverage in education with universal literacy in the country, and a widespread network of educational institutions at all levels. Furthermore, 89.4% of children aged 2-6 are covered by preschool education, and all primary schoolchildren receive school meals. These achievements need to be monitored and preserved. While enrollment levels remain high and essential education standards are met, quality concerns remain. 64% of students in Kazakhstan do not meet the minimum proficiency in reading in the 2022 PISA assessment. Concerns are raised that education does not meet the requirements of the modern job market, while significant disparities in education between urban and rural areas persist. The educational system faces challenges such as shortage of qualified teachers, gaps in knowledge and skills of the teaching cadre, and some gaps in infrastructure, including access of schools to the Internet and its safe use. Kazakhstan also faces significant challenges in achieving gender equality in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education due to traditional gender roles and structural barriers.

Healthcare in Kazakhstan has seen reforms and achieved notable progress. Life expectancy has risen from 67.6 in 1991 to 75 in 2023 due to advancements in healthcare and improved living conditions. Access to essential health services in Kazakhstan increased from 56% in 2000 to 80% in 2021, almost on par with the average of the WHO European Region (81%). Maternal mortality declined sharply from 44.7 per 100,000 live births in 2021 to 11.4 in 2023. The under-five mortality rate reduced from 51.7 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 10.3 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2023, although disparities remain at sub-national level. However, challenges persist in equitable access to reproductive health information and services by adolescents. Contraceptives are used by only 33% of women due high costs which are subsidized by the State. Self-harm is the leading cause of death among adolescents aged 15-19 years, with higher risks in rural areas. Although healthcare expenditure rose to 3.9% of GDP in 2021, it remains the second lowest among countries in the WHO European region. Non-communicable diseases remain the leading cause of death, with the probability of premature mortality from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory diseases measured at 22.4%, above the WHO European average of 16.3%.

While the whole population is covered by a state-guaranteed package, services under the mandatory social health insurance are not available for uninsured (16% of the population), particularly self-employed individuals. High out-of-pocket costs worsen access barriers, especially for vulnerable groups. The government has adopted the Social Code consolidating its systemic social protection support to the people, as well as introducing a Digital Family Card that allows for a proactive identification of beneficiaries. Nearly 600,000 people were newly covered by the targeted social assistance, and over 200,000 were covered by job loss benefits. Nearly 200,000 children benefited from social assistance in 2023. The Government has rolled out family support centers nationwide to further provide prevention and response services to vulnerable families, women and children. As of June 2024, 68 such centers were operational across the country, with the intention to increase their number to 200 by 2027. These centers offer comprehensive assistance, including

psychological support, legal consultations, and temporary accommodation for victims of domestic violence.

Kazakhstan took steps to address gender-based violence (GBV) and violence against children with a 2024 law recriminalizing assault and mandating police intervention; however, domestic violence is not fully recognized as a standalone offense, leaving gaps in survivor protection, legal enforcement and addressing abusers' behaviour. The risk of push back against gender equality remains real, as some segments of society uphold traditional norms and resist changes perceived as contrary to cultural values, thus promoting regressive gender stereotypes, a perception that GBV is acceptable, and reinforcement of the taboo nature of discussions on contraception and sexual health issues.

While overall crime rates in Kazakhstan have declined in recent years—dropping by 15.2% in 2023 and a further 11% in early 2024—drug-related offenses have increased from 7,000 in 2023 to 8,000 in 2024.

Economic development and poverty reduction

Economically, Kazakhstan has made notable advancements with GDP per capita reaching $13,153.4 in 2023 ($39,463 PPP). At the same time, structural weaknesses need to be addressed. The economy's heavy reliance on the oil and gas sector (over 60% of total exports), has led to limited progress in diversification, stagnation in productivity, and a low level of economic complexity.

Kazakhstan has achieved remarkable progress in reducing poverty, with the share of the population living below the minimum subsistence level dropping from 46.7% in 2001 to 5.0% in 2024. Rural areas face a higher poverty rate (6.9%) than urban areas (3.8%). Across the country, children are more vulnerable to poverty. In 2023, 7.3% of children were living below the poverty line and 28.5% experiencing multidimensional poverty.

Income and economic inequalities persist. In 2022, the richest 10% of adults in Kazakhstan earned 35.3% of the total income, while the poorest half received only 19.6%. The richest 10% own 66 times more wealth than the poorest half of the population, and these inequalities may foster social tensions and jeopardize the country's social cohesion. Kazakhstan faces significant regional economic disparities, with wealth and investment concentrated in urban centers, while rural areas and certain regions experience lower economic growth, limited infrastructure, and higher poverty rates.

Despite long- term progress narrowing the gender pay gap, the gap increased in 2022 to 25.2 from 21.7 in 2021. Women are often employed in lower-paying sectors such as education and healthcare and social services, while men dominate in higher-paying industries, such as oil and gas and energy sectors. Data from 2016 - 2024 show that approximately 71% of businesses are owned by men and only 29% by women.

Kazakhstan's digital transformation of the public sector is widely recognized. The country advanced to 24th place out of 193 countries in the UN E-Government Development Index (EGDI) in 2024, becoming a regional leader in digital public goods. Kazakhstan holds the highest EGDI score (0.9009) among the landlocked developing countries (LLDCs).

Environment

Kazakhstan's environmental policies reflect a strong ambition to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. This strategy aligns with its climate action goals under SDG 13, which targets reduced reliance on fossil fuels and enhanced renewable energy use, which today accounts for just 5.9% of all electricity generated in Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan is one of the most energy-intensive countries in the world and remains one of the highest per capita greenhouse gas emitters, with its domestic energy production heavily dependent on oil and gas.

Environmental vulnerabilities such as water stress, air pollution, biodiversity loss, methane emissions, and limited access to clean energy require substantial investments in green technologies, regional cooperation on resource management, and strengthened climate resilience measures across all sectors, including the social sectors.

Kazakhstan is warming at a rate faster than the global average and most other Asian nations. Temperatures are expected to increase on average by 1.7–1.9°C before 2030 and 2.4–3.1°C by 2050. Rising temperatures might impact on the availability of water. The main volume of water resources is provided by surface water in the average annual volume of 102.3 km^3, which is predicted to decrease to 99.4 km^3 by 2030. With water stress at 34.6% in 2022, the country may face high water stress by 2040.

Governance and Social Cohesion

Political and governance reforms aimed at reducing presidential powers, strengthening the parliament, and enhancing local governance have started reshaping Kazakhstan toward a more open governance model. Kazakhstan is a party to almost all core international human rights instruments. It fosters implementation of the "listening state" concept, promotes digitalization, and has established consultation mechanisms with civil society. However, external observers assert that political authority in Kazakhstan remains predominantly centralized, with limited political diversity and freedom of assembly, and a controlled media landscape.

While Kazakhstan works to secure socio-economic rights of the people, meaningful engagement with civil society needs to be further strengthened. Great political diversity may strengthen accountabilities, while ensuing the inclusivity essential for achieving the 2030 Agenda. Women's political representation in Kazakhstan has improved over time but, important gaps remain, reflecting perceptions of traditional roles of women in the family and in the society, which act as systemic barriers to the participation of women in governance, business, and public life. Women's representation in the Mazhilis (lower house of the Parliament) dropped to 19.4%, following the 2023 parliamentary elections, a considerable decrease from the previous 27%. In maslikhats (local representative bodies elected by the population of a region, city, or district), women make up 23% of the deputies. At the local level, women make up 7% of deputies in regions and cities of significance, but they do not hold leadership positions.

Leave No One Behind

The key drivers of exclusion in Kazakhstan are rooted in interconnected structural, social, economic, and political factors. Gender, disability, socioeconomic and other status limits access to education, employment, and health and social services for people in vulnerable situations, including women and girls, persons with disabilities, and migrants. Often these vulnerabilities are multiple and intersectional. Geographic disparities and sudden shocks or crises further exacerbate exclusion, particularly in rural and remote areas where access to quality services and infrastructure is limited. Systematic challenges, lack of or insufficient collection of disaggregated data, and limited social protection mechanisms contribute to inequality and the marginalization of certain groups. Moreover, political and governance factors, including the weak implementation of inclusive laws and policies, shrinking civic space and insufficient participatory processes, hinder the voices of discriminated or marginalized groups of the population from being represented in decision-making processes to effect transformative change. Addressing these drivers requires a comprehensive, rights-based approach that tackles both immediate needs and the underlying structural causes of exclusion.

Leave No One Behind

Despite progress in social and economic development, groups in situations of vulnerability in Kazakhstan remain affected by systemic barriers to inclusion in policy making and implementation and social stigmas, including but not limited to:

- Women and girls at risk of or survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including but not limited to domestic violence survivors, especially women and children. Survivors, particularly those with disabilities, with migrant, refugee or asylum status, from minority groups, or in situations of financial fragility or destitution or with incarceration experience, face additional hurdles in accessing support services due to intersecting forms of discrimination they may experience as well as social stigma.
- Persons with Disabilities (3.6% of the total population), including children, have more limited access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and social support, especially in rural areas, and more vulnerable to violence.
- Children in alternative care and at risk of separation from their families face significant challenges to access public and social services.
- Youth face unemployment and limited opportunities both in urban and rural regions, leaving many at risk of marginalization.
- Older persons often experience social exclusion and face barriers in accessing healthcare and pensions, particularly in remote areas.
- People living with HIV, people who use drugs, prisoners and other vulnerable groups of population face stigma and discrimination which continues to impede access to healthcare and employment for people living with HIV.
- Refugees, Asylum-Seekers, and undocumented Stateless Persons struggle with inadequate legal protections and limited access to basic services such as education and employment.
- Migrants and victims of trafficking for labour exploitation face exclusion from formal labor markets, victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation predominantly women and girls endure sexual exploitation and abuse, exclusion and social stigma, and long-term health consequences.

- Persons from rural or remote areas especially women and girls face additional challenges in accessing services including healthcare as well as security-related services.

CHAPTER 2: UN Development System Support

2.1. Rationale behind adopted priorities and Theory of Change

2.1.1. United Nations support in the upper-middle-income country context

The UN development system support to Kazakhstan in 2026-2030 will be tailored to the context of the country's upper MIC status which is characterized by the availability of considerable domestic resources and relatively limited external financial engagement of international partners. The UN Country Team will:

i. support the systemic policy shifts in line with UN normative and international standards through policy advisory services primarily at the national level;

ii. develop capacities of the government to implement policies in an inclusive and effective manner;

iii. provide knowledge and expertise;

iv. share best practices, convene stakeholders, build partnerships and promote networking, including facilitating whole of society development approaches.

Multiple consultations with the government, LNOB groups, civil society and others in the Cooperation Framework design stage showed that people of Kazakhstan understand the added value of the UN in national-level policy support. Yet, many consultations emphasized that the United Nations should also be present at the regional and local level, where it could to pilot development solutions and deliver results to people in all areas. The UN Country Team will respond to this call by looking for resources to deliver programmes at the subnational level.

Inclusive process of the Cooperation Framework design

The Cooperation Framework is the result of analytical, consultative and collaborative work of the UN Country Team. In addition to the CCA, the evaluation of the Cooperation Framework 2021-2025, the UN Country Team conducted two foresight exercises – with participation of the UN, civil society and private sector. A multidimensional risk analysis based on a survey of 63 experts from the government, civil society, academia, and international experts, as well as focus group discussions with 6 LNOB groups ((i) refugees; (ii) asylum- seekers; (iii) migrants; (iv) GBV (gender-based violence) and domestic violence survivors; (v) people living with HIV (human immunodeficiency virus); and (vi) persons with disabilities), completed the analysis.

The UN Country Team used this evidence base to engage in consultations with the government on strategic priorities. The UN Country Team also organized two consultations with civil society organizations on accelerators for the SDGs in Kazakhstan and held a dialogue with the Youth Advisory Board to ensure young people's needs and expectations were reflected. The UN Gender Theme Group has separately reviewed this document.

The Strategic Prioritization Workshop in October 2024 was attended by the Government, UN entities, civil society, experts, youth representatives, and private sector representatives. Regional UN offices and Issue-Based Coalitions were consulted as well.

2.1.2. Principles of the United Nations-Government partnership

In its partnership with the Government of Kazakhstan, the United Nations will adhere to key development principles:

National ownership and coherence. All UN support to Kazakhstan will be aligned with national priorities, and results of UN programmes will be owned by the Government and people of Kazakhstan and results of our support is sustainable. The Cooperation Framework outcomes have been informed by and are strongly aligned with the National Development Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2029 as well as other national documents of the state planning system. National partners will be engaged through all stages of the UN's work, including policy definition, programme design, implementation, and evaluation. The UN Country Team will provide coherent and coordinated response, in which United Nations entities act as one.

Human rights focus, leaving no-one behind and addressing inequalities: The UN Country Team will stand to support better protection of human rights of all people, ensuring that no one is left behind in the course of the country's development, and promoting the full engagement of civil society. The UN Country Team will foster gender equality mainstreaming and women's empowerment, advocate for inclusivity of all vulnerable groups, and promote policies and programmes that will reduce inequalities by addressing root causes. Gender transformative approaches (GTA) will seek to challenge gender inequality by transforming inequitable social and gender norms, roles and relations through programmes and strategies that foster progressive changes in power relationships between women and men.

Forward-looking people-centered development. In providing its policy support, the UN Country Team will ensure that proposed solutions are people centered – developed and implemented with the affected people, understanding and factoring their interests, and that actions are result-oriented with impacts measured by changes in people's lives. People in vulnerable situations will be involved by the UN Country Team in decision-making and implementation where appropriate.

SDG Integration. The SDGs will remain the guiding beacon for the UN's engagement in the country, linking the vision, integrated policy programming, data, innovations and financing. Our results framework clearly links our results to the SDG targets. The UN will work with the understanding that all SDGs are interconnected, and changes in one area may require trade-offs in another which need to be addressed. Systems thinking and systems change[1] will be

[1] Systems thinking is a framework for understanding complex, interconnected problems by examining the relationships and interdependencies among various elements within a system. It emphasizes recognizing patterns, identifying leverage points, and understanding emergent properties. In risk reduction, systems

guiding principles for the UN Country Team in the design and implementation of their activities.

Strengthening the regional perspective for national programming. A considerable number of national challenges, like climate change and water scarcity, and migration cannot be achieved without regional collaboration and programming. The UN Country Team will continue to engage with other UN Country Teams and other actors to support Kazakhstan's commitment to foster regional cooperation.

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) is a key priority for the UN Country Team members, with a special focus on prioritizing victims' rights and creating an environment in which sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) do not occur. SEA is unacceptable behavior and is prohibited for UN personnel and UN implementing partners. The UN Country Team entities will therefore pursue all appropriate means to protect against, prevent and respond to SEA, and will require a similar commitment from its partners.

In delivering on the obligations articulated in the present Cooperation Framework, the UN Country Team and the government of Kazakhstan affirm their commitment to preventing and responding to reports of SEA in connection with their personnel involved in common/joint projects. It is understood that this would entail the need to: (i) adhere to common values on PSEA, (ii) take preventative measures against SEA, (iii) investigate allegations, and (iv) take appropriate corrective action when incidents occur, including providing support to victims in accordance with a victim-centred approach.

2.1.3 Strategic focus on interconnected accelerators to achieve SDGs - pathway to CF priorities

The UN Country Team build on the Common Country Analysis (CCA), Multidimensional Risk Assessment, the evaluation of the Cooperation Framework 2021-2025, and the Strategic Prioritization process to identify priority areas of engagement in Kazakhstan.

The CCA identified seven specific SDG accelerators that have catalytic potential across the SDGs:

i. inclusive economic diversification;
ii. agri-food systems;
iii. clean energy access and affordability;
iv. advancing human rights, justice, and social cohesion;
v. digital transformation;
vi. quality education; and

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thinking involves mapping how hazards, exposure, vulnerabilities, and capacities interact across social, economic, ecological, and governance systems. In contrast, systems change involves applying the insights gained through systems thinking to design and implement transformative solutions. While systems thinking provides the analytical lens to understand a problem holistically, systems change operationalizes those insights to reconfigure structures, processes, and relationships to create more resilient and adaptive systems.

vii. addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

Through an iterative and inclusive strategic prioritization process, the seven SDG accelerators were translated and clustered into four strategic results areas and outcomes:

i. empowered people and strong institutions;
ii. resilient and inclusive economy;
iii. sustainable environment; and
iv. strengthened social cohesion.

The Theory of Change highlights why and how the UN Country Team – in collaboration with their partners – will focus on the four strategic priorities and outcomes while keeping the seven SDG accelerator as identified by the CCA as the overall guiding framework. While the higher-level strategic outcomes do not – on purpose – directly respond to specific individual SDGs to ensure a more systems thinking approach bringing the interconnectedness of the SDGs together, the SDG targets will specifically measure the results for each of the outcome areas (see annex 1).

2.2. Theory of Change

With the objective to increase national ownership and given Kazakhstan status as an upper MIC, the UN will shift its support from standard sectoral approaches to supporting the change in policy and regulatory frameworks, as well as committing to capacity-building at scale to support public institutions and civil society (including civic, voluntary and community networks). Where feasible, the UN Country Team will facilitate the identification and development of pipelines of bankable and market-ready national projects with participation of both public and private sectors. The UN Country Team will provide access to world-class expertise and will remain a convener to attract innovative financing from all sources – traditional donors, development banks, capital markets, philanthropic foundations, and remittances. Details of the partners (both internal to the UN, including regional level, and external such as government, private sector, and donors) are part of the results framework in annex 1.

The UN Country Team plays a crucial role in advancing the commitments outlined in the Outcome Document from the SDG Summit (2023) and the Pact which resulted from the Summit of the Future (September 2024). Both Summits emphasize strengthening multilateralism, accelerating progress toward the SDGs, and addressing emerging global challenges such as climate change, transforming food systems, and digital transformation. The UN Country Team will support localizing these global priorities in Kazakhstan.

THEORY OF CHANGE OF THE UN COOPERATION FRAMEWORK IN KAZAKHSTAN

The UN country team in Kazakhstan will put their focus on activities to achieve the following... → ...so that by 2030... → ...and.

ASSUMPTIONS

- Political commitment including comprehensive reforms to strengthen rule of law, reduce corruption and enhance institutional accountability remains
- Economy remains stable
- Sufficient financial resources are made available including (private sector) investments, policy incentives and technology transfer
- Future policies are gender-responsive and rights-based
- Commitment to achieve carbon neutrality remains
- Stakeholder engagement high, including from vulnerable populations
- Protection of Civic Space: policies are enacted to safeguard freedom of expression, association, and assembly, allowing civil society to contribute meaningful
- Capacity development: relevant stakeholders receive the training and resources necessary implement and enforce policies.
- Global and regional geopolitical turbulence is minimal
- Commitment to address structural barriers to equality, resources and opportunities and any discriminatory laws, social norms and stereotypes that perpetuate inequalities and disparities
- Policy coherence across policies is ensured

If national and local actors have enhanced legal, policy planning, coordination and monitoring frameworks in healthcare, education, social and special protection and other areas in line with international standards, **and**

If national and local actors have enhanced institutional capacities for all people's equitable access to quality healthcare, education, social and special protection services, **and**

If people and communities have enhanced awareness, knowledge and skills to equally access and use services, influence the quality of service-delivery and foster social norms and behaviour change, including through enhanced digital literacy and online safety, ...

THEN, the well-being of all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, is improved and they fully enjoy human rights and equal access to age and gender-responsive and increasingly digitalized and people-centered public and private services, provided by inclusive, effective and accountable institutions.

If the government and other institutions' capacities are strengthened to design, implement and monitor policies for a sustainable, green and inclusive economy, trade and transport connectivity, energy efficiency, fundamental labour principles and rights, dynamic entrepreneurship environment, **and**

If the private sector capacities are strengthened with a special focus on knowledge-based economy, creative industries, tourism, startup ecosystems, agrifood systems, human-centered artificial intelligence; business and human rights as well as innovative financing promoted, **and**

If, people especially the most vulnerable, including those on the move, have enhanced employability skills, ...

THEN, all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from the sustainable, rights-based, gender-responsive, diversified and innovative economic development that promotes decent work, productivity and entrepreneurship.

If, national and local actors have the enhanced capacity, tools and knowledge to effectively design, implement, and monitor age and gender-sensitive environmental policies across all sectors, **and**

If, people , especially children, youth, women have enhanced skills, knowledge, values, and engagement for more resilient and sustainable environment, **and**

If, national and local actors, including communities, have enhanced disaster risk management capacities, ...

THEN, all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from enhanced age and gender-sensitive environmental resilience, as well as inclusive, rights-based climate, nature and pollution action and sustainable management of natural resources

If, human rights, law enforcement and justice institutions have enhanced capacities to ensure fair age and gender-sensitive justice, rule of law and equity for all people in line with international law as well as standards and norms, **and**

If, policies, systems and capacities enhance the civic space allowing all people to genuinely participate in public decision-making, and engage in constructive dialogue to achieve social cohesion, justice and equality for all, including the increased representation of women, youth and other groups in decision-making, **and**

If, youth and communities have enhanced skills and resilience to social cohesion and cyber security risks, ...

THEN, all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, have equal access to fair justice and the rule of law in line with international human rights standards, and the inclusive, meaningful and gender-balanced participation in decision-making for all, as well as civic engagement is enhanced.

By 2030, Kazakhstan is a just, inclusive, and resilient society where all people, particularly the most vulnerable, enjoy equitable access to rights, resources, and opportunities in an environmentally sustainable, economically vibrant, and socially cohesive nation that upholds the rule of law, human dignity, and democratic principles.

UN PARTNERS (detailed overview of partners in the results matrix)

Government Institutions | Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) | Private Sector | International Development Partners | Vulnerable Groups | Local Communities | Media | Academia and Research Institutions

2.3. Intended Development Results – Cooperation Framework Outcomes and Partnerships.

Result Area 1. Empowered People and Strong Institutions

OUTCOME 1: By 2030, the well-being of all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, is improved and they fully enjoy human rights and equal access to age and gender-responsive and increasingly digitalized and people-centered public and private services, provided by inclusive, effective and accountable institutions.

By focusing on age and gender-responsive, digitalized, and people-centered quality service delivery, the outcome attempts to ensure that necessary reforms will take place to overcome these systemic barriers and promote inclusive access to essential services like healthcare, education, and social protection, and that these reforms are supported by the requisite capacity, infrastructure, and resources.

The outcome addresses governance and accountability challenges that limit the effectiveness of public institutions due to corruption risks, weak inter-agency coordination, and inadequate monitoring frameworks, which undermine trust and reduce service quality. Inclusive and accountable institutions are pivotal to addressing these challenges, ensuring transparent and effective governance. By emphasizing inclusivity, the outcome fosters engagement of all and empowers communities to hold service providers accountable. This approach improves service delivery and strengthens the social contract, ensuring that public and private institutions operate in the best interest of all, particularly those in situations of vulnerability.

Recognizing that GBV is deeply rooted in social and gender norms, biases and stereotypes, this outcome will adopt a gender-transformative approach. It will address root causes through multi-level interventions, including legal reforms, awareness campaigns and capacity-building for service providers foster long term societal change. It will also support Government efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence through strengthening institutional mechanisms and capacities of actors to ensure coordinated multi-sectoral responses, and by leveraging positive elements of traditional Kazakh nomadic norms.

Kazakhstan's continued reliance on traditional service delivery systems underscores the opportunity for further strengthening of digital innovation to enhance accessibility, efficiency and inclusivity – particularly for rural and underserved communities. Digital transformation can be a catalyst for improving public services and reducing access disparities, particularly in rural and underserved areas. By emphasizing increasingly digitalized and people-centered services, the outcome aligns with Kazakhstan's ongoing efforts to modernize its infrastructure and bridge the urban-rural divide. Digital solutions, combined with targeted capacity-building and policy alignment, can enhance service delivery systems' reach and effectiveness, ensuring no population group is left underserved. For instance, rural communities often face additional challenges such as limited infrastructure, lack of access to digital services, and isolation from essential resources.

Current challenges, including insufficient institutional capacities and service delivery mechanisms and gaps in legal frameworks hinder access to equitable and gender-sensitive quality public services. Additionally, entrenched social norms and stereotypes perpetuate inequalities and disparities, further limiting the ability of people in vulnerable populations to full exercise their rights. They prevent the above-mentioned LNOB groups from fully accessing and using their rights. Children, adolescents and youth, particularly those in need of special protection, and those with disabilities, often face systemic barriers that prevent them from living in a family environment and accessing quality services. Strengthening child-sensitive approaches into service delivery is critical to addressing the gaps. Specialized child protection against all forms of violence, abuse, neglect requires developing a unified approach to prevention and case management, and establishing a minimum package of services with clear roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders, which will ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable children and families are prioritized. Problems in offender management highlight the critical need for comprehensive prison reforms. Incorporating evidence-based rehabilitation programs that address mental health, education, and vocational skills of inmates is essential to reduce recidivism and promote societal reintegration.

Achieving this outcome further entails strengthening legal and policy frameworks in line with international standards to promote human rights to equitable and gender-responsive services provided by accountable institutions.

UN Contribution to the Outcome

The UN aims to address these structural barriers by strengthening legal and policy frameworks, including from a gender perspective to align with international human rights standards primarily in the areas of health, education, social protection and other. To do so, the UN will provide best international practices, as well as rely on recommendations of the human rights mechanisms available to Kazakhstan. The UN will embed human rights principles, gender responsiveness, and sustainability into national planning to create more inclusive and equitable service delivery systems. This approach will ensure that no one, especially people in vulnerable situations, are left behind. This foundational work requires additional support from government actors and civil society (including civic, volunteer and community networks) to ensure effective and even implementation and local adaptation.

The UN will focus on enhancing institutional capacities to deliver equitable, quality services (health, education, social protection and others) in line with international standards and each agency's technical expertise. This includes strengthening universal health coverage, including by addressing key gaps in reproductive health services and ensuring access to family planning and contraceptives. Education systems will be supported with capacity building and technical expertise to address the challenges in ensuring quality education and closing the rural-urban gap in learning. Institutional weaknesses, including inadequate infrastructure, insufficient digital integration, and limited capacity in rural areas, have hindered progress on healthcare, education, and social protection, including child protection. The UN's technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives will help modernize service delivery systems, improve governance, and foster partnerships between

the public and private sectors. Achieving nationwide reach will require complementary efforts from international financial institutions and private sector partners.

Community empowerment and change of behavior are essential for ensuring that all people, especially the marginalized, can demand, access and benefit from services. Empowering communities to lead GBV prevention and response fosters sustainable change. When local actors take ownership, rates of violence decrease, survivors receive stronger support, and societal attitudes shift towards gender equality and safety.

Many vulnerable groups face social stigma, stereotypes and discrimination that prevent them from fully utilizing available services. The UN will enhance post-release aftercare mechanisms for former prisoners by strengthening employment placement, housing support, and mental health services. Coordinated efforts between probation services, NGOs and the private sector will be critical to reducing reoffending rates and promoting successful reintegration into society.

The UN's efforts to enhance awareness, address social norms, and provide knowledge and skills including on data collection to detect the invisibility of groups in situations of vulnerability and/or marginalization, will build trust in institutions and encourage service uptake. Grassroots organizations and community leaders can play a vital role in this process, requiring targeted collaboration with local civil society to amplify the impact of these interventions and address traditional barriers that the UN alone cannot overcome. A specific focus will be on tackling gender-based violence and violence against children by advocating for wide-ranging gender-responsive budgeting, planning, legal reforms, raising awareness, support systems and services for survivors, and fostering systemic change through partnerships and capacity building.

Result Area 2. Resilient and Inclusive Economy

Outcome 2. By 2030, all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from the sustainable, rights-based, gender-responsive, diversified and innovative economic development that promotes decent work, productivity and entrepreneurship.

Kazakhstan's economic overreliance on the oil and gas sector makes it vulnerable to external shocks from fluctuating commodity prices. Strengthening economic resilience will require a strategic shift toward economic diversification, job creation, and investment in high-growth sectors such as information technology, agri-food systems, manufacturing, renewable energy, tourism, transport and trade connectivity, and creative industries. Additionally, emerging industries—driven by advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, biotechnology, and digital services—present new opportunities for sustainable economic transformation. This will support the transition from resource dependency to a knowledge-based economy, while addressing stagnation in productivity and investment.

Kazakhstan's transition to a sustainable agrifood system is essential for achieving food security, improving rural livelihoods, and protecting the environment. However, the current emphasis on food self-sufficiency may limit alignment with international best practices.

Addressing logistical gaps, improving market access, and strengthening food storage and processing capabilities will be critical to enhancing resilience in the agrifood sector. Kazakhstan's agriculture has grown significantly, with value addition rising over 400% since 1988. Diversification through agrotourism, aquaculture, and quality assurance could boost resilience, but challenges must be addressed in logistics, market access, storage, and postharvest processing. Despite a strong global food security ranking, high food prices and inflation create affordability issues, with households spending a large share of their income on food.

Gender inequality and labor market disparities (including urban-rural divide) exacerbate economic challenges, particularly for women, youth, and other vulnerable groups who encounter systemic barriers to decent work, entrepreneurship, and financial inclusion. Ensuring equitable access to education, vocational training, and business development resources will be essential to unlocking their economic potential and driving inclusive growth. The focus on gender-responsive and rights-based economic development addresses these inequities by promoting inclusive policies and programs that expand access to education, training, and resources for underrepresented groups. Empowering vulnerable groups through equitable opportunities not only enhances their economic participation but also strengthens the overall economy by utilizing untapped human capital.

Entrepreneurship and innovation in Kazakhstan face challenges, including limited access to financing, weak support systems for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and regulatory barriers. Expanding financial inclusion, enhancing startup ecosystems, and strengthening public-private partnerships will be critical to fostering a more dynamic and resilient entrepreneurial environment. The emphasis on innovative economic development will require investments in digital transformation, infrastructure, skills, and research and development. This effort must be underpinned by well-designed industrial and innovation policies that promote environmental sustainability, technological advancement, support startups and small-to-medium enterprises, and encourage private sector participation in emerging sectors. Encouraging entrepreneurship, particularly among youth and women, and supporting SMEs can stimulate local economies, reduce regional disparities, and create sustainable livelihoods. Partnerships with private sector actors and international financial institutions will be critical to filling gaps in funding and technical expertise.

Finally, achieving decent work for all remains a challenge, as Kazakhstan grapples with informal employment, skills mismatches, and unemployment, particularly among women, the youth, and vulnerable populations. There is a growing need for equitable access to vocational training and education tailored to labor market demands. Sustainable and inclusive economic model requires policies that balance productivity growth with workers' rights, social protection, and well-being. Ensuring a gender-sensitive just transition will be essential in shifting towards a greener economy while protecting vulnerable workers from job displacement and economic insecurity.

Contribution of the UN

The UN's contribution will focus on strengthening government and institutional capacities by supporting the design, implementation, and monitoring of inclusive economic policies

that drive sustainable growth, enhance labor rights, and promote social protection. The UN will aim at making the economy of Kazakhstan more resilient and inclusive by enhancing its diversification. The UN will also reinforce trade and transport connectivity, energy efficiency, and innovation for long-term economic resilience. These efforts will promote trade and transport connectivity, enhance energy efficiency, drive innovation for sustainability, foster public-private partnerships, and integrate labor rights into national development strategies. This aligns with Kazakhstan's goal of creating an economy driven by innovation and sustainability, while ensuring that fundamental labor principles protect vulnerable workers, including those in informal and precarious jobs. The UN will contribute to Kazakhstan's advances in housing and smart city initiatives, focusing on sustainable urban development, digital infrastructure, and improved living conditions.

The UN will support Kazakhstan's agrifood systems transformation by promoting sustainable agriculture, integrated natural resource management, and enhanced food safety. Key efforts will focus on developing veterinary and livestock services, strengthening phytosanitary and seed systems, advancing fisheries and aquaculture, and ensuring sustainable soil, land, and forest resources management. To enhance productivity and resilience, the UN will support the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices, strengthen agricultural value chains, and improve the efficiency of crop and livestock production. This includes expanding access to climate finance, enhancing digital solutions for agricultural data collection, and promoting sustainable land and water management practices to ensure long-term food security. Accelerating the digitalization of agribusiness, implementing IT solutions for agricultural statistics, and improving the reliability of data will further support evidence-based policymaking. Additionally, the UN will contribute to food security by supporting investment projects on nutrition quality, including school feeding programs and piloting healthy menus. Policy recommendations will guide food security governance, provide meaningful efforts to improve access to climate finance, and attract investment in the agrifood sector that will drive rural development and increase labor productivity, ensuring a more sustainable and inclusive agricultural economy.

Building private sector capacities are critical to foster entrepreneurship, innovation for sustainability, and sectoral diversification in Kazakhstan. By promoting the knowledge-based economy, creative industries, and agrifood systems, the UN will catalyze sustainable growth in high-productivity sectors that can drive economic resilience. Initiatives supporting tourism, startups, and human-centered artificial intelligence directly address gaps in industrial diversification and innovation. Furthermore, the focus on human rights in business ensures that economic growth aligns with international standards of fairness and equity, creating a foundation for sustainable and inclusive development. Expanding access to innovative financing mechanisms is crucial for bridging funding gaps faced by SMEs and entrepreneurs—particularly in underserved regions and among women and marginalized groups. Leveraging blended finance, impact investment, and microfinance initiatives can provide the necessary capital to drive entrepreneurship and job creation in emerging industries. The enhancement of employability skills directly contributes to addressing labor market challenges such as unemployment, skills mismatches, and informal employment. Targeted skill-building initiatives will equip vulnerable groups—including youth, women,

and people on the move—with the competencies needed to thrive in high-demand sectors such as digital technology, renewable energy, and advanced manufacturing. Expanding access to vocational training, apprenticeships, and lifelong learning opportunities will be critical to closing skills gaps and fostering inclusive workforce participation. By fostering equitable access to vocational training and lifelong learning opportunities, the UN enhances the employability of these groups and contributes to a workforce better prepared to meet the demands of a diversified and innovation-driven economy.

The UN's contributions will be maximized through collaboration with a broad range of partners. Gaps in infrastructure development, financing, and technological advancement must be addressed through partnerships with the government, private sector actors, international financial institutions, and regional organizations. National policies must be complemented by strategic investments in digital infrastructure, particularly in rural and underserved areas, to bridge the digital divide and ensure equitable access to economic opportunities. Strengthening partnerships with the private sector, international financial institutions, and regional organizations will be essential to mobilizing resources for inclusive and sustainable development. Additionally, Kazakhstan's labor market reforms will require input from trade unions and educational institutions to create a balance between productivity growth and workers' rights. Partnerships with employers, trade unions, and educational institutions will be essential to ensuring that these initiatives meet the needs of all, particularly the most vulnerable, and contribute to long-term economic resilience.

Result Area 3. Sustainable Environment

Outcome 3. By 2030, all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from enhanced age and gender-sensitive environmental resilience, as well as inclusive, rights-based climate, nature and pollution action and sustainable management of natural resources

Estimates indicate that 75% of Kazakhstan faces increasing risks from climate change, including more frequent droughts, floods, and shifts in precipitation and runoff patterns. Rising temperatures contribute to extreme weather events, desertification, glacier melt, and water resource depletion, heightening the risk of floods and mudslides. These changes will significantly impact agrifood systems, leading to declining land productivity, reduced crop yields, rising air temperatures, decreasing water availability, and increasing aridity.

Kazakhstan needs to strengthen climate action, integrated water resources management, and biodiversity conservation to enhance environmental resilience, particularly for vulnerable populations. Sustainable water use and improved governance are essential to mitigating climate risks and ensuring equitable resource access. Ecosystem restoration, sustainable land management, and habitat protection are crucial for preserving biodiversity and promoting a more inclusive and sustainable approach to environmental management.

By focusing on resilience, the outcome aims to strengthen environmental policies, data and capacities of government, academia, private sector and other stakeholders as well as protect vulnerable communities who disproportionately bear the brunt of environmental degradation and climate risks. Age-and gender-sensitive approaches will ensure that the

unique needs of women, youth, children, and marginalized groups are integrated into climate mitigation and adaptation and natural resource management strategies, fostering equitable and inclusive resilience.

The emphasis on inclusive, rights-based climate, nature and pollution actions aligns with governance gaps in environmental policies and enforcement. To address these governance gaps, the UN will work with national and local institutions to develop regulatory frameworks and enforcement mechanisms, ensuring that marginalized communities can equitably access climate adaptation resources. Rights-based approaches will ensure that vulnerable populations, such as youth, rural communities, people with disabilities, and low-income groups, are empowered to participate in decision-making processes and access resources for climate adaptation. By specifically targeting rural youth, who often face limited opportunities, we can foster their active engagement in sustainable practices and environmental and climate resilience, ensuring a more inclusive and equitable response to environmental challenges. By addressing systemic inequities in resource distribution and enhancing participation, justice and accountability are promoted as part of environmental governance. Additionally, the integration of pollution action ensures that efforts to reduce air, water, and soil pollution—which disproportionately affect vulnerable groups—are prioritized alongside broader climate and nature goals.

Kazakhstan's reliance on extractive industries and inefficient resource use underscores the urgency of transitioning to sustainable natural resource management. To support Kazakhstan’s transition to sustainable natural resource management, enhanced resilience, and a circular economy, the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) offer structured, science-based frameworks for integrating sustainability into extractive industries, renewable energy, and material efficiency policies. UNFC and UNRMS can help optimize resource use, promote responsible mining practices, and facilitate the shift toward circular economy models, including recovery and reuse of mining residues such as phosphogypsum and red mud for climate-resilient agriculture. This outcome's focus on sustainable practices directly addresses challenges such as overexploitation of water resources, biodiversity loss, and land degradation. Efforts to promote green technologies, renewable energy, material efficiency and circular economies will reduce Kazakhstan's ecological footprint while creating opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. Regional cooperation on transboundary water management and ecosystem preservation is critical to achieving this outcome and ensuring that shared resources are managed equitably and sustainably.

Kazakhstan faces increasing water scarcity due to high agricultural consumption, outdated infrastructure, and transboundary water challenges, with inefficiencies causing up to 50% water loss and projected economic losses in agriculture and energy. To ensure long-term water security, it is crucial to modernize infrastructure, promote efficient irrigation, strengthen transboundary cooperation, and implement integrated water resource management strategies.

Kazakhstan is expanding forest cover to combat desertification, restore ecosystems, and enhance carbon absorption, with initiatives such as the government’s two-billion-tree

planting program and afforestation efforts expected to add 2.9 million hectares of forest by 2030.

Kazakhstan is in a disaster-prone region. Key risks include earthquakes in southern regions (especially Almaty), floods, fires and others. Kazakhstan has systems in place for disaster preparedness and emergency response and cooperates with other Central Asian countries through the Centre for Emergency and Disaster Risk Reduction and other bodies.

Kazakhstan's interested in advancing Nature-based Solutions is key to combatting desertification and enhancing ecosystem resilience. Its recognition of ecological corridors and expanding protected areas is critical to ensure sustainable management of critical ecosystems.

Contribution of the UN

The UN will focus on enhancing the capacity, tools, and knowledge of national and local actors to design, implement and monitor age- and gender-sensitive environmental policies, including the Green Economy Transition Concept. By equipping policymakers and institutions with robust frameworks (linked to global conventions and mechanisms), tools and institutional capacity, the UN ensures that climate, nature, and pollution policies are integrated across sectors such as agriculture, energy, extractives, and water management, including all along the agri-food systems. We will support identification and implementation of the new national determined contributions (NDCs). We will also continue supporting the transfer of knowledge on innovative technologies for natural resources management. We will serve as a convening platform to enhance dialogue on climate impact and the way to address it both at national and regional levels.

The UN in its policy support will emphasize empowering individuals, particularly women, children and youth with the knowledge, skills, tools and values necessary for building a sustainable and resilient environment given that vulnerable groups often lack access to green education and resources, leaving them disproportionately affected by climate risks. By fostering environmental awareness and engaging these groups in climate, nature and pollution actions, the UN promotes community-driven solutions and long-term behavior change. The UN will support Kazakhstan's efforts in sustainable resource management through capacity building and knowledge-sharing initiatives, among others, led by the International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management (ICE-SRMs). These centres will provide technical expertise, policy guidance, and training programs to strengthen circular economy models, responsible mining practices, and climate-resilient resource use. ICE-SRMs will also facilitate regional cooperation on transboundary water and ecosystem management, ensuring that Kazakhstan benefits from global best practices and UN tools in advancing sustainability and environmental resilience. Kazakhstan is set to host a Regional Climate Summit in 2026, which will be conducted in cooperation with the UN.

The enhancement of disaster risk management (DRM) capacities at national and local levels, including with child rights and gender responsive lens, addresses the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters and impacts driven by climate change. The

country's vulnerability to earthquakes, floods, droughts, and other climate-related hazards disproportionately affects rural and low-income populations. By strengthening early warning systems, emergency preparedness, and community-level response mechanisms, the UN will help to reduce the human and economic toll of disasters. The UN Country Team will also strengthen capacities for analysis, coordination and response to implement Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, International Health Regulation and support implementation of various multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), including commitments related to biodiversity, pollution, chemicals and others.

Achieving this outcome will require concerted efforts from all stakeholders, with the UN playing a catalytic role in building capacities, promoting evidence-based policymaking, advocacy and fostering international partnerships. However, gaps remain in financing, technology transfer, and community-level implementation. Private sector involvement is essential to scaling renewable energy projects and green technologies, while civil society must play a critical role in advocacy and local capacity-building. Additionally, Kazakhstan's integration into global climate frameworks and regional agreements will be crucial to addressing transboundary challenges and accessing the resources needed to build environmental resilience.

The UN will be closely cooperating with the Regional Centre for SDGs in Central Asia and Afghanistan, working within regional programmes in the areas of climate mitigation, addressing poverty, enhancing gender equality and other. Regional partnerships, including the UN Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) are essential for managing transboundary issues like water scarcity and biodiversity conservation. These actions need to be complemented by private sector investments in green technologies and renewable energy solutions. Additionally, civil society and community-based organizations (including volunteer networks) will play a crucial role in advocating environmental justice and mobilizing grassroots action. The UN Country Team will partner further with the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) that is planning to support UN activities in Kazakhstan by promoting political and expert dialogue on regional transboundary water management and climate change through their UNRCCA Strategy for 2026-2030. The strategy focusing on - fostering cooperation among Central Asian states in water, energy, climate, and environmental issues – will be developed and coordinated with the states of the region in 2025.

Result Area 4. Strengthened Social Cohesion

Outcome 4. By 2030, all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, have equal access to fair justice and the rule of law in line with international human rights standards, and the inclusive, meaningful and gender-balanced participation in decision-making for all, as well as civic engagement is enhanced.

Kazakhstan is on the path to improve access to justice and increasing legal protections for marginalized groups, as well as addressing gaps in enforcement. It is also committed to improving public feedback and consultation mechanisms to improve accountability and

implement equitable governance models. Strengthening the alignment of justice systems with international human rights standards, will enable all individuals - particularly women, including GBV survivors, children, people with disabilities, and rural communities - to exercise their rights and access fair legal remedies. It reflects a commitment to building inclusive and accountable institutions that uphold the principles of SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).

The emphasis on gender-balanced and inclusive decision-making is crucial for addressing entrenched inequalities, especially given that women remain underrepresented in political and other public leadership roles, with structural and cultural barriers, including social norms and stereotypes, limiting their participation. By fostering gender parity and promoting inclusive participation, as well as strengthening women rights organizations, diverse perspectives can be integrated into policymaking processes, enhancing the responsiveness of institutions to all, including marginalized groups, and contributing to sustainable and equitable governance.

Strengthening civic engagement will boost public participation in governance through gender-responsive budgeting, public consultations, and community-led monitoring systems, especially among youth and marginalized communities. This will create more inclusive and transparent governance where citizens can actively influence decision-making and hold institutions accountable, leading to improved trust between governments and citizens and enhanced responsiveness of institutions to the needs of all populations. . Children, adolescents and youth should be actively engaged in civic processes, fostering early awareness and participation in governance.

This inclusive approach strengthens trust between governments and citizens, builds social cohesion, and supports grassroots movements advocating for transparency, equality, and justice. Engaging civil society (including civic, voluntary and community networks) and marginalized groups ensures that governance processes are not only inclusive but also resilient and reflective of diverse societal needs.

Contribution of the UN

The UN will support Kazakhstan’s institutions to provide equitable access to justice for all, especially for vulnerable groups, to strengthen the capacities of human rights, law enforcement, legislative, and justice institutions to deliver age- and gender-sensitive justice and aligning these systems with international legal standards including by using the human rights mechanisms such as the UPR, treaty bodies, special procedures and others as an entry point.

The UN will advocate for and support the increased representation of women, youth, and marginalized groups through advocacy campaigns, training on gender-sensitive policies, and capacity-building programs for political and public leaders. This will directly address underrepresentation and exclusion by promoting gender parity and inclusive leadership. By fostering an enabling environment, these actions will ensure that diverse voices are integrated into policymaking processes, leading to more inclusive and responsive governance that addresses the needs of all segments of society. This strengthens social

cohesion and ensures that decisions reflect the needs and priorities of all segments of society, particularly those traditionally left out of governance structures.

Building the skills and resilience of youth, children and communities will address social cohesion and cybersecurity risks. In a rapidly digitalizing world, Kazakhstan faces growing challenges from online misinformation, extremism, and cyber threats, which can undermine trust and stability. The UN's emphasis on equipping communities, and especially youth, with digital literacy and cybersecurity skills enhances their ability to navigate these risks and contributes to a safer, more cohesive society. Furthermore, children and youth-focused initiatives empower the next generation to play an active role in fostering peace, dialogue, and resilience within their communities, addressing concerns over rising polarization and vulnerabilities among young people.

The UN will foster multi-sectoral partnerships with national actors, civil society, and the private sector are crucial to ensure a unified approach to reform in justice and governance systems. This includes supporting legal and institutional reforms, advancing digital inclusivity through the private sector, and ensuring accountability mechanisms through civil society organizations. By collaborating on cybersecurity measures, child-sensitive justice systems, and supporting survivors of violence, the UN will promote long-term sustainability and ensure resilient, inclusive communities that uphold the rights of all individuals.

2.4. Partnerships

In line with the principles of the 2030 Agenda and the Global Partnerships for Effective Development Cooperation principles, the Cooperation Framework recognises that sustainable development is owned and led by the Kazakh people in the spirit of transparency and mutual respect. The UN Country Team will coordinate its work with Government, civil society organizations (including civic, voluntary and community CSOs), private sector, academia, other multilateral institutions, international financial institutions (IFIs), and the international community, through the Government-led coordination architecture.

The **Government** of Kazakhstan, at central and local levels as the main partner of the UN, provides leadership and significant financial contributions to UN initiatives. The UN Country Team works closely with both the executive and legislative branches and the affiliated institutions of the government. Kazakhstan has the established SDG architecture and has aligned the country's policies with the SDGs, including through the revitalization of the SDG Coordination Council and the cross-ministerial working groups, as well as a Parliamentary Committee on Monitoring of SDGs.

Civil society is a long-standing and critical partner of the UN Country Team in joint strategic planning, policy partnerships, advocacy, and program implementation. Leveraging the unique expertise of CSOs, their access to communities and first-hand knowledge of development challenges fosters the UN's support to people-centered policy making. The Youth Advisory Board will continue to be a consultative platform to advise the UN Country in support of their analysis, communication, advocacy and programme implementation.

In Kazakhstan, the role of the **private sector** in social development has been growing over the years, primarily through the voluntary commitments of leading companies to embed

SDG principles in their operation. An important avenue of engagement is the UN Global Compact in Kazakhstan, which has grown rapidly from 7 to 104 member organizations over the last two years. All companies integrate ESG principles and participate in a series of SDG Ambition Accelerators programs that demonstrate the private sector's commitment to SDGs into corporate strategies.

The UN Country Team will work with **other international partners** including International Financial Institutions to coordinate policy engagements, and work collaboratively on key development solutions, including through joint data collection, research, analysis, advocacy and programming. The UN Country Team will continue to engage with **experts and academia** in government and independent thinktanks and university-based institutions to spearhead knowledge and innovations in policy solutions.

2.5. Priorities interconnectedness, trade-offs and linkages to the SDGs

Just as the SDGs are interlinked, the four results areas of the Cooperation Framework are designed to be mutually reinforcing. Progress in one results area will have catalytical effects in the other results areas. While implementing the Cooperation Framework, the UN Country Team is deeply aware of the trade-offs, especially between economic development and climate, in a country which is still considerably dependent on oil and extractive industries. The UN can play an important role in supporting the government to translate its ambitious plans into actions for example through a focus on both proposing clean energy solutions while supporting just transitions. It will be coupled with diversification of economic sectors that could bring sustainable growth in the competitive market of the 21st century (including digital business).

Regional collaboration and/or regional impact will also be a crosscutting consideration in all outcomes. Several cross-border issues may have an impact on the country's SDG trajectory, including those related to water, the prevention of violent extremism and addressing transboundary crimes. The results groups will continue to monitor the broader regional ecosystem, including through regular risk assessments and interactions with UN results groups in the other Central Asian countries.

2.7. UN comparative advantages and configuration

The UN's role in upper MICs typically shifts from direct aid to technical support on normative work and international standards, policy advice and capacity development, knowledge and expertise provision, and sharing best practices and promoting networking (especially through South-South Cooperation) as well as supporting innovative financing mechanisms for development. This is the case for Kazakhstan. Partnering with a broad range of stakeholders, the UN Country Team will work to address systemic issues, align national efforts with global goals like the SDGs and international norms and standards, and advocate for groups in situations of vulnerability or marginalization often left behind. The UN Country Team offers access to and provision of world-class expertise and knowledge which is used to strengthen institutional capacities, particularly for quality and disaggregated data collection and analysis to more systematically stimulate evidence-based policy development and systems change including to track and address inequalities.

The UN Country Team will continue to adapt to evolving needs by emphasizing its role as a convener, advocate, and thought leader in the upper MIC context. Strengthening partnerships, leveraging global networks, and offering context-specific expertise will be crucial. By positioning itself as a facilitator of innovation and inclusive development, the UN ensures its continued value in advancing equitable and sustainable progress in these dynamic environments. The UN Country Team has furthermore a unique strength in its distinct approach to development, including its people-centric programming principles that focus on leaving no one behind, human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, environmental sustainability, transparency and accountability.

Through its unique role as the custodian of international treaties and conventions, the UN brings value supporting Kazakhstan in internalising international norms and standards and for the fulfillment of its duties and obligations through recommendations arising from the respective treaties and conventions to which the country is party. The UN can draw on global, regional and national expertise to support the wide spectrum of international standards, in particular to the areas described in the outcomes.

The Cooperation Framework Outcomes are ambitious and span a broad range of interrelated development issues. To deliver on these, the UN Country Team will draw on the capacities across the UN system and build on the configuration of the UN Country Team as investigated – and proven to work – under the previous Cooperation Framework. The updated country configuration assessment showed that the UN Country Team is overall fit to deliver on the Cooperation Framework but will require additional capacity in a limited number of areas, including on digital transformation which they will seek through collaborating strongly with the regional and global level. The configuration exercise also provided several recommendations which the UN Country Team will implement to work better together. The recommendations are clustered around several pillars. These include: a) strengthen stakeholder engagement; b) improve coordination mechanism; c) develop stronger resource mobilization efforts; d) increase focus on capacity building and knowledge sharing; e) advocacy and awareness; g) leveraging existing frameworks and platforms (national and within the UN system); h) further enhancing operational efficiency and i) strengthened monitoring and adaptive programming. UN Country Team members will furthermore individually consider strengthening UN presence and coordination at sub-national levels, considering the available resources, government support, and other parameters.

2.8. Risks and Opportunities

There are important risks to the successful implementation of the Cooperation Framework, which cut across all the Outcome results.

Firstly, the global and regional geopolitical landscape combined with the economic reliance on the oil and gas sector might create economic vulnerability through fluctuations in global commodity prices. Kazakhstan's geopolitical position creates exposure to external risks, including trade disruptions – such as the potential inability to export oil through the Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC) – regional instability, and the effects of sanctions on neighboring

countries. Any significant export disruptions would have negative consequences for the domestic economy.

The effects of geopolitical contestation emerging from Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine are uncertain. The increased attention from key partners such as China, Russia, the USA, and the European Union is driven by presence of of critical raw materials in Kazakhstan and its significant potential as a crossroads of international transport corridors, including the International Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor and the International North-South Transport Corridor. There is an opportunity to transform these transport corridors into development corridors by focusing on the human capital dimensions. Interest in investing in Kazakhstan is expected to further increase, with potential new business interventions in infrastructure, the energy sector, and technological cooperation. At the same time, Kazakhstan remains open to political cooperation through its multi-vector foreign policy, as well as investment and technology exchanges. The governance of critical raw materials is of considerable interest to the world. Given their importance for advancing industries like renewable energy, electric vehicles, and advanced technologies, these materials offer Kazakhstan an opportunity to attract investments, foster innovation, establish higher value-added industries, and position itself as a leader in renewable energy and high-tech manufacturing.

Secondly, reforms to remove barriers to a democratic space, justice and rule of law have taken place but requires continued focus and acceleration. A shift in government priorities could slow down this process by negatively affecting civil society's participation, human rights protections, continuity in policy implementation, and other. Corruption may– if not tackled sufficiently – erode public trust and divert resources from critical sectors. It will weaken Kazakhstan's ability to implement effective policies and allocate resources equitably, jeopardizing the achievement of multiple SDGs. Potential political polarisation poses a risk to a shared vision for national development, to decentralised, accountable and participatory governance, justice and rule of law, and increases the potential of insecurity and disenfranchisement of young people, possibly leading to heightened fundamentalism and extremism as well as growing public apathy towards national affairs.

Thirdly, Kazakhstan faces significant environmental and climate risks, with natural hazards such as floods, droughts, avalanches, and landslides increasingly exacerbated by climate change. Geophysical hazards like earthquakes and landslides are particularly severe in the southern regions, as evidenced by earthquakes in 2024, including a magnitude 7 event near Almaty. Flooding remains a critical challenge, exemplified by the March 2024 floods, the largest in 80 years. Spring snowmelt and accelerated glacial melting due to rising temperatures amplify flood risks, particularly in areas with unprotected glacial-lake outburst sites. Technogenic emergencies also pose substantial threats, with over 60,000 incidents reported between 2018 and 2021. Climate change is warming Kazakhstan faster than the global average, leading to more extreme weather events, desertification, and water resource depletion. Kazakhstan is particularly vulnerable given existing water scarcity, dependance on transboundary water resources, and inadequate regional water governance mechanisms for management of shared resources. These environmental and climate risks impact critical sectors, including agri-food systems, water supply, energy production,

public health, infrastructure, and biodiversity, while also increasing socio-economic vulnerabilities across the country.

However, Kazakhstan has opportunities to mitigate these risks and build resilience. The country is investing in clean energy transition, aiming to expand renewable energy sources and improve energy efficiency. Initiatives in sustainable agriculture, climate-smart technologies, and afforestation projects offer pathways to counter desertification and enhance food security. Strengthening regional cooperation on transboundary water management and expanding disaster risk reduction strategies can improve climate resilience. Additionally, Kazakhstan's commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2060 presents opportunities for green economic growth, attracting investment in sustainable infrastructure, and fostering innovation in climate adaptation technologies.

Lastly, current developments suggest a likely downturn in the availability of development assistance channeled through the UN and CSOs. While UN operations in Kazakhstan are not highly dependent on development assistance, any significant cuts will reduce the flexibility and operations of UN entities.

Any of these risks and threats could slow, or under some scenarios reverse, the progress achieved towards the SDGs. Some of the risks are being addressed directly through programmatic and policy interventions under each of the outcomes of the Cooperation Framework, in particular continued support to effective, inclusive and accountable institutions where citizens are empowered to participate in decision making in the future of the country. The UN Country Team will use its convening and advocacy role to ensure that strategic partnerships build sustainable support to the outcome areas. As mentioned earlier, the UN Country Team will continuously monitor geopolitical and economic uncertainties, climate change, and other risks, and develop strategies to ensure programmes remain flexible and adaptive to these emerging challenges.

An effective SDG Financing Strategy is needed to mitigate the financial risks due to geopolitics and economic reliance on oil and gas sector. As an upper MIC, Kazakhstan receives minimal Official Development Assistance (ODA), making the financing of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) heavily reliant on the state budget. This underscores the need for greater efficiency in public spending and revenue collection. Challenges such as tax revenue shortfalls and rising expenditures on debt repayment and servicing risk undermining the funding of SDG-related measures. The UN Country Team will work with the Government, international and national development partners, and the private sector to support the country’s efforts in SDG financing, including utilizing innovative financing approaches such as the Integrated National Financing Framework to advance progress towards the 2030 Agenda and implement this Cooperation Framework.

CHAPTER 3: Implementation Plan

3.1. Cooperation Framework Governance

In Kazakhstan, an institutional framework has been established for the SDG implementation. The Coordinating Council for the SDGs was established in 2018 and is currently chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister – Minister of National Economy.

Special attention is given to the integration of SDG indicators into the documents of the State Planning System. On October 28, 2024, the updated List of National SDG Indicators was approved, consisting of 200 indicators, 69 of which have been defined as relevant. Currently, the work is underway to include relevant SDG indicators in the Development Plans of central government agencies. The SDG indicators relevant to the regions have been fully included in the Development Plans of the regions.

3.2. Cooperation Framework Management Structure

The **Joint Government of Kazakhstan – United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Steering Committee (JSC)** is the highest governing body of the Cooperation Framework. It will be co-chaired by the United Nations Resident Coordinator on behalf of the United Nations system, and by the high-level government official identified by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The JSC will meet at least once a year, to provide high level oversight, review progress made (including through the UN country results report), take corrective actions where needed, update any risk assessments and endorse the Joint Work Plans. The JSC will also oversee the final evaluation of the Cooperation Framework in line with the United Nations Evaluation Group standards. The JSC will further ensure that funding gaps and evolving programming priorities are addressed by diversifying funding sources and explore innovative financing, including partnerships with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and private sector engagement. The JSC will comprise representatives of national government institutions and the United Nations. The JSC Co-Chairs will jointly invite other national stakeholders, including civil society, private sector and experts to the JSC when relevant. To support implementation and monitoring of SDGs through the high-level policy dialogue, the JSC will interact, when it deems appropriate, with the SDG Coordination Council.

The **UN Country Team**, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, will be responsible for the overall effectiveness of the United Nations development contributions and results, and ensure the alignment of the Cooperation Framework with SDG targets and the national development plan and vision and will ensure that individual United Nations agency programming documents are derived from the Outcomes and Outputs of the Cooperation Framework. The UN Country Team will also help to ensure greater engagement of partners from the government, civil society and private sector in the activities of the UN Country Team.

The UN Country Team will establish four Outcome Results Groups, covering the 4 outcome areas on a) Empowered People and Strong Institutions; b) Resilient and inclusive economy; c) Sustainable Environment, and d) Strengthened social cohesion.

Each Outcome Results Groups will be led by a UN Head of Agency and have as its members representatives of all UN entities that contribute to the specific outcome. The Outcome Results Group will guide the Cooperation Framework annual joint planning, monitoring, review and reporting. The Outcome Result Groups will meet at least quarterly to discuss implementation progress, bottlenecks, review utilization of normative frameworks, and discuss opportunities for joint programming and joint resource mobilization. The Result Groups will facilitate the process of monitoring and evaluation of the JWPs and the Cooperation Framework outcomes. The Outcome Results Group may decide to invite national and/or international development partners (government, civil society, donors, and others) to discuss strategic level issues. Where needed the Outcome Results Groups will raise to the JSC any high-level policy and coordination issues that require its action.

In addition, the UN Country Team will establish UN inter-agency groups such as:

- The **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning** group will be responsible for providing quality assurance and oversight of the monitoring of the Cooperation Framework Outcome and Output indicators, ensure correctness of the information in the UNINFO and support the evaluation of the Cooperation Framework
- The **Operations Management Team (OMT)** will support and advise the UN Country Team in its efforts to harmonise business operations, conduct Business Operations Strategy reviews, to ensure more focused, strategic, coherent, and cost-effective business operations.
- The **UN Joint Communication Group** will support the UN Country Team to communicate the UN's priorities and contributions in a more coordinated way and will support advocacy and resource mobilisation.

The UN Country Team will consider maintaining existing thematic groups, including: Gender Thematic Group, Youth Thematic Group, Human Rights Working Group, Private Sector Working Group, UN Joint Team on HIV/AIDS, Rule of Law Thematic Group, Poverty Reduction Group, Common Pledge 2.0 Task Force, Disability Team, UN Network for Migration, PSEA Task Team, Occupational Safety Committee, and the CCA update task force. The structure of the thematic groups will be changed as deemed relevant for operationalising the Cooperation Framework and supporting the implementation of the joint work plans.

3.3. Sustainability

Sustainability is at the heart of all the planned results in the Cooperation Framework and all UN collaboration will be undertaken in a manner that increases the resilience of communities, strengthens governance and institutional capacities, and reduces risks and vulnerabilities.

The upper-middle-income context provides an added angle to sustainability, where the bulk of UN Country Team interventions are to support policy development and implementation. This focus will ensure that results of interventions are not project-linked but are maintained over a longer period. Systemic changes and regional/local interventions that are upscaled by the national partners will ensure lasting impact of UN interventions. The fact that the

Government of Kazakhstan has embedded SDGs in its planning and has an architecture in place further enhances sustainability of the UN's work.

The alignment of the Cooperation Framework with national priorities and the emphasis on development of national capacity to achieve the SDGs should contribute to the sustainability of results under the outcomes. Furthermore, the results framework is only using outcome indicators that are part of the official national SDG indicators, thereby aligning with national systems and focusing on the building of capacities of the national government.

The UN Country Team will – on a continuous basis – support strategies and solutions to address geopolitical and economic uncertainties, climate change, and other risks, ensuring programs remain flexible and adaptive to emerging challenges. Given the fluctuating external environment, the UN Country Team might need to strengthen its capacities and acquire skills to tackle some of the challenges that Kazakhstan might face during the next 5 years. The UN Country Team is well connected to the regional and global level to attract specific expertise in case required.

The UN Country Team will also continue to support South-South cooperation in specific areas to increase sustainability.

3.4 Resourcing the Cooperation Framework

In consultation with the Government and as per the agreed governance arrangements, the UN Country Team will provide support with the development and implementation of activities within the Cooperation Framework, which may include technical support, cash assistance, supplies, commodities and equipment, procurement services, transport, funds for advocacy, research and studies, consultancies, programme development, monitoring and evaluation, training activities and staff support.

In all their efforts, the UN Country Team will continue to explore innovative funding mechanisms, including exploring opportunities to systematize the Government cost sharing, pursuing pooled funding mechanisms, and setting up partnership with non-traditional donors and private sector in line with the Funding Compact that sets out an ambitious plan of shared action by Member States and the United Nations Sustainable Development Group to ensure predictable and flexible funding for UN development activities. The UN Country Team will be responsible for monitoring the available funding and highlight any need for mobilizing additional resources to the JSC, especially for underperforming Outcomes. The UN Country Team in Kazakhstan will continue to focus on transitioning from traditional funding models to innovative financing mechanisms by leveraging partnerships with the private sector, development banks, and impact investors. This includes mobilizing blended finance and fostering sustainable investment to align with national priorities and the SDGs.

Part of the UN system entities' support may be provided to non-governmental (civil society organisations) as agreed within the framework of the individual work plans and project documents.

Subject to annual reviews and progress in the implementation of the programme, the UN system agencies' funds are distributed by calendar year and in accordance with the Cooperation Framework. These budgets will be reviewed and further detailed in the work plans and project documents. By mutual consent between the government and the UN development system entities, funds not earmarked by donors to UN development system agencies for specific activities may be re-allocated to other programmatically equally worthwhile activities.

The government – through the Joint Steering Committee – will support the UN system agencies' efforts to raise funds required to meet the needs of this Cooperation Framework and will cooperate with the UN system agencies including: encouraging potential donor governments to make available to the UN system agencies the funds needed to implement unfunded components of the programme; endorsing the UN system agencies' efforts to raise funds for the programme from other sources, including the private sector both internationally and in Kazakhstan; and by permitting contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations in Kazakhstan to support this programme which will be tax exempt for the donor, to the maximum extent permissible under the applicable law.

3.4. Derivation of UN entity country programming instruments from the Cooperation Framework

UN Country Team members will ensure consistency between the Cooperation Framework and agency specific country programming instruments. For this purpose, where possible, Agencies will derive outcomes of their strategies verbatim from outcomes of this Cooperation Framework, as well as align their activities as well as programming targets and indicators to this Cooperation Framework. Each Agency will formally request the confirmation of the alignment from the UN Resident Coordinator for its country-specific country programming instruments.

3.5. Joint Workplans

The Cooperation Framework will be nationally executed under the overall co-ordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (government Co-ordinating Authority). Government Ministries, non-governmental organisations, academia and research institutions, and UN system agencies will implement programme activities. It will be made operational through the development of annual joint work plans (JWPs) and agency specific work plans and project documents as necessary which describe the specific results (linked to SDG targets) to be achieved and will form an agreement between the UN system agencies and each implementing partner as necessary on the use of resources. To the extent possible the UN system agencies and partners will use a minimum of documents, namely the signed Cooperation Framework and signed joint or agency-specific work plans and project documents to implement programmatic initiatives. However, as necessary and appropriate, project documents can be prepared using, inter alia, the relevant text from the Cooperation

Framework and joint or agency-specific work plans and / or project documents. JWPs that flow from the Cooperation Framework will include measurable and timebound outputs, for which the UN system will be fully responsible and accountable. JWPs will be developed and updated annually by the Result Groups and intend to reflect work of all agencies with activities in Kazakhstan. The JWP will be reported through UNINFO.

A mapping exercise to identify cross-cutting areas for joint outputs will be performed during the design stage. JWPs will have a set of performance indicators at output levels, which will enable the UN Country Team and its partners to attribute the UN contribution to national priorities and SDG targets.

3.6. Business Operations Strategy

The UN will continue implementing the Business Operation Strategy (BOS) which is a results-based framework to deliver on the UN efficiency agenda that focuses on joint business operations with the purpose of eliminating duplication, leveraging the common bargaining power of the UN and maximizing economies of scale. For that purpose, the Operations Management Team will review the BOS by identifying projects that improve the efficiency of the UN operation through the use of common premises, common services (like ICT, procurement through common long-term agreement, recruitment, logistics), as well as consider the application of the Common Back Office services in Kazakhstan. Since 2019 through BOS implementation, the UN has already attained the realized benefit of $1.9 million (cost avoidance) by multiple efficiency actions.

CHAPTER 4. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Cooperation Framework Results Matrix (see annex 1) is the main tool against which progress will be measured. The selection of indicators for the Cooperation Framework Outcome Areas is fully aligned with the national SDG indicators and national processes. The UN will make use of existing national data and information systems. The UN will also support national capacity development for data collection, analysis and use and SDG monitoring. The output indicators – which will be updated annually – are selected from the agreed UNSDG indicators. For both the outcome and output indicators, UN entities have been assigned to lead the data collection process.

Data collection instruments and sources expected to be used for measuring progress at Outcome and Output level will include the UN Common Country Analysis, Government-commissioned data generation activities (including surveys, census, the SDG Voluntary National Reviews), Government Ministries management information systems and administrative data, national reports to human rights mechanisms recommendations and concluding observations of the UN Treaty Bodies, UPR Working Group reports, and other assessments undertaken by UN agencies and partners.

The Cooperation Framework monitoring and evaluation processes will be harmonised as closely as possible with the national SDG monitoring system and processes. The monitoring and evaluation plan in Annex 2 provides an overview of planned activities and will be regularly updated to reflect the roles and responsibilities of UN entities and national

counterparts with advancement of the SDG monitoring and reporting system in the country. The plan includes agency-specific and joint surveys, studies, UN agencies' contribution to national monitoring systems, including monitoring of human rights instruments, evaluation and assessment, and monitoring and evaluation capacity building activities. The UN Country Team will explore the use of innovative, participatory monitoring tools and platforms that would allow partners from civil society to become actively involved in monitoring of the Cooperation Framework indicators.

An independent evaluation of the Cooperation Framework 2026-2030 will be conducted in the penultimate year of implementation according to the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) standards. The evaluation will assess the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of United Nations support to Kazakhstan on its path to achieve the 2030 Agenda and national development priorities. It will be carried out as an inclusive and participatory exercise involving all relevant stakeholders. The conclusions and lessons learned from the evaluation will feed into the development of the Cooperation Framework for the next implementation cycle.

Field Level Monitoring

The UN Country Team will ensure that implementing partners will cooperate with the UN system agencies for monitoring all activities supported by cash transfers and will facilitate access to relevant financial records and personnel responsible for the administration of cash provided by the UN system agencies. To that effect, Implementing Partners agree to the following:

1. Periodic on-site reviews and spot checks of their financial records by the UN system agencies or their representatives, as appropriate, and as described in specific clauses of their engagement documents/contracts with the UN system agencies;
2. Programmatic monitoring of activities following the UN system agencies' standards and guidance for site visits and field monitoring;
3. Special or scheduled audits. Each UN organization, in collaboration with other UN system agencies (where so desired and in consultation with the respective coordinating ministry) will establish an annual audit plan, giving priority to audits of Implementing Partners with large amounts of cash assistance provided by the UN system agencies, and those whose financial management capacity needs strengthening.

Review and Reporting

The Results Groups and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Group, on behalf of the JSC, will undertake annual reviews of the Cooperation Framework to measure overall progress towards planned results, monitor risks, identify key inform decisions and course correction in the evolving context of Kazakhstan and the world. UN INFO – the UN online planning, monitoring and reporting platform that digitises the Cooperation Framework and its corresponding joint work plans will be the main platform used to track progress and monitoring of the Cooperation Framework. This online platform will provide an overview of

progress at the country level and transparency and accountability. Based on the annual reviews, the One Country Results Report will be prepared annually and submitted to the JSC, which will provide evidence to explain to the Government and partners any necessary adaptations in UN programming for continued relevance. The report will also generate information to inform the periodic updating of the CCA as necessary and course-correcting the Joint Work Plans to make sure the implementation of the Cooperation Framework remains relevant and effective. The Report describes the Outputs delivered for which the UN is directly responsible and also the Cooperation Framework Outcomes for which the UN is one of the contributors.

In addition, the UN Country Team will aim to undertake light thematic reporting along specific SDG/Cooperation Framework areas and will coordinate this process with the national SDG monitoring and reporting mechanism to ensure that selection of themes for joint assessments will meet the needs for reporting and accountability of the UN system and the government.

To improve accountability under the Cooperation Framework, the UN Country Team will develop a costed communication and advocacy plan that is aligned with a monitoring and communication plan with outputs for joint communication. This plan is regarded as an important tool for advocacy and outreach and will help accelerate progress on the SDG targets directly addressed in the Cooperation Framework and related goals by advancing collaborative UN efforts in undertaking joint advocacy to mobilise for national resources, as well as international partnership for achievement of the 2030 Agenda. To enhance further harmonisation between accountability for the CF results and achievement of the SDG targets, the UN Country Team anticipates extending collaboration with the Economic Research Institute on the official SDGs' portal for Kazakhstan for communication of collaborative efforts of UN agencies and their strategic partners.

ANNEX 1: Results Framework

Empowered People and Strong Institutions
Outcome 1. By 2030, the well-being of all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, is improved and they fully enjoy human rights and equal access to age and gender-responsive and increasingly digitalized and people-centered public and private services, provided by inclusive, effective and accountable institutions.
Contributes to the following SDG targets SDG 1: No Poverty ● **Target 1.3:** Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable. ● **Target 1.4:** Ensure that all men and women, particularly the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, basic services, and appropriate technology. SDG 2: Zero Hunger ● **Target 2.1:** End hunger and ensure access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food for all people year-round ● **Target 2.2:** End all forms of malnutrition by addressing stunting, wasting, and the nutritional needs of vulnerable groups. SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being ● **Target 3.4:** By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and well-being. ● **Target 3.8:** Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable medicines and vaccines for all. SDG4: Quality Education ● **Target 4.1**: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes ● **Target 4.2**: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education ● **Target 4.5**: By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations SDG 5: Gender Equality ● **Target 5.1:** End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere. ● Target 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

- **Target 5.5:** Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life.
- **Target 5.6:** Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

- **Target 10.2:** Empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status.
- **Target 10.3:** Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices.
- **Target 10.7:** Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

- **Target 16.2**: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- **Target 16.6:** Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.
- **Target 16.7:** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels.
- **Target 16.10:** Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

- **Target 17.8:** Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology, and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries to enhance technology development, transfer, and dissemination.

Aligned and contributes to the following key state strategies and programmes: 1. Strategy for the Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2050; 2. National Development Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2029; 3. Social Code; 4. Concept for the Development of Healthcare until 2026 5. Concept for the Development of Housing and Communal Infrastructure for 2023-2029; 6. Concept for Family and Gender Policy until 2030; 7. Concept for the Development of Higher Education and Science for 2023-2029; 8. Concept for the Development of Preschool, Secondary, Technical, and Vocational Education for 2023-2029; 9. Concept for the Development of Rural Areas for 2023-2027; 10. Concept for the Development of the Labor Market for 2024-2029; 11. National Plan for Ensuring the Rights and Improving the Quality of Life of Persons with Disabilities in the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2025; 12. Roadmap for Combating HIV for 2023-2026; 13. Concept for the Development of Healthcare Infrastructure for 2024-2030; 14. Concept for Public Administration Development until 2030; 15. Concept for Youth Policy for 2023-2029

UN entities: ESCAP, FAO, ITU, UNDP, UNECE, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women, WHO, IOM

Partners: Ministry of Healthcare, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Culture and Information, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Commission for Women Affairs and Demographic Policy under the President of Kazakhstan, Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Central Asian Alliance to End GBV, Central Asian Association of People Living with HIV, civic, volunteer and community networks, Committee of Penitentiary Service, EU Delegation for Kazakhstan, Kazakh Scientific Center for Dermatology and Infection Diseases, local governments, NGOs focusing on offender rehabilitation, private sector entities supporting employment initiatives for ex-offenders, Probation Services.

LNOB: Children and adolescents especially those leaving in rural areas, persons with disabilities, including children Incarcerated individuals, post-release offenders, youth at risk of offending, and victims of drug-related crimes, persons living with HIV, persons who use/inject drugs, persons deprived of their liberty, refugees, asylum-seekers, migrants, stateless people, survivors of GBV, women and girls, especially those facing GBV, and other vulnerable groups of population.						
National SDG indicator	**Disaggregation**	**Measurement**	**Baseline (2015)**	**Latest baseline (date)**	**Target**	**Source**
1.2.1 The proportion of the population with incomes below the subsistence level		Percent	2.6	5.2 (2023)	5.0 (2030)	Bureau of National Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan ASPiR The National Development Plan until 2029. (Lead monitoring entity: UNICEF)
	Urban Population		1.3	4.1 (2023)		
	Rural Population		4.4	7.0 (2023)		
	Men		2.7	5.4 (2023)		
	Women		2.6	5.0 (2023)		
	Children age 0-17		n/a	7.8% (2023)	6% (2030)	UNICEF
Proportion of population covered by at least one social protection benefit, by sex (%)		Percent	100 (2015)	94.3 (2023)	97% (2030)	Bureau of National Statistics ASPiR (Lead monitoring entity: UNDP)
	Men		100	N/A	97	
	Women		100		97	
2.1.2 Level of moderate or severe food insecurity of the population (according to the "Food Insecurity Experience Scale")	moderate and severe food insecurity	Percent	7.8* (according to FAO)	1.2 (2024)	0.2	Household Living Standards Assessment Survey (Lead monitoring entity: FAO)
	acute food insecurity		1.4* (according to FAO data)	0.3 (2024)	0.1	
3.2.1 Under five mortality rate (probability of dying by		Per 100 births	12.11	9.3	2025 – 9.75 2026 – 9.7 2027 – 9.65	Information system "Registration point of the Civil Registry Office" Local executive body (Civil

age 5 per 1000 live births)					9.5 per 1000 births	Registry Office), Information system "Register of attached population" Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Information system of judicial bodies "Torelik" Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Lead monitoring entity: UNICEF)
	Urban population		11.83	8.56		
	Rural population		12.48	10.41		
	Boys		13.44	10.1		
	Girls		10.69	8.45		
3.7.1 Percentage of women aged 15-49 years with satisfied need for contraception		Percent	55.7		65.0	MICS Sample Survey (Lead monitoring entity: UNFPA)
	Urban population		55.8		65.0	
	Rural population		55.6		65.0	
	Age					
	15-19		28.6		33.4	
	20-24		44.3		51.7	
	25-29		56.3		65.7	
	30-34		60.8		71.0	
	35-39		65.6		76.6	
	40-44		61.9		72.2	
	45-49		39.8		46.4	
4.1.1 Proportion of children and youth who are (a) in grades 2 and 3; (b) at the end of primary school; and (c) at the end of lower secondary school who achieve at least a minimum proficiency	Proportion of children and youth completing primary education/attaining at least a minimum level (i) readership literacy by gender	Percent				PIRLS Results - 2016 (4th Grade) (Lead monitoring entity: UNESCO and UNICEF) sdg4-data.uis.unesco.org
	Both sexes		98.0 (2016)	90.7 (2021)	100	

level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex	boys		98.0 (2016)	88.0 (2021)	89	
	girls		98.0 (2016)	94.0 (2021)	95	
	Proportion of children and young people completing lower secondary education who have achieved at least a minimum level (i)readership literacy by gender					PISA results (15-year-old school and college students) sdg4-data.uis.unesco.org
	Both sexes		58.7	36.3 (2022)	54	
	boys		54.7	30.1 (2022)	33	
	girls		63.0	42.8 (2022)	45	
	Proportion of children and young people completing primary school who achieve at least a minimum level of ii) numeracy (mathematics)					PISA results (15-year-old school and college students) sdg4-data.uis.unesco.org
	Both sexes		96.0	70.82 (2019)	89	
	boys		96.0	70.5 (2019)	74	
	girls		97.0	71.2 (2019)	73	
	c) Proportion of children and young people completing lower secondary education who have achieved at least a minimum level (ii)numeracy skills (mathematical					

	literacy), broken down by gender					
	Both sexes		67.8	50.4 (2022)	60	
	boys		68.5	49.8 (2022)	52	
	girls		67.2	51.1 (2022)	54	
5.2.1 Lifetime and current prevalence of physical and sexual intimate partner violence among ever-partnered women aged 18-75 and time period	Women aged 18-75	Percent	Not available		The target will be determined in the second quarter of 2025. If not, it will not be monitored for the purposes of the Cooperation Framework.	Sample Survey on Violence against Women (Lead monitoring entity: UNFPA, UNWOMEN)
	during life					
	physical violence		16.2			
	sexual violence		3.6			
	physical violence and/or sexual violence		16.5			
	in the last 12 months					
	physical violence		4.5			
	sexual violence		1.0			
	physical violence and/or sexual violence		4.7			
5.2.2 Proportion of women aged 18-75 years who experienced sexual violence by someone other than an intimate partner in the last 12 months, by age	Type of violence	Percent			The target will be determined in the second quarter of 2025. If not determined, it will not be monitored for	Sample Survey on Violence against Women (Lead monitoring entity: UNWOMEN)
	Physical violence		2.9			
	Sexual violence committed by a person other than a partner					
	Any sexual violence		1.5			

					the purposes of the Cooperation Framework.	
16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1-14 years old who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by their caregivers in the last month		Percent	52.7		Targets to be determined after MICS 2024 results are available in April 2025. If not determined, the target will not be monitored for the purpose of the Cooperation Framework.	MICS Sample Survey (Lead monitoring entity: UNICEF)
	city		51.7			
	village		53.5			
	boys		55.2			
	girls		49.9			
	Age					
	1-2		38.3			
	3-4		53.2			
	5-9		57.8			
	10-14		53.9			
16.6.2 The proportion of the population satisfied with the quality of public services		Percent	79.0	81.3 (2023) 87.7 (2024)	83 (2030)	Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Civil Service Affairs (Lead monitoring entity: UNDP)
Output 1. National and local actors have legal, policy planning, coordination and monitoring frameworks enhanced in healthcare, education, social and special protection and other areas in line with international standards;						
UN entities	UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO, UNDP UNECE, UNESCO, IOM					
Output 2. National and local actors have enhanced institutional capacities for all people's equitable access to quality One Health and healthcare, education, social and special protection services.						
UN entities	FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO, UNDP, UNODC, UNESCO, ESCAP, IOM					

Output 3. People and communities have enhanced awareness, knowledge and skills to equally access and use services, influence the quality of service-delivery and foster social norms and behaviour change.	
UN entities	ITU, UNFPA, UN Women, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, UNESCO, ESCAP

Resilient and inclusive economy

Outcome 2. By 2030, all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from the sustainable, rights-based, gender-responsive, diversified and innovative economic development that promotes decent work, productivity and entrepreneurship.

Contributes to the following SDG targets:

SDG 1: No Poverty

- **Target 1.2:** Reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women, and children living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.
- **Target 1.4:** Ensure equal rights to economic resources, basic services, and ownership/control over resources, including new technology.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

- **Target 2.3:** Double the productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers through access to resources, inputs, knowledge, and markets.
- **Target 2.4:** Ensure sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices to improve productivity, ecosystems, and climate adaptation

SDG 5: Gender Equality

- **Target 5.5:** Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership in economic and public life.
- **Target 5.a:** Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, and technology.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

- **Target 8.1:** Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances.
- **Target 8.2:** Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading, and innovation.
- **Target 8.3:** Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation.
- **Target 8.5:** Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.
- **Target 8.6:** Substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education, or training.
- **Target 8.7:** Eradicate forced labor, modern slavery, and child labor.
- **Target 8.10:** Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance, and financial services for all.

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

- **Target 9.1:** Develop quality, reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure to support economic development and human well-being.
- **Target 9.2:** Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization.
- **Target 9.3:** Increase access of small-scale enterprises to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets.
- **Target 9.5:** Enhance research and upgrade technological capabilities in all sectors, particularly in developing countries.

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

- **Target 10.2:** Empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status.

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

- **Target 12.2:** Achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.
- **Target 12.6:** Encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices and integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

- **Target 16.7:** Ensure responsive, inclusive and representative decision-making.
- **Target 17.6:** Enhance international cooperation on and access to science, technology, and innovation.
- **Target 17.8:** Fully operationalize the technology bank to enhance innovation and technology diffusion.

Aligned and contributes to the following key state strategies and programmes: Strategy for the Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2050; National Development Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2029; Concept for Investment Policy until 2029; Concept for the Development of the Geological Industry for 2023-2027; Concept for the Development of the Creative Economy for 2021-2025; Concept for the Protection and Development of Competition for 2022-2026; Concept for the Development of the Agro-Industrial Complex for 2021-2030; Concept for the Development of the Financial Sector until 2030; Concept for Public Finance Management until 2030; Concept for the Development of Transport and Logistics Potential until 2030; Concept for the Development of the Tourism Industry for 2023-2029; Concept for Digital Transformation, Development of the ICT Sector, and Cybersecurity for 2023-2029; Concept for the Development of the Manufacturing Industry for 2023-2029; Concept for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises until 2030; Comprehensive Plan "Program for Increasing Population Income until 2029"; National Project on Communications "Affordable Internet"; National Infrastructure Plan until 2029; Concept for the Development of Artificial Intelligence for 2024-2029; Concept for Financial Monitoring Development for 2022-2026; Concept for the Management of National Fund Assets until 2030; Concept for the Further Modernization of the Pension System until 2030

UN entities: FAO, ITC, ITU, UNECE, UNEP, UNFPA, UNIDO, UN Women, UNDP, ESCAP, IOM, UNDP

Partners: Ministry of National Economy, Agency on Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Culture of Information, Ministry of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Industry and Infrastructure, Ministry of Trade and Integration, Ministry of Transport, National Commission for Women Affairs and Demographic Policy under the President of Kazakhstan, Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, QazTrade, State Revenue Committee, private sector companies, civil society organizations, trade unions, vocational institutions.

LNOB: Women and girls, especially GBV survivors, rural populations, low-income households, persons with disabilities

National SDG indicator	Disaggregation	Measurement	Baseline (2015)	Latest baseline (date)	Target	Source
2.3.1 Labor productivity in agriculture		thousand tenge	1242.3	4235,3 (2023)	9014	The Concept on Transition of the Republic of Kazakhstan to green economy GVA of agriculture, forestry and fisheries at current prices, population (Lead monitoring entity: FAO)
5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid household services for the household and its members	Men	Percent	7.7 (2012)	5.9 (2018)	8	Household Living Standards Assessment Survey (Lead monitoring entity: UNWOMEN)
	Women		17.1 (2012)	17.7 (2018)	15	
8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita		US dollars at current prices		15,129 (2025)	22,869 (2030)	National Development Plan 2029 (Lead monitoring entity: RCO)
8.3.1.1 Share of unproductively employed in total employment, percentage		Percent	3.9	1.7(2023)	1.9 (2030)	Bureau of National Statistics (quarterly surveys) Sample survey of employment of the population
	Men		4.4	2.0 (2023)		
	Women		3.4	1.5 (2023)		
	Urban population		2.5	1.1 (2023)		
	Rural population		5.9	2.7 (2023)		
	By age					
	15		43.9	69.1 (2023)		

	16-24		5.0	1.9 (2023)		(Lead monitoring entity: UNDP)
	25-28		3.6	1.3 (2023)		
	29-34		3.7	1.4 (2023)		
	35-44		3.6	1.5 (2023)		
	45-54		3.9	1.9 (2023)		
	55-64		3.8	2.2 (2023)		
	65 and older		6.3	8.0 (2023)		
8.5.1 Average difference between the remuneration for men and women who are employed in percentage.	Total	Percent	34.1 (2015)	25.7 (2023)	20.7 (2030)	Bureau of National Statistics (Lead monitoring entity: UNWOMEN)
8.6.1 Proportion of young people (aged 15 to 35) who are not in education, employment or training, percentage		Percent	7.9	4.2 (2023) 6.5 (2024)	2025 – 6.8 2026 – 6.7 2027 – 6.6 2028 – 6.5 2029 – 6.4 2030 – 6.3	Bureau of National Statistics (quarterly surveys) Sample survey of employment of the population (Lead monitoring entity: UNDP and UNFPA)
	Men		6.0	3.4 (2023)		
	Women		9.7	4.9 (2023)		
	Urban population		6.6	3.7 (2023)		
	Countryside		9.6	4.8 (2023)		
9.2.1. The share of SME production in GDP, including services.		Percent	33.5 (2021)	36.7 (2023)	50 (2030)	Bureau of National Statistics

						(Lead monitoring entity: UNDP)

Output 1. Government and other institutions' capacities are strengthened to design, implement and monitor policies for sustainable and inclusive economy, trade and transport connectivity, energy efficiency, fundamental labour principles and rights, dynamic entrepreneurship environment	
UN entities	FAO, ITC, UN Women, UNIDO, UNDP, UNECE, UNEP, UNFPA, WHO , ESCAP,IOM

Output 2. Private sector capacities are strengthened with a special focus on knowledge-based economy, creative industries, tourism, startup ecosystems, agrifood systems, human-centered artificial intelligence; business and human rights as well as innovative financing promoted.	
UN entities	FAO, ITC, ITU, UNEP, UNIDO, UN Women, UNDP, UNECE, UNFPA, ESCAP, IOM

Output 3. People, especially the most vulnerable, including those on the move, have enhanced employability skills.	
UN entities	UN Women, UNDP, IOM

Sustainable Environment

Outcome 3. By 2030, all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from enhanced age and gender-sensitive environmental resilience, as well as inclusive, rights-based climate, nature and pollution action and sustainable management of natural resources

Contributes to the following SDG targets:

SDG 1: No Poverty

- **Target 1.5**: Build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social, and environmental shocks and disasters.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

- **Target 2.5:** By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

- **Target 3.d**. Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.

SDG 5: Gender Equality

- **Target 5.5**: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership in decision-making on climate and environmental issues.
- **Target 5.a**: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.
- **Target 5.c:** Adopt and strengthen policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality in climate and environmental resilience initiatives.

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

- **Target 6.1.:** By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- **Target 6.2:** By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
- **Target 6.3:** Improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping, and minimizing the release of hazardous chemicals.
- **Target 6.4:** Substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity.
- **Target 6.6:** Protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers, and lakes.

SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

- **Target 7.2:** Increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.
- **Target 7.3:** Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

- **Target 11.5:** Reduce the number of deaths, people affected, and economic losses caused by disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and vulnerable.
- **Target 11.6:** Reduce the adverse environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.
- **Target 11.b:** Adopt and implement integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation, and adaptation to climate change.

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

- **Target 12.3:** By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.
- **Target 12.4:** Achieve environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle and significantly reduce their release to air, water, and soil.
- **Target 12.5:** Substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse.

SDG 13: Climate Action

- **Target 13.1:** Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.
- **Target 13.2:** Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning.
- **Target 13.b:** Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management, particularly in least developed countries and small island developing states, including focusing on women, youth, and local communities.

SDG 14: Life Below Water

- **Target 14.1:** Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities, including plastic pollution.
- **Target 14.2:** Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts.
- **Target 14.4**: By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.

SDG 15: Life on Land

- **Target 15.1**: Ensure the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services.
- **Target 15.2:** By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.
- **Target 15.3:** Combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.
- **Target 15.5:** Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt biodiversity loss, and protect endangered species.
- **Target 15.6:** Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed

SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

- **Target 16.7:** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making in environmental governance.
- **Target 16.10:** Ensure public access to environmental information and protect fundamental freedoms in line with international agreements.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

- **Target 17.16:** Enhance global partnerships to support sustainable development, particularly in climate resilience and environmental actions.

Aligned and contributes to the following key state strategies and programmes: 1. Strategy for the Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2050; 2. National Development Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2029; Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality until 2060; Concept for the Transition to a Green Economy; Concept for Water Resources Management for 2024-2030; National Determined Contribution until 2030; Environmental Code; Concept for the Development of Energy Saving and Energy Efficiency for 2023-2029; Concept for the Development of the Fuel and Energy Complex for 2023-2029; Concept for the Development of the Electric Power Industry for 2023-2029

UN entities: ESCAP, FAO, UNDP, UNECE, UNEP, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNICEF, UN Women, IOM, WHO

Partners: Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Health, National Agrarian Science Educational Center (NASEC), National Commission for Women Affairs and Demographic Policy under the President of Kazakhstan, Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Air Quality Central Asia Platform, Finnish Meteorological Institute, International Green Technologies and Investment Projects Center (IGTIPC), JSC “Zhasyl Damu”, Kazakhstani Association of Regional Environmental Initiatives “ECOJER”, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), UNEP-convened Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC).

LNOB Populations in disaster-prone regions, rural populations, women and girls

National SDG indicator	Disaggregation	Measurement	Baseline (2015)	Latest baseline (date)	Target	Source
1.5.1 Number of victims and deaths as a result of natural emergencies	suffered	Human	8	9 (2023) 18 (2024)	0	Summary operational data (Lead monitoring entity: UNDRR)
	affected per 100,000 people		0.05	0.04 (2023) 0.09 (2024)	0	
	including died	human	0	4 (2023) 9 (2024)	0	
	died per 100,000 people		0	0.02 (2023) 0.04 (2024)	0	
2.4.1 The percentage rate of adopted precision farming technologies in the total sown area		percent	0.09 (2018) [2]	10.53 (2022)	28	Ministry of Agriculture
2.4.1.1 Area of irrigated lands where water-saving technologies are used (drip irrigation, sprinkling), thousand hectares		thousands hectares	136.5	312.2 (2023)	1362.2	Ministry of Agriculture
6.5.1 Degree of implementation of integrated water		percent	30 (2017)	51 (2023)	70 (2030)	(Lead monitoring entity: UNDP)

[2] The indicator was introduced in 2018

resources management						
7.2.1 Share energy generated by renewable sources of energy in total electricity generation		Percent		With consideration of large hydro-electric power generating plants: 12.0% (2023) Without consideration of large hydro-electric power generating plants: 5.9 (2023) 6.4 (2024)	2025 - 6.1 2026 - 7.0 2027 - 8.0 2028 - 10.0 2029 - 12.5 2030 - 15.0 (for renewable energy without consideration of hydro-electric power generating plants)	Source: Concept on Transition of the Republic of Kazakhstan to green economy (Lead monitoring entity: UNDP)
11.6.1 Providing the population with waste collection and removal services		percent	66.4 (2016)	81.3 (2023) 82.4 (2024)	100 (2030)	The Concept on transition of the RK to a green economy Lead monitoring entity: UNDP
13.2.2 Total annual greenhouse gas emissions		million tons of CO2 equivalent	367.7	340.84 (2021) 348,8 (2022) 345,8 (2023)	324.4 (2030)	National Inventory Report of the Republic of Kazakhstan (NIR) of anthropogenic emissions from sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol on the Greenhouse

						Gas Inventory for 2023. Biennial transparency reports(Lead monitoring entity: UNDP)
15.1.1 Forest area as a percentage of total land area	Total	percentage of total land area	4.6	5.0 (2023) 5.1 (2024)	5.4 Based on the document shared by the Ministry of National Economy, the Area of forested land, thousand ha (not a percentage of total land area): 2027 - 13,804.3; 2028 - 13,889.6; 2029 - 14,062.2.	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (Forestry and Wildlife committee), Ministry of Agriculture (Land Management Committee) (lead monitoring entities: FAO and UNDP)
15.1.2 Share of specially protected natural areas		Mln ha		10.9 (2023) 11.4 (2024) 30.9 (2025)	32.1	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (Forestry and Wildlife Committee) National Strategic Plans on Biodiversity (Lead monitoring entity: UNDP)

15.3.1 The area of eroded lands in agricultural land as a percentage of the total land area	Total	thousand hectares	29320.1	29320.1 (2022) 29925.7 (2023) 29925.7 (2024)	28,4 thousands	Ministry of Agriculture (Land Management Committee) (Lead monitoring entity: FAO)
Output 1. National and local actors have the enhanced capacity, tools and knowledge to effectively design, implement, and monitor age and gender-sensitive environmental policies across all sectors.						
UN entities	UNEP, FAO, UNIDO, UN Women, UNEP, UNICEF, UNDP, UNECE, UNFPA, WHO					

Output 2. People, especially children, youth, women have enhanced skills, knowledge, values, and engagement for more resilient and sustainable environment.	
UN entities	FAO, UNIDO, UN Women, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNECE, UNFPA, ESCAP, IOM

Output 3. National and local actors, including communities, have enhanced disaster risk management capacities	
UN entities	FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, WHO

Strengthened social cohesion
Outcome 4. By 2030, all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, have equal access to fair justice and the rule of law in line with international human rights standards, and the inclusive, meaningful and gender-balanced participation in decision-making for all, as well as civic engagement is enhanced.
Contributes to the following SDG targets: SDG 5: Gender Equality ● **Target 5.1:** End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

- **Target 5.2** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- **Target 5.5:** Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life.
- **Target 5.c:** Adopt and strengthen policies and enforceable legislation to promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

- **Target 10.2:** Empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status.
- **Target 10.3:** Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies, and action.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

- **Target 16.3:** Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.
- **Target 16.5:** Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms
- **Target 16.6:** Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.
- **Target 16.7:** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels.
- **Target 16.10:** Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.
- **Target 16.b:** Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

- **Target 17.17:** Encourage and promote effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.

Aligned and contributes to the following key state strategies and programmes: Strategy for the Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2050; National Development Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2029; Concept for the Development of Civil Society until 2025; Concept for the Development of the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan for 2022-2026; Concept for Anti-Corruption Policy for 2022-2026; Concept for Migration Policy for 2023-2027; Concept for Foreign Policy for 2020-2030; Concept for Legal Policy until 2030; Action Plan on Human Rights and the Rule of Law; Government Action Plan for Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Men and Women for 2024-2027

UN entities: ESCAP, ITU, UNDP (& UNV), UNFPA, UNHCR, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women, UNECE

Partners: Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, National Human Rights Ombudsman of Kazakhstan, Parliament, Ministry of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, police training institutions, Political parties, Prison Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Prosecutor-General's Office, Anti-Corruption Agency, Civic organizations, civil society organizations, Committee of Youth and Family Affairs of the Ministry of Culture and Information, community networks, International and national law experts, Kazakhstan National Federation of Clubs for UNESCO, Law Enforcement Academy under PGO, media outlets, Research institutions, The Country Coordination Mechanism for cooperation with international organizations on TB and HIV, The National Commission for Women Affairs, Family and Demographic Policy under the President of Kazakhstan, volunteer groups.

LNOB Groups: Asylum-seekers, refugees, ethnic minorities, Persons deprived of their liberty, Persons living with HIV, persons who use/inject drugs, survivors of gender-based violence, victims of grave human rights violations, Victims of human trafficking, exploitation, or domestic violence, women and girls, especially those facing gender-based violence or barriers to education, employment, or leadership roles, youth, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups of population.						
National SDG indicator	**Disaggregation**	**Measurement**	**Baseline (2015)**	**Latest baseline (date)**	**Target**	**Source**
5.1.1. Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex		Percent		60 (2022)	100	National progress on gender equality and non-discrimination legal frameworks. National counterparts, including National Statistical Offices and National Women's Machinery. (Lead monitoring entity: UNWOMEN)
5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in a) national parliaments and b) local governments	a) national parliament	Percent	26.7	19.4 (2023) 18.4 (2024)	30	Administrative data (Lead monitoring entity: UNWOMEN)
	b) local authorities		18.8	23.0 (2023) 23.0 (2024)	30	
16.1.4 Proportion of people who feel safe or unsafe when walking alone	Total	Percent			66	Sample survey "The level of public confidence in law enforcement agencies" by the
	completely safe		48.4 (2016)	64.0 (2024)		
	safe enough		42.9 (2016)	29.4 (2024)		
	unsafe		8.6 (2016)	5.4 (2024)		

in their neighborhood	men					National Bureau of Statistics (Lead monitoring entity: UNODC)
	completely safe		54.4 (2016)	70.0 (2024)		
	safe enough		39.3 (2016)	26.0 (2024)		
	unsafe		6.2 (2016)	3.4 (2024)		
	women					
	completely safe		42.5 (2016)	58.5 (2024)		
	safe enough		46.4 (2016)	32.6 (2024)		
	unsafe		11.0 (2016)	7.3 (2024)		
16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official in the previous 12 months and who paid a bribe to a public official or were asked to pay a bribe by that public official		Percent	34.2	28.2 (2023) 28.2 (2024)	25.3 (2026) Target exist for 2026 New targets will be available in 2026 with the adoption of New Anticorruption Strategy (Concept) of Kazakhstan If not determined, this indicator will not be monitored for the purpose of this Cooperation Framework	Global Corruption Barometer by Transparency International Social surveys held by Anticorruption Service (Lead monitoring entity: UNODC)
16.3.3.2 Level of trust in law enforcement agencies and the judicial system,	To the internal affairs bodies					Statistical surveys by the National Bureau of Statistics
	Trust			61.6	2025 – 63.3 2026 – 63.4	

broken down by agency. Indicator has several dozen different aggregations					2027 – 63.5 2028 – 63.6 2029 – 63.7 2030 – 63.8	(Lead monitoring entity: UNODC and UNDP)
	Partially trust			27.0		
	Rather, I do not trust			4.4		
	Do not trust			4.6		
	Difficult to answer			2.5		
	Level of trust in police					
	overall	Percent	35.7 (2021)	61.6 (2024)	77 (2028) Target exists for 2028	
	Men		37.0	59.4		
	women		34.7	63.6		
	Level of trust in anticorruption service					
	overall	Percent	27.4 (2021)	50.9 (2024)	66 (2026) Target exist for 2026 New targets will be available in 2026 with the adoption of New Anticorruption Strategy (Concept) of Kazakhstan. If not determined, this indicator will not be monitored for the purpose of this Cooperation Framework.	
	men		29.0	50.4		
	women		25.9	51.4		
	Level of trust in judicial system					
	overall	Percent	61 (2023)	61.8 (2024)	Targets will be available in 2025 with the adoption of new Strategy for the development of the judicial	
	men		60.7	60.8		

	women		61.3	62.7	system. If not determined, will not be monitored for the purpose of this Cooperation Framework.	
Output 1. Human rights, law enforcement and justice institutions have enhanced capacities to ensure fair age and gender-sensitive justice, rule of law and equity for all people in line with international law as well as standards and norms						
UN entities	UNODC, UN Women, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR					

Output 2. Policies, systems and capacities enhance the civic space allowing all people to genuinely participate in public decision-making, and engage in constructive dialogue to achieve social cohesion, justice and equality for all, including the increased representation of women, youth and other groups in decision-making.	
UN entities	ILO, UNDP (UNV), UN Women; UNECE, UNFPA, UNICEF, ESCAP

Output 3. Youth and communities have enhanced skills and resilience to social cohesion and cyber security risks.	
UN entities	UNODC, UNICEF, UNDP (UNV), ITU, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR

**Note: All indicators in the Results Framework table with one exception are nationalized SDG indicators. This approach ensures alignment of the Cooperation Framework with the SDG national strategies, national targets, and secures availability and coherence of data at the end of the Cooperation Framework cycle.*

ANNEX 2: Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Survey/studies *Agencies to (Investigations of a problem or assessment of the conditions of a specified population group, aimed to support the identification of root causes, and development/refinement of implementation strategies and/or baseline indicators)*	The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2026 (SOFI), state of the world's land and water resources for food and agriculture: Systems at breaking point FAO Food Price Index	Index Stigma The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2027 (SOFI), state of the world's land and water resources for food and agriculture: Systems at breaking point FAO Food Price Index	The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2028 (SOFI), state of the world's land and water resources for food and agriculture: Systems at breaking point FAO Food Price Index	The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2029 (SOFI), state of the world's land and water resources for food and agriculture: Systems at breaking point FAO Food Price Index The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS - 8)	Index Stigma, The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2030 (SOFI), state of the world's land and water resources for food and agriculture: Systems at breaking point FAO Food Price Index
Monitoring systems *(UNCT support to national information systems, with regular reporting of data related to UNSDCF results)*	Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals until 2030, (Bureau of Statistics and UNCT) Global AIDS Monitoring FAOSTAT, AQUASTAT - FAO's Global Information System on Water and Agriculture, Sectoral data on water and land resources, GHG emissions in agriculture from Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water	Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals until 2030, (Bureau of Statistics and UNCT) Global AIDS Monitoring FAOSTAT, AQUASTAT - FAO's Global Information System on Water and Agriculture, Sectoral data on water and land resources, GHG emissions in agriculture from Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water	Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals until 2030, (Bureau of Statistics and UNCT) Global AIDS Monitoring FAOSTAT, AQUASTAT - FAO's Global Information System on Water and Agriculture, Sectoral data on water and land resources, GHG emissions in agriculture from Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water	Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals until 2030, (Bureau of Statistics and UNCT) Global AIDS Monitoring FAOSTAT, AQUASTAT - FAO's Global Information System on Water and Agriculture, Sectoral data on water and land resources, GHG emissions in agriculture from Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water	Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals until 2030, (Bureau of Statistics and UNCT) Global AIDS Monitoring FAOSTAT, AQUASTAT - FAO's Global Information System on Water and Agriculture, Sectoral data on water and land resources, GHG emissions in agriculture from Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water

	Resource and Irrigation UNESCO Institute of Statistics data on education UNICEF support to TransMonEE platform for NSOs from Eastern Europe and Central Asia, along with key partners, for child-related data collection and quality analysis within National Statistical Systems. Support to national Children's statistical yearbook, Child-wellbeing Index report.	Resource and Irrigation UNESCO Institute of Statistics data on education UNICEF support to TransMonEE platform for NSOs from Eastern Europe and Central Asia, along with key partners, for child-related data collection and quality analysis within National Statistical Systems. Support to national Children's statistical yearbook, Child-wellbeing Index report.	Resource and Irrigation UNESCO Institute of Statistics data on education UNICEF support to TransMonEE platform for NSOs from Eastern Europe and Central Asia, along with key partners, for child-related data collection and quality analysis within National Statistical Systems. Support to national Children's statistical yearbook, Child-wellbeing Index report.	Resource and Irrigation UNESCO Institute of Statistics data on education UNICEF support to TransMonEE platform for NSOs from Eastern Europe and Central Asia, along with key partners, for child-related data collection and quality analysis within National Statistical Systems. Support to national Children's statistical yearbook, Child-wellbeing Index report.	Resource and Irrigation UNESCO Institute of Statistics data on education UNICEF support to TransMonEE platform for NSOs from Eastern Europe and Central Asia, along with key partners, for child-related data collection and quality analysis within National Statistical Systems. Support to national Children's statistical yearbook, Child-wellbeing Index report.
Reviews *(Drawings on United Nations agencies' and partners' monitoring systems as well as findings of surveys, studies and evaluations)*	CCA Update (UNCT/RCO) Results Group Reviews Cooperation Framework (UNCT/RCO)	CCA Update (UNCT/RCO) Results Group Reviews Cooperation Framework (UNCT/RCO)	CCA Update (UNCT/RCO) Results Group Reviews Cooperation Framework (UNCT/RCO)	CCA Update (UNCT/RCO) Results Group Reviews Cooperation Framework (UNCT/RCO)	CCA Update (UNCT/RCO) Results Group Reviews Cooperation Framework (UNCT/RCO)
Evaluations *(Evaluations of United Nations agencies' programmes and projects contributing to* Cooperation Framework Evaluation)	A mid-term evaluation of the effectiveness of prison rehabilitation programs and post-release support services will assess their impact on reducing recidivism and improving	Project evaluation: Phase 2: Supporting the Economic Empowerment of Afghan Women through Education and Training in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan (UNDP)	Thematic evaluation: UNDP contribution to gender equality and women's empowerment (UNDP)	Final Evaluation of the Cooperation Framework (RCO/UNCT) Outcome evaluation: UNDP contribution to economic	Outcome evaluation: UNDP contribution to addressing social vulnerabilities and inequalities as well as effective and accountable institutions and

	reintegration outcomes. Project evaluation: Creating conditions for the attraction of investors in energy efficiency in Kazakhstan (UNDP) GEF project evaluation: Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Kazakhstan (UNDP) Independent in-depth evaluation of the 2021-2025 UNODC Regional Programme for Central Asia	GEF project mid-term evaluation: Promotion of sustainable food systems and improved ecosystems services in Northern Kazakhstan Landscape (UNDP) GEF project final evaluation: Energy efficiency standards and labels (UNDP)		diversification and transitioning from resource dependency to a knowledge-based economy (UNDP) Outcome evaluation: UNDP contribution to strengthened social cohesion and civic engagement in governance (UNDP) GEF project final evaluation: Promotion of sustainable food systems and improved ecosystems services in Northern Kazakhstan Landscape (UNDP)	service delivery mechanisms (UNDP) Outcome evaluation: UNDP contribution to supporting climate and disaster resilience as well as sustainable management of natural resources (UNDP)
M&E Capacity Development *(Major capacity development activities to strengthen partner M&E capabilities)*	Workshops to build M&E capacities and improve the M&E quality carried out by individual Agencies	Workshops to build M&E capacities and improve the M&E quality carried out by individual Agencies	Workshops to build M&E capacities and improve the M&E quality carried out by individual Agencies	Workshops to build M&E capacities and improve the M&E quality carried out by individual Agencies	Workshops to build M&E capacities and improve the M&E quality carried out by individual Agencies
Use and Users of M&E Information *(Decision-making processes and* *events drawing on the findings, conclusions, recommendations and lessons learned from the M&E activities above)*	One UN Country Results Reports (RCO/UNCT) Joint Steering Committee (annual meeting) Result Groups and thematic groups	One UN Country Results Reports (RCO/UNCT) Joint Steering Committee (annual meeting) Result Groups and thematic groups	One UN Country Results Reports (RCO/UNCT) Joint Steering Committee (annual meeting) Result Groups and thematic groups	One UN Country Results Reports (RCO/UNCT) Joint Steering Committee (annual meeting) Result Groups and thematic groups	One UN Country Results Reports (RCO/UNCT) Joint Steering Committee (annual meeting) Result Groups and thematic groups

	SDG Coordination Council/Economic Research Institute (meetings/annual reports) Relevant ministries and governmental agencies	SDG Coordination Council/Economic Research Institute (meetings/annual reports) Relevant ministries and governmental agencies	SDG Coordination Council/Economic Research Institute (meetings/annual reports) Relevant ministries and governmental agencies	SDG Coordination Council/Economic Research Institute (meetings/annual reports) Relevant ministries and governmental agencies	SDG Coordination Council/Economic Research Institute (meetings/annual reports) Relevant ministries and governmental agencies

ANNEX 3: Legal Annex

1. Whereas the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan (the "Government") has entered into the agreements listed below with the United Nations, including its Funds, Programmes and other subsidiary organs, and other organizations of the United Nations system ("UN System Organizations"), which are applicable to their programme activities in the Republic of Kazakhstan (the "UN Agreements") under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (the "Cooperation Framework");

2. Whereas the UN Agreements, together with the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13 February 1946 (the "General Convention") and/or the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21 November 1947 (the "Specialized Agencies Convention") as applicable, form the primary existing legal basis for the relationship between the Government and each UN System Organization for supporting the country to deliver on the Cooperation Framework, and are non-exhaustive and without prejudice to any other legal instruments the Government may enter into, including additional agreements with UN System Organizations for the purpose of their activities in the country:

a) With the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a basic agreement to govern UNDP's assistance to the country, which was signed by the Government and UNDP (the "Standard Basic Assistance Agreement" or "SBAA"), on 4 October 1994. This Cooperation Framework, together with a joint results group work plan specifying UNDP programme activities further to this Cooperation Framework (which shall form part of this Cooperation Framework and is incorporated herein by reference), constitute together a "project document" as referred to in the SBAA. The implementing partner and UNDP will sign a project agreement containing the specific arrangements for each project further to the relevant project document.

b) With the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the government of Kazakhstan and UNICEF on November 25, 1994.

c) With the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) a Country Cooperation Agreement concluded between the Government of Kazakhstan and UNHCR on 14 November 2007, and ratified on 19 March 2011, and came into force on 7 April 2011.

d) With the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), an agreement concluded by an exchange of letters, which entered into force on 6 October 2020, pursuant to which the standard basic assistance agreement (SBAA) between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Kazakhstan shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to UNFPA in the country.

e) With the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the provisions of the SBAA between UNDP and the government, signed and entered into force on 4 October 1994 shall be applied, mutatis mutandis, to UNIDO projects and programmes in Kazakhstan.

f) With the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), an Agreement for the establishment of an FAO Partnership and Liaison Office in the Republic of Kazakhstan concluded between the Government and FAO on 23 May 2015, and ratified by the Government of Kazakhstan on the 4th July 2018.

g) With the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Agreement between the government of Kazakhstan and UNESCO concerning the establishment of a UNESCO Office in Almaty, Kazakhstan concluded on 9 August 1995.

h) With the World Health Organization (WHO) a Basic Agreement for the establishment of technical advisory cooperation relations signed by the Government and WHO on 12 December 1994.

i) With the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the provisions of the SBAA concluded between UNDP and the government of Kazakhstan on 4 October 1994 be applied, mutatis mutandis, to UNODC.

j) With the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the provisions of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) concluded between UNDP and the government of Kazakhstan on 4 October 1994 be applied, mutatis mutandis, to UNAIDS.

k) With the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Agreement on cooperation between the government of Kazakhstan and the IOM concluded on January 13, 1998.

l) With the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), an exchange of letters dated 9 September 2019 to the effect that the SBAA signed by UNDP and the government of Kazakhstan on 4 October 1994 be applied, mutatis mutandis, to UN Women.

m) With the United Nations Department of Global Communications / the United Nations Information Office (UNDGC/UNIC/UNO), the provisions of the SBAA concluded between UNDP and the government of Kazakhstan on 4 October 1994 be applied, mutatis mutandis, to UNDGC/UNIC/UNO.

n) With the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), an agreement concluded by an exchange of letters which entered into force on 8 April 2022 and signed by UNEP's Executive Director and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan on 30 March 2022 and 8 April 2022 respectively, pursuant to which the standard basic assistance agreement (SBAA) signed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the government of Kazakhstan on 4 October 1994 shall mutatis mutandis apply to UNEP in the country.

o) With the United Nations Volunteers (UNV), the provisions of the SBAA concluded between UNDP and the government of Kazakhstan on 4 October 1994 be applied, mutatis mutandis, to UNV.

p) With the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator ("RCO"), an agreement by way of exchange of letters dated 28 February 2025 and 30 April 2025 applying the SBAA, mutatis mutandis, to the RCO.

q) With the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan relating to the establishment of the Subregional Office for North and Central Asia of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific signed on 4 May 2011 and the Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan regarding administrative and financial arrangements for the Subregional Office for North and Central Asia signed on 11 July 2016.

For all UN agencies including UNDRR, UN-Habitat, UNECE, ITC, UNCTAD: assistance to the government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency's governing structures.

3. With respect to all UN System Organizations: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions, decisions, rules and procedures of each UN System Organization.

4. Without prejudice to the above, the Government shall:

(i) apply to each UN System Organization and its property, funds, assets, officials and experts on mission the provisions of the General Convention and/or the Specialized Agencies Convention; and

(ii) accord to each UN System Organization, its officials and other persons performing services on behalf of that UN System Organization, the privileges, immunities and facilities set out in the UN Agreement applicable to such UN System Organization.

5. United Nations Volunteers performing services on behalf of a UN System Organization shall be entitled to the privileges and immunities accorded to officials of such UN System Organization.

6. Any privileges, immunities and facilities granted to a UN System Organization under the Cooperation Framework shall be no less favourable than those granted by the Government to any other UN System Organization signatory of the Cooperation Framework.

7. Without prejudice to the UN Agreements, the Government shall be responsible for dealing with any claims which may be brought by third parties against any of the UN System Organizations and their officials, experts on mission or other persons performing services on their behalf, and shall hold them harmless in respect of any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the Cooperation Framework, except where it is mutually agreed by the Government and the relevant UN System Organization(s) that such claims and liabilities

arise from gross negligence or misconduct of that UN System Organization, or its officials, or persons performing services.

8. Nothing in or relating to this Cooperation Framework shall be deemed:

(i) a waiver, express or implied, of the privileges and immunities of any UN System Organization; or

(ii) the acceptance by any UN System Organization of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising from this Cooperation Framework,

whether under the General Convention or the Specialized Agencies Convention, the UN Agreements, or otherwise, and no provisions of this Cooperation Framework shall be interpreted or applied in a manner, or to an extent, that is inconsistent with such privileges and immunities.

Annex 4: HACT

All cash transfers to an Implementing Partner are based on the Work Plans (WPs) agreed between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies. Cash transfers for activities detailed in work plans (WPs) can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:

1. Cash transferred directly to the Implementing Partner:
    a. Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or
    b. After activities have been completed (reimbursement);

2. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner;
3. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners.

Direct cash transfers shall be requested and released for programme implementation periods not exceeding three months. Reimbursements of previously authorized expenditures shall be requested and released quarterly or after the completion of activities. The UN system agencies shall not be obligated to reimburse expenditure made by the Implementing Partner over and above the authorized amounts.

Following the completion of any activity, any balance of funds shall be refunded or programmed by mutual agreement between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may depend on the findings of a review of the public financial management capacity in the case of a Government Implementing Partner, and of an assessment of the financial management capacity of the non-UN Implementing Partner. A qualified consultant, such as a public accounting firm, selected by the UN system agencies may conduct such an assessment, in which the

Implementing Partner shall participate. The Implementing Partner may participate in the selection of the consultant.

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

In case of direct cash transfer or reimbursement, the UN system agencies shall notify the Implementing Partner of the amount approved by the UN system agencies and shall disburse funds to the Implementing Partner in [here insert the number of days as per UN system agency schedule].

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

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

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

A standard Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of the work plan (WP), will be used by Implementing Partners to request the release of funds, or to secure the agreement that [UN organization] will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. The Implementing Partners will use the FACE to report on the utilization of cash received. The Implementing Partner shall identify the designated official(s) authorized to provide the account details, request and certify the use of cash. The FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the Implementing Partner.

Cash transferred to Implementing Partners should be spent for the purpose of activities and within the timeframe as agreed in the work plans (WPs) only.

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

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

To facilitate scheduled and special audits, each Implementing Partner receiving cash from [UN organization] will provide UN system agency or its representative with timely access to:

- all financial records which establish the transactional record of the cash transfers provided by [UN system agency], together with relevant documentation;
- all relevant documentation and personnel associated with the functioning of the Implementing Partner's internal control structure through which the cash transfers have passed.

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

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

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

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