

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT DELIVERY MODEL



The Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) provides a dynamic interface between the formulation of global policies in the economic, social, and environmental spheres and national action.

Its work is guided by the landmark agreements on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA). The universal and transformative vision embodied in these agreements reflects the scale and complexity of the sustainable development challenges that the world faces today. Its implementation will require action across a much broader range of issues than ever before. Member States, especially developing countries, have asked the UN system to help them build the capacities necessary to transform this vision into national realities.

Building on its extensive normative and analytical work as well as its unique access to a global network of development experts, practitioners, and partners UN DESA assists Member States to translate internationally agreed policy frameworks for sustainable development into viable national strategies, policies, and plans. It does so through policy advisory services and capacity development support provided to countries that so require. To ensure that such support is effective and sustainable in the context of the new development framework, UN DESA is adopting a new approach to capacity development.

A NEW VISION:

UN DESA will enable Member States to adopt an integrated, transformative, people-centered approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the AAAA that leaves no one behind.

MISSION AND GOALS:

Working in partnership with UN entities and other development partners, UN DESA supports Member States to build capacities to formulate integrated, evidence-based, inclusive, and well-funded national strategies and plans for sustainable development. Three key goals will guide this effort, in line with UN DESA's mandate, core competencies, capacities, resources, and value propositions:



1. Advance coherent, evidence-based policy and planning frameworks for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

2. Build effective and accountable national institutions for inclusive and participatory decision-making processes to support sustainable development.

3. Strengthen national technical capacities to mobilize the means of implementation (MOI) for the 2030 Agenda.

AREAS OF WORK:

UN DESA will focus on supporting national efforts for:

1. Policy coherence – by strengthening national capacities to formulate mutually reinforcing policies across sectors and governmental departments so that policies work together to effectively achieve national development goals. Assistance in this area involves training government officials in the use of different quantitative models and other analytical tools to analyze synergies and trade-offs across policy areas to inform policy decisions.

2. Social Integration and inclusion of vulnerable groups – by strengthening mechanisms and policies for social inclusion to give disadvantaged social groups a voice in policy making and implementation so that no one is left behind. This includes assisting national stakeholders in the use of tools and methodologies for the production and collection of data on vulnerable social groups.

3. Competent Institutions and integrated, inclusive approaches – by strengthening national capacities to develop effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions that are equipped to implement the 2030 Agenda. This includes assisting national stakeholders in employing Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and e-government solutions for public service delivery as well as multi-stakeholder, “whole-of-government,” and “whole-of-society” approaches for policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation.

4. Evidence-based policy – by building regional and national capacities for data production, collection, disaggregation, and analysis, and by modernizing and strengthening national statistical systems to support evidence-based policy-making, monitoring, assessment, and reporting related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This includes developing international statistical standards and methodologies in economic, social, environmental, and demographic statistics, environmental accounting, and guidance on geo-spatial data infrastructure and related standards.

5. Means of implementation – by strengthening domestic resource mobilization systems (e.g. taxation and social cooperative systems) and enhancing national capacities

to effectively use multilateral trade mechanisms such as international support measures for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs); and multilateral financing mechanisms for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) to mobilize international resources for developing countries.

Modalities of UN DESA Capacity Development Assistance: Support to these capacity development areas is provided through specialized policy advisory services, training, workshops, and expert group meetings as well as through on-line global knowledge platforms that provide access to a broad range of analytical tools, manuals, and best practices. All these products and services build on and feed back into the Department's extensive normative and analytical work to address a broad array of capacity development areas critical to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Delivery Model: With a pool of around 50 experts, including dedicated inter-regional advisors, and a budget of about USD 50 million biannually – about USD 13 million from the Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation; USD 6 million from the Development Account; and about USD 31 million from extra-budgetary resources – UN DESA is streamlining the way it delivers its capacity development support to maximize the use of its resources.

Most of its efforts focus on developing well-tested methodologies, tools and approaches that can assist Member States translate the new sustainable development framework into national policies. These tools – which range from quantitative analytical models for integrated policy assessment; to methodologies to help reduce tax related costs and double taxation; to guidelines to produce quality and disaggregated data, just to mention a few – are then tested in pilot countries through a combination of global, regional, and national interventions conducted in collaboration with strategic partners. Partners also help disseminate and scale up their application to other countries.

Working in collaboration with strategic partners – which currently include UNDP, UNCTAD, UN Regional Commissions, World Bank, WTO, IMF, OECD as well as several academic and research institutions – UN DESA has been able to extend its assistance to more than 75 countries, 29% of which are Least Developed Countries (LDCs), 13% Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and 37% of which are in Africa.

The Department will continue to systematically establish and strengthen long-term partnerships, especially within the UN system, to deliver its assistance to countries more effectively, efficiently and sustainably, and in line with the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) principles of system-wide coherence and delivering as one. Partnerships will also help broaden the scope and impact of UN DESA support to Member States and thus help accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

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