

UNDAF DESIGN TEAM | TERMS OF REFERENCE

I. INTRODUCTION

The General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/72/279) ushered in a comprehensive package of reforms repositioning the United Nations development system. Amongst others, it called for a strategic, flexible and results-and action-oriented United Nations Development Assistance Framework as the most important instrument for the planning and implementation of United Nations development activities in each country, in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to be prepared and finalised in full consultation and agreement with national Governments. It further requested that the needs-based tailored presence of UN country teams be built on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and finalised through open and inclusive dialogue between host Government and the United Nations development system, facilitated by the resident coordinator.

The UNSDG has initiated system-wide policy deliberations on what this implies for the design and delivery of a new generation of UNDAFs, with the measure of success to be determined by the relevance, effectiveness and efficient collective contribution of the UN to the national priorities and global norms that underpin SDG-achievement in a country.

The first deliberation held 11-12 June 2018 in New York, brought together colleagues from headquarters, regional and country levels, including Resident Coordinators. The participants deliberated on the scope and implications of a new UNDAF, concluding with a proposed roadmap for delivering on the design and support to this re-envisioned strategic framework. The proposed roadmap encapsulates key elements of the enabling environment and incentives needed within the UN development system for a new UNDAF process and links it to other aspects of UN reform underway. It is cognizant of the fact that changes in the UNDAF process should happen alongside major decisions and progress in addressing the connectedness between development, humanitarian, human rights and peace efforts, with the aim of achieving greater coherence through a more joined-up and shared vision and contribution of the UN in a given country context.

A system-wide effort at headquarters, regional and country level, marshalling the capacities, practices, tools and leadership commitment of the UN development system will be needed to deliver on the various products sign-posted on this road map. In this regard a small, time-bound UNDAF Design Team is proposed, to scope and draft new UNDAF guidance. The attached workshop report provides key background for initiating the work of the Design Team.

II. UNDAF DESIGN TEAM OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the UNDAF Design Team is to bring together and coordinate system-wide capacities to prepare and deliver on the updated guidance for a revitalized new generation of UNDAFs by 31 March 2019, with a first group of UNCTs using this guidance to frame a new generation of UNDAFs through 2019. The Team will be responsible for:

- (a) Interim design proposal: Prepare the initial framing blocks that will guide the new design, for consideration by the UNSDG Core Group, i.e. the elements of change that will deliver an UNDAF that is fit-for-purpose for the 2030 Agenda.
- (b) New UNDAF guidance: Ensure delivery of the guidance, based on a process of consultation including with UNCTs embarking on UNDAF design, and bringing in the key capacities of the UN to do so.

III. COMPOSITION, MANAGEMENT AND WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

Co-leads

The UNDAF Design Team shall be co-chaired by Ms. Nada Al Nashif, Assistant Director General for Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO and Ms Laura Londén, Deputy Executive Director (Management) of UNFPA who will present the draft products a) and b) above, for review by the UNSDG Core Group.

Composition

The UNDAF Design Team will be comprised of the following entities: FAO; ILO; OHCHR; UNECA, UNCTAD; UNDP; UNEP; UNESCO; UNFPA; UNHCR; UNICEF; UN Women; WFP and WHO. This will ensure the team has technical depth, brings to bear agency best practice, and links directly to policy and programme processes and instruments to ensure alignment between systemwide and entity specific demands and requirements. A representative of the Regional Commissions will participate to ensure coherence with regional and transboundary activities. Representation at the UNDAF Design Team will be at Director or Deputy Director level. A senior member of the Transition Team for the repositioning of the UNDS will also be a member of the Design Team to help ensure alignment with other components of the reform package.

Management and Working Arrangements

The UNDAF Design Team co-chairs will provide strategic guidance to the team and oversee progress in achieving the roadmap for revitalising the UNDAF. With technical and secretariat support from DOCO, the co-chairs will convene regular meetings of the Design Team, provide overall substantive steer, bring in colleagues from other parts of the UN system as necessary and appropriate; consult and decide on working modalities; liaise and ensure connectedness with other reform processes and relevant coordination bodies, such as the Strategic Results Groups and Joint Steering Committee.

The UNDAF Design Team will be hands-on in drafting and finalising the products, delivering on the various milestones as well as in designing and facilitating policy deliberations with other stakeholders, including reference groups. In this context, the team will institute two mechanisms for system-wide consultation.

- (a) **A Headquarters Reference Group** consisting of UNSDG entities (not represented in design team): DPA, IFAD, IOM, OCHA, UNAIDS, UNDESA, UNHABITAT, UNIDO, UNISDR, UNODC, UNOPS, UN-PBSO, WMO and WTO that participate in the UNDAF at country level, and UNECE, UNECLAC, UNESCAP, UNESCWA.
- (b) **A Country and Regional Reference group** consisting of UN RC, agency representatives, UNDG Regional Directors, Regional UNDG peer support groups, with a mix of experience in new UNDAF formulation and those headed into design process. The mix of representatives in the Reference group should cut across regions and country context.
- (c) **A number of country-based reference group members will be asked to organize small in-country consultations with government counterparts and other partners, to seek inputs into and validation of the emerging design proposals.**

Time line for work of Design Team:

- Co-leads call for first meeting and initiates work - week of 20 August
- Briefs on progress made and presents interim design proposal to Core Group (electronic share) – week of 27 August
- An outline of the main building blocks for the new UNDAF is provided to the UNSDG Core Group by mid-October. Based on this document, the UNDAF Design Team will finalize the guidance.
- Full draft guidance from the UNDAF Design Team for formal endorsement to the UNSDG – first quarter 2019.