

**Background materials to the  
Report of the Secretary-General on Development  
Cooperation in Middle Income Countries**

**Contributions received from the UN Development  
System**

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**Activities of the UN system and international financial institutions in middle-income countries in 2015-2017, listed by agencies and, where applicable, by the following important areas of cooperation:**

- a. Support for promoting good governance, the rule of law, the eradication of poverty and hunger;**
- b. Efforts to mainstream support to South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation (para 5, A/RES/70/215);**
- c. Assessment and determination of national priorities, supporting the formulation and implementation of national sustainable development strategies, five year plans and other development plans and policy documents (paras 6 and 14, A/RES/70/215);**
- d. Support for collecting quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data to monitor the progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (para 16, A/RES/70/215)**

## **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

### **Major achievements --- Investment support work---**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) increasingly provides coherent investment support services in Middle-Income Countries (MICs), strengthening their investment formulation and implementations capacities and building productive partnerships with Governments, international financing institutions and bilateral donors, as well as with civil society and private sector actors. During the period 2015- 2016, FAO assisted 36 MICs in preparing and approving 60 investment operations for a total investment of over USD 4.9 billion, representing 70 percent of all the investments leveraged over the given period through a FAO partnership with main financing institutions. The main areas of FAO assistance included the agricultural sector analysis and programming, and support to strategies and investment operations in the areas of irrigation, drainage and water management; environment and natural resources management; competitiveness and productivity; rural finance and micro-enterprises; fisheries; livestock; agricultural research and extension; forest ecosystems and communities; land management; and climate change adaptation. Support to MICs over the given period mainly related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 and 2 on ending poverty and zero hunger, with contributions to SDG5 (gender equality); SDG6 (water); SDG10 (reduced inequalities), SDG12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG13 ( climate action), SDG15 (life on land) and SDG17 (partnerships).

Acknowledging that more domestic and international private resources become available when countries move along the MIC categories, FAO provided assistance with strengthening policy-investment linkages at country level to promote more efficient public investments and create an enabling policy environment for private sector investors. The examples include FAO's continuous support, in partnership with EBRD, to public-private platforms in Serbia and Ukraine for the agricultural sector policy dialogue; assistance with the agricultural sector strategies formulation in Cambodia and Bangladesh; and support to the CAADP process with formulation of the National Agriculture Investment Plans in a large number of African countries.

To meet growing demands of MICs in knowledge transfer on sustainable agricultural investments and to showcase best practices, FAO promoted the use of several online multi-lingual knowledge sharing platforms, including the Investment Learning Platform; EastAgri and MedAgri networks that connects investment practitioners through exchange of knowledge and good practices on agricultural investment in Eastern Europe and the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean; and Agronoticias, a communication and information website for Latin America (developed jointly with the World Bank).

Moving forward, FAO intends to increase its support to MICs in formulation of effective investments for climate change adaptation and mitigation in the agricultural sectors. In particular, such assistance will help the countries to utilize the opportunities of dedicated climate funds in addressing vulnerabilities and meeting the targets of INDCs. The most recent developments include FAO engagement with the Government of Paraguay in preparation of a \$250 million investment project to be submitted for financing to the Green Climate Fund. In addition, FAO is in dialogue with CABI to establish a greater partnership and jointly develop a regional investment program to address climate adaptation needs in Central American agriculture.

## **B. South-South Cooperation**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has repeatedly emphasized the importance it places on strengthening strategic partnerships with Middle-Income Countries (MICs), especially through South-South Cooperation (SSC). In 2015, the Conference and the Council appreciated the proposal for a more proactive and tailored approach in respect of MICs in the Organization's Medium Term Plan 2014-17 (revised) and Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17. Subsequently, FAO's work on SSC was again endorsed by the Council in 2016.

FAO has worked together with some of MICs to strengthen partnership and cooperation through an upgrading Partnership and Liaison Offices in the country. In 2016, FAO assisted MICs in preparing and approving operations for a total level of approval of over USD 360 million, representing 38 per cent of all voluntary contributions and technical cooperation programme approvals from regular budget. FAO's technical assistance that focused on the development priorities of the MICs included agricultural sector analysis and programming, and support to strategies and investment operations in the areas of irrigation, drainage and water management; environment and natural resources management; competitiveness and productivity; rural finance and micro-enterprises; fisheries; agricultural research and extension; forest ecosystems and communities; land management; and climate change adaptation.

Facilitated by a dedicated SSC team at FAO, MICs are increasingly soliciting FAO to facilitate SSC, both as providers as well as hosts. Countries are increasingly funding their own development priorities from their budgets through unilateral trust funds, using expertise of FAO and/or other countries. FAO developed integrated SSC strategy and flexible modalities with diverse partners, including non-state

actors and Triangular Partners, to meet growing SSC demands from Southern countries and scale up success achieved in MICs, in order to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Over the years, FAO has been involved in fielding more than 1 900 Southern experts from 30 countries, providing solutions to over 90 host countries. More than half of all FAO's SSC initiatives have been funded by MICs, thanks to long-term and well-established partnerships with these Southern countries, such as Brazil and China. In 2015-2016, 44 SSC projects were ongoing. The main providers of expertise included Brazil, China, Cuba, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Peru, Turkey, Tunisia, Venezuela and Vietnam. The majority of the SSC exchanges included trainings and study tours as modalities of cooperation, as well as policy dialogues, short and long-term expertise and in-kind and technical solutions. Most of the exchanges took place in the Africa region, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean. Thematic areas of cooperation focused around the food and agriculture and included inter alia the following: agricultural marketing and credit, agricultural storage and processing, aquaculture, agro-forestry, irrigation, agricultural statistics and food security information, animal feed production, climate change adaptation, coffee rust diagnosis and early warning, family farming, horticulture, livestock development, locust management, organic agriculture, rice value chain development, school feeding, seed sector development, and urban agriculture. Furthermore, FAO has increased its efforts to facilitate SSC knowledge sharing and learning between MICs, mainly through its SSC Gateway, including 35 institutions from 11 MICs already on board.

## International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The IMF continues to work closely with middle-income economies to ensure macroeconomic stability, promote international trade, support high employment growth and sustainable economic development. In 2016, the Fund implemented a number of internal reforms, most notably on quotas. Four emerging market economies – Brazil, China, India and Russia – are now among the IMF's 10 largest members, and more than 6 percent of quota shares shifted to dynamic emerging market economies and developing countries. Reform of the International Monetary System is a Fund policy priority, in particular strengthening the global financial safety net to reduce the risk and vulnerabilities of emerging economies integrating into the global economy. A Fund staff policy paper concludes<sup>1</sup> that the Global Financial Safety Net has become larger and more multi-layered than before - while refinements to the IMF's surveillance and lending frameworks have filled important gaps in the system. However, there is still scope for further improvements to enhance the predictability, reliability and speed of insurance and finance mechanisms and to provide the right incentives for countries to implement sound macroeconomic policies.

### Surveillance

The IMF continues to improve its surveillance of members' economic and financial policies in line with the priorities established by the 2014 Triennial Surveillance Review, the Managing Director's

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Policy-Papers/Issues/2016/12/31/Adequacy-of-the-Global-Financial-Safety-Net-PP5025>

Action Plan, and the IMF's Global Policy Agenda. These priorities include: (i) integrating and deepening risk and spillover analysis; (ii) mainstreaming macro financial surveillance; (iii) giving more attention to structural policies, including labor market issues; (iv) delivering cohesive and expert policy advice; and (v) adopting a client-focused approach to surveillance, supported by clear and candid communication. The IMF has further integrated risk analysis into its operations and analysis of cross-country spillovers into the World Economic Outlook. The IMF introduced enhanced financial sector surveillance for pilot economies in 2015 and will mainstream this initiative for all members in 2017 and 2018. It has also furthered its work on issues relevant to middle income countries including: approaches to macro-structural issues, causes of the global productivity slowdown, revenue mobilization and international tax issues, policies to deal with capital flows, and enhanced coverage and knowledge-sharing on gender and inequality issues.

## **Lending**

The IMF had financing arrangements in place with 23 middle-income economies in mid-June 2017 with total financial commitments of approximately US\$165 billion. Support is provided under different facilities according to a members' balance of payments need. Flexible Credit Lines (FCL) arranged with Mexico, Columbia, and Poland amount to approximately US\$ 106 billion. Concessional financing commitments with a zero interest rate from the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT) are in place with five MICs that are eligible for such financing (Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Grenada, Moldova and Sao Tome-Principe).

## **Capacity Development**

One of the Fund's key areas of work with all members, upon request is Capacity Development in fiscal, monetary and financial, statistical, and legal areas. Technical Assistance to emerging market and middle income countries has been growing over the last few years, with the number person hours of field delivery going towards emerging economies and middle incomes countries nearly equal to those going to Low Income Developing Countries in 2016.

The IMF works with member countries in emerging economies to strengthen and streamline revenue authorities based on the needs and aims of the member countries. Examples of this include: holding workshops with the Ghanaian government on revenue forecasting for natural resources revenue; supporting the revenue department of Grenada to implement reforms that include effective enforcement actions and strengthening managerial capacity; jointly hosting with Colombia, a conference on 'determining the tax base for the extractives industry in the Andean Region;' and supporting the development of a non-oil tax system in Kuwait.

Technical assistance on monetary and financial issues in middle-income economies includes: advice on banking supervision, bank resolution, and crisis prevention to support the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank; assistance to Paraguay centered on implementing risk-based supervision and implementing inflation targeting; while assistance to Ukraine has aimed at enhancing bank supervision, the foreign exchange market, domestic debt issuance, monetary policy, and the structure of the central bank.

The largest single capacity development project on statistics is the Enhanced Data Dissemination Initiative. Results have included the completion of new private capital flow surveys leading to improvements in external sector statistics and the rebasing of national accounts, which provided

policymakers with a more accurate and often sharply different picture of the size and structure of the economy.

The IMF continues to receive demand for technical assistance on anti-money laundering/combating the financing of terror (AML/CFT) from a range of member countries and continues to provide legal capacity development for financial and fiscal law, tax law, corporate and household insolvency and claims enforcement.

## International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Much of ITU's work in the regions focused on the elimination of disparities, promoting equity and digital and social inclusion, capacity development and building telecom consumer advocacy and promoting ICT as a medium for advocacy and developmental communication - thus contributing to the empowerment of people with specific needs such as women and girls, youth, persons with different types of disabilities and indigenous peoples and people living in rural areas (<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Pages/default.aspx>). The main focus has been to support countries in the appropriation of ICTs by helping to strengthen their existing communication systems, develop infrastructure to optimize the use of it and develop and implement adequate policy and regulation. ITU is constantly focusing on the development of programmes and initiatives in cooperation and partnering with governments (through cost-sharing) and is doing a great effort to bring on board external resources from other relevant partners such as the national and regional development institutions, in addition to promote South-South cooperation and partnership with emerging economies to hasten involvement on the achievement of established goals.

ITU has carried out a number of activities aiming at supporting its Members to improve the quality of existing public policies and the development of national policies in countries that lack adequate policies as to ensure affordable and accessible access to ICTs to all (<http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Pages/Reports.aspx>). ITU is also supporting countries in switching from analogue to digital television and in this sense has developed Guidelines to help countries to make a smooth transition to Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting (DTTB) and introduction of Mobile Television Broadcasting (MTV). Through direct assistance and the adjusted application of the Guidelines (<http://www.itu.int/pub/D-HDB-GUIDELINES.01-2010>), ITU is helping countries to develop a well-defined roadmap for transition covering national goals, strategies and key activities, helping to reach consensus on requirements and solutions, providing a mechanism to help forecast the key milestones and a framework to help plan and coordinate the steps for the transition.

International Girls in ICT Day (<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Women-and-Girls/Girls-in-ICT-Portal/Pages/Portal.aspx>), is an ITU initiative which aims to create a global environment that empowers and encourages girls and young women to consider careers in the growing field of ICTs, enabling both girls and technology companies to reap the benefits of greater female participation in the ICT sector. International Girls in ICT Day is celebrated on the 4th Thursday in April every year. To date, over 240,000 girls and young women have taken part in more than 7,200 celebrations of International Girls in ICT Day in 160 countries worldwide. In 2017, the Girls in ICT Day was celebrated on 27 April.

ITU, in collaboration with other relevant regional and international organizations, is implementing human resources capacity building in the regions on conformity, interoperability and testing to

clarify fundamental aspects as accreditation, certification, mutual recognition agreements and to explore the possibility to establish test centres in developing countries. The ITU Conformity and Interoperability (C&I) programme was initiated at the request of ITU's membership to enhance the conformity and interoperability of ICT products to reduce the digital divide and the Standardization Gap (<http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Technology/Pages/ConformanceandInteroperability.aspx>)

## United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

- **Support for promoting good governance, the rule of law, the eradication of poverty and hunger**

UNDP recognizes that MICs still face significant challenges in achieving sustainable development. Most of the countries that have achieved impressive average rates of growth and development, have also seen rising inequalities, widening the gaps between rich and poor people; women and men; people of different ethnicities, abilities, religions, places of residence or other categories. In MICs, the extreme poor live in “pockets” left behind due to market or governance failure; exclusion or discrimination. Many are in remote communities, largely disconnected from society or belong to marginalized groups facing multiple, compounding sources of discrimination. Entrenched inequalities have left them locked out of their economies, societies and political systems with little chance of escaping poverty sustainably.

In line with UNDP's Strategic Plan and the 2030 Agenda, UNDP mobilizes stakeholders in MICs to eradicate poverty while addressing the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. UNDP also recognizes the changing role of MICs in development, as well as the expectations that have been built around these countries.

UNDP pays close attention to the heterogeneity within the classic MIC category and adopt a more multidimensional approach to this broad gamut of countries—one allowing for a more tailored approach across a variety of functions. UNDP has developed a more agile and responsive presence in these countries, as well as organizational dynamics and institutional cultures at Headquarters.

A few examples of UNDP's development collaboration with MICs in 2016 include:

In Botswana, UNDP's support of the Local Economic Development (LED) programme was accelerated at national and local levels in terms of policy, institutional and process support. Also, the LED Policy Framework has been approved, and local economic analyses and LED strategies have been developed; and value chain based LED project proposals and business plans developed in 4 pilot district councils. Corresponding LED tools and guidelines have been developed and used to expand the programme to six more districts. The LED programme has turned into a critical component of the SDG agenda promoting inclusive growth, creating decent employment and eradicating poverty as an integrated part of national and local planning frameworks.

In Cape Verde, UNDP contributed to the country's development progress in 2016 in a number of critical areas, critical to the achievement of SDGs, and particularly worked on galvanizing political leadership of the new Government around the SDGs and Agenda 2030. Particularly, UNDP

contributed to the downward trend in unemployment by continuing its work, in partnership with ILO, to strengthen the institutional, political and legal framework for employment creation and entrepreneurship, particularly for the youth.

In Brazil, the overall programme strategy of CPD 2012-2016 was appropriate as it addressed key development challenges of Brazil. The 2015 Partnership Survey demonstrates that 60 per cent of the responses believe UNDP contributes to poverty eradication through inclusive and sustainable development. The CPD aimed at integrating sustainable development and productive inclusion for poverty reduction of populations that are still in vulnerable conditions regarding land titling, food security and health. UNDP has supported governmental policies, like Green Grant (Bolsa Verde), Gestao Ambiental e Territorial de Terras Indigenas (GATI) and Brasil Quilombola to support traditional populations (indigenous, quilombolas and agro-extractive communities) to improve living conditions and human development of these populations. Regarding agro-extractive communities, UNDP fosters biodiversity conservation supporting sustainable harvesting techniques for a variety of wild species of Cerrado and Caatinga ecosystems that would otherwise be converted to crop or eucalyptus monocultures or pasture.

In Fiji, lack of access to financial services by Pacific islanders has been a major impediment to reaching the SRPD outcome of enhancing livelihood opportunities and safety nets for women and youth. Recognizing this bottleneck, the joint UNDP-UNCDF Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme supported innovative financial products and digital services to reach rural and under-served markets in 6 countries. In 2016, the initiative reached a cumulative total of 1.1 million low-income clients across the Pacific, surpassing the programme goal of 1 million beneficiaries. Over 60 per cent of all clients are micro-insurance policyholders, while others participate in microfinance schemes and savings clubs.

In the Philippines, UNDP commissioned poverty studies and dialogues that influenced the formulation of the country's long-term vision framework (Ambisyon 2040) and the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022. In order to protect farmers' incomes from shocks due to natural calamities, UNDP introduced a weather index based climate insurance (WIBI) product that provides payout in less than 10 days after a disaster. In 2016, payouts were made to 2,413 rice & corn farmers in Bukidnon and Davao to restart their livelihoods during the same season.

In Samoa, with support from UNDP through the "MDG Acceleration project", the Samoa Bureau of Statistics launched the "Poverty and Hardship Report" which indicated that the share of population that live below the basic needs poverty has decreased from 27 per cent to 19 per cent. This and other advocacy documents, together with close engagement through policy development and implementation of community level pilots, have influenced the formulation of national development strategy and stressed the importance of inclusiveness. This was also evident in the recently launched "Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2016 - 2020" where the government made a very strong commitment to ensuring inclusive economic growth.

In Macedonia, UNDP-led job creation efforts contributed directly to the reduction in unemployment as a direct cause of poverty. In partnership with the Labor Ministry, UNDP designed and implemented measures to bring underrepresented groups into the labor market and align employee skills with employer demand. The 5 active labor market measures that UNDP implemented as part of the government's employment strategy created full-time jobs for 1,347 people and half-time work for 234 people. This included 1,126 newly registered small firms which accounted for 13.7 per cent of the 8,193 new businesses created in the country in 2016. UNDP-led measures helped overcome barriers faced by the marginalized groups. The Community Works Program employed 234 long-term

unemployed (79 per cent of them women) in providing care services to 6,507 vulnerable end-beneficiaries, typically the elderly, preschool children and PwDs.

In Morocco, the UNDP Country Programme contributes to the three outcomes and 14 outputs of the UNDAF. Targets are achieved through 32 projects. For the outcome on reducing vulnerabilities, with UNDP's support, the government continued to promote a multidimensional approach to poverty reduction. The Al Bachairia database as a strategic monitoring tool now takes into account the SDG indicators and has been operational in 7 Regions. The HCP analyzed the SDG framework (targets & indicators) in order to contextualize them and to set up a monitoring and evaluation system. These analyzes fed into the debate of the national consultation on the SDGs and Voluntary Peer Review of HLPF

UNDP also considers the application of a conflict sensitive and preventive lens as fundamental to its work, and applies this approach in all development situations including in its development cooperation with middle-income countries. As history has shown, pockets of poverty and discrimination or a non-inclusive social contract can lead to violence and conflict and erode hard-won development gains, including in middle income countries. Investing in prevention is much less costly than dealing with the human and financial costs of the aftermath of a conflict. As we have learned from the past and in line with the universality of the Agenda 2030, the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies applies to all countries, and not only the least developed countries or fragile and crisis affected countries.

In respect of priorities defined by sovereign member states, support on governance and peacebuilding may take different forms from engaging in support to constitution-making processes, electoral and parliamentary support, the strengthening of the rule of law, justice and security, support to the implementation of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic review and fostering the capacity of human rights institutions, and analyzing options for decentralisation and increasing local development. It can also imply supporting the national peace architecture by building national capacities for conflict prevention, including the prevention of violent extremism.

In Tunisia, UNDP has supported the constitution-making process – a crucial element of the political transition - by ensuring an inclusive and broad dialogue was at its basis; in Ukraine, UNDP supports the Ombudspersons Office to expand its network, giving it a broader reach and enabling it to hear more citizens and monitor more cases; in Guatemala, UNDP supports the local and indigenous authorities in several municipalities in developing their capacities, including of community leaders, young people and women, to prevent, resolve and transform conflicts within their communities. UNDP also supports several MICs (Georgia, Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa, Tunisia, Uruguay) to establish reliable, objective and independent monitoring systems of Sustainable Development Goal 16 indicators, seeing in this work an unprecedented opportunity to drive improvements in governance issues that underpin peaceful, just, and inclusive societies and the attainment of the entire 2030 agenda.

- **Efforts to mainstream support to South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation (para 5, A/RES/70/215)**

MICs play a crucial role in promoting South-South cooperation with their peers and with low-income countries (LICs) and least developed countries (LDCs). While Brazil, China, India, Russia and South

Africa are major players in South-South cooperation, other important providers are found in all developing regions. These MICs act as regional economic hubs, engendering neighbouring effects on the development of LICs and LDCs in their regions. In this regard, multilateral organizations, such as UNDP, have been facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation with MICs, as these countries have seen some of the greatest economic growth and many have marked impressive achievements in poverty reduction, access to basic services, technological progress and in many other development areas.

UNDP supports national capacities to accelerate development progress in which South-South and Triangular Cooperation operates as an effective and important enabler. As of 2016, 18 percent of COs have substantially and systematically utilized South-South and Triangular Cooperation, of which over 60 percent being MICs. This was done by initiating, fostering, and promoting exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources, tools, and technical know-how between countries with the support of UNDP. To integrate South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the support provided to global, regional and country development agendas, UNDP adopted in 2016 its first corporate Strategy on South-South and Triangular cooperation. The Strategy was developed in consultation with Member States including prominent MICs in SSC such as China, Brazil, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Mauritius, South Africa and others.

A significant area of engagement by UNDP is the facilitation of knowledge exchanges between MICs and other developing countries. Knowledge sharing has proved to be an important part and modality of UNDP's support to South-South cooperation. UNDP has and will continue to facilitate exchanges of the extensive knowledge that MICs are generating on poverty eradication and sustainable development, in particular through the "SSMart for SDGs" system. As one of the service packages committed in UNDP's corporate Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, this system acts as a marketplace for countries and other development actors to publicize their needs, share solutions, and connect to foster new opportunities for South-South and triangular cooperation. It enables MICs to take on dual roles as 'providers' and 'recipients' of solutions and it guides them in making decisions on where best their contributions should be placed. UNDP launched the SSMart in 2016 and aims to introduce thematic windows on peacebuilding, food security and climate change in 2017 in collaboration with governments and UN agencies.

Additionally, UNDP has partnered with Brazil, India, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Turkey and Aruba in establishing global centres of excellence, which serve as global platforms for bridging knowledge and brokering partnerships on themes in which host countries have a particularly rich experience and legacy to share with others. With UNDP' assistance these centres will promote South-South exchanges between and amongst interested Southern countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Another focus area of UNDP's support includes capacity development and institutional strengthening for the MICs emerging as South-South cooperation providers. As SSC expands both towards regional neighbourhood initiatives and cross-region cooperation, strengthening capacities of Southern institutions in MICs - from governments, civil society to academia - plays a critical role in the quality and the results of cooperation. UNDP has implemented numerous South-South cooperation programmes and initiatives that aim at strengthening the human and institutional capacities of MICs in the implementation of national plans and strategies for South-South cooperation. UNDP also provided assistance to Southern partners in tackling policies, laws and regulations that are hindering their engagement in SSC. For example, UNDP deployed capacity building efforts to the Government of Thailand in strengthening its South-South cooperation mechanisms to allow the country to play a leading role in the Asia and Pacific region and beyond. In Indonesia, UNDP played a pivotal role in strengthening the coordination mechanisms between the Ministry of National Development Planning

(BAPPENAS) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in managing SSC and TrC. Furthermore, UNDP is providing technical assistance and capacity strengthening to the Government of China on fund management in relations to the South-South Cooperation Aid Fund, the South-South Climate Change Fund and the Peace and Development Fund. In Algeria, UNDP supported the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in identifying institutional mechanisms that allow monitoring and coordination of SSC. Additionally, UNDP supported Brazil in strengthening its knowledge management of South-South mechanisms enabling better adaptability to local contexts in partner countries.

Furthermore, South-South Cooperation was fostered through the Regional Security Sector Reform Roster (RSSRP) created by UNDP through SEESAC in the Western Balkans. RSSRP offers quick, effective, and demand-driven short-term targeted technical support and training capacity in niche rule of law areas. It further provides the opportunity to strengthen regional cooperation in Security Sector Reform as well as inspire new partnerships outside of South East Europe, sharing the vast accumulated knowledge and experience of improving citizen security and the Rule of Law in developing and post-conflict societies in South East Europe. As such, RSSRP embodies the region's transition from being an importer of security to being an exporter of security. Since 2015, deployments were organised to Georgia, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, United Kingdom, Croatia, where experts provided their expertise in niche security sector reform areas such as gender equality in security sector reform and small arms and light weapons control. Through the RSSRP a Gender Training of Trainers was organised for 15 members of the Armed Forces from Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda and Uganda by 7 instructors and course director from the Western Balkans, enabling thus the sharing of knowledge and expertise among the regions.

Even though the primary partner on South-South and Triangular cooperation are national governments, UNDP over the past three years has increased its cooperation with non-State actors (ie. such as the private sector, civil society organizations, research institutions and IFIs) from the South that are mostly hosted in MICs. For example, UNDP is partnering with the Islamic Development Bank Group (IDBG) to support the effective implementation and achievement of the SDGs in the Arab States, Africa, Central and South Asia, and Southeast Asia and the Pacific. UNDP is also partnering with DJI, a leading drone company from China, on a project related to Disaster Risk Reduction in SIDS. UNDP also established partnerships with think tank networks from the South, with their secretariats mostly hosted in MICs (ie. China, India, Paraguay) and a multi-national law firm for China, under the global Programme 'South-South Global Thinkers: The Global Coalition of Think Tank Networks for SSC'. The Coalition will help to collect, analyse, and disseminate knowledge and data on South-South Cooperation as a catalyst for the achievement of the SDGs. The work of the Global Coalition will inform and shape the global policy dialogue on South-South and Triangular cooperation, including the upcoming 40th Anniversary of Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA+40) and assist Southern countries, including MICs in making informed decisions when embarking on South-South cooperation initiatives. Most recently, UNDP supported several research studies produced by Southern think tanks that analysed financial trends in the South as well as thematic South-South and Triangular Cooperation led by Brazil and India.

In its approach to enabling SSC, UNDP has developed tools and partnership models that allow the broader UNDS to engage and contribute. SSMart for SDG system offers to all development cooperation actors and partners' real-time information and data to guide their strategic investments and involvement. Similarly, research produced by the Global Coalition of Think Tank Networks for SSC is broadly disseminated to document participation and innovation in SSC.

- **Assessment and determination of national priorities, supporting the formulation and implementation of national sustainable development strategies, five year plans and other development plans and policy documents (paras 6 and 14, A/RES/70/215)**

UNDP supports the partner governments in MICs to prepare and develop strategies and plans which inter alia promote integrated policymaking. As national governments will increasingly look to develop national strategies that embrace Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals there is a need for these national development plans to address the indivisibility of the three dimensions of sustainable development. Building capacities in these areas is required especially as we move from the more socio-economic dominated plans of the MDG period. Many of the interlinkages which affect national development in MICs differently are by their nature complex and need a multi-faceted approach that can address the policy and governance challenges. For example, the energy-water-food nexus is a key issue that needs to be taken up in national development. UNDP provides information and training, supports development of methods and tools for mainstreaming SDGs in development and sector plans. For example, Tajikistan from the very beginning expressed interest in integrating SDGs in National Development Strategy (NDS) and follow up five year plans. The approved NDS now covers significant part of SDG targets and with UNDP support Tajikistan continues working on integration of SDGs, especially (i) mainstreaming SDGs in subsequent sectoral and subnational strategies and plans; (ii) revising indicators to ensure national SDG monitoring; and (iii) strengthening reporting, monitoring and evaluation mechanism.

UNDP in close collaboration with UN agencies provided technical support to the Government in the formulation and development of the 11th Malaysia Plan (2016-2020) including leading selected thematic areas in consultation with the NGOs / CSOs and academia. UNDP led and provided substantial policy inputs in the mapping exercise of the SDG with the 11th Malaysia Plan, preparation of the Voluntary National Report for the High Level Panel Forum (HLPF) and planning for the SDG's localization exercise with the subnational governments and the local authorities.

Since 2015, UNDP has been actively supporting the development of Indonesia's national strategy for the SDGs, in particular with contributions to the relevant Presidential Decree and to the strategy for SDG localization. UNDP has also contributed to the formulation of the National Medium Term Development Plan 2015-2019, in particular through the integration of the human development index and of the UNDP-supported Indonesia Democracy Index. The Government has also solicited UNDP for substantive inputs and support to the formulation and implementation of key policies, such as the National Strategy on Biodiversity, and the second National Strategy on Access to Justice, which were launched in 2015 and 2016, respectively.

UN in China contributed to China's formulation of its 13th 5-Year Plan, and its alignment with the SDGs. SDGs as a universal agenda, provide an engagement level beyond traditional development assistance. Support to China's adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the alignment with the 13th Five Year Plan (FYP), the UNCT supported China's preparations since 2015 through policy analysis, high-level dialogues, capacity building, and technical assistance. The UNCT is also supporting the development of a monitoring framework for the SDGs at the national level, and localizing the SDG implementation at the sub-national level.

**Support for collecting quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data to monitor the progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (para 16, A/RES/70/215)**

With at least 232 indicators and counting, an integrated and indivisible framework, and a fundamental principle of “Leaving no one behind” the 2030 Agenda increases by orders of magnitude the scale and scope of data required to implement and monitor sustainable development. No single stakeholder will be able to meet all these challenges alone. UNDPs support to data driven needs are defined in its Strategic Plan UNDP Output 7.2: Global and national data collection, measurement and analytical systems in place to monitor progress on the post 2015 agenda and sustainable development goals.

Nationalization of SDGs requires setting up a Monitoring and Evaluation system, ideally through inclusion of SDG-related indicators into national strategic planning system. UNDP supports the development of an SDG Dashboard that makes a step towards nationally adequate system through (i) identifying “official” international indicators available for country; (ii) identifying targets without indicators; and (iii) providing quick review of available national data for targets. To date UNDP has supported SDG dashboards for six countries in the ECIS region. Being combined with complexity analysis of SDGs and Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA), the dashboard has proven to be very instrumental in locating Accelerators for SDGs.

UNDP has also supported mappings of “data ecosystems”, with the aim to evaluate existing data availability to measure the 2030 Agenda and assess institutional upgrading and stakeholders’ capacities required to track the new development agenda in different country contexts, including MICS. It consisted in reviews of official national statistical systems, legal and policy frameworks on open data, innovation and new technologies for participation, the infrastructure requirements for improved collection, dissemination and use of data, and efforts to support the creation of national and international legislative frameworks for monitoring and accountability of development delivery. The project delivered in-depth data ecosystem assessments in 6 countries: Bangladesh, Moldova, Mongolia, Senegal, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago.

At the regional level, UNDP, the Economic Commission for Africa, the International Development Research Centre and the World Wide Web Foundation, collaborated to produce the 2016 Africa Data Revolution Report, a flagship report capturing a baseline on the state of data ecosystems for sustainable development in Africa, against which progress of the data revolution can be subsequently measured. The 2016 Africa Data Revolution Report builds on ecosystems assessments in 10 African countries: Cote d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania. The report notes that the fundamental building blocks for harnessing the data revolution already exist in Africa. It makes a number of recommendations, notably on undertaking capacity needs assessments of data communities early in the SDGs implementation processes, supporting national statistical offices as cornerstones of national data ecosystems, significantly investing in data technologies and human resources, improving coordination between data communities to fill SDG data gaps, reforming the legal and legislative enabling environments to embrace innovation and accelerate the data revolution for sustainable development.

Regional UN Development Group for Europe and Central Asia.

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<sup>2</sup> At its 48<sup>th</sup> session in March 2017, the United Nations Statistical Commission adopted a refined list of 232 unique global SDG indicators and endorsed a workplan to further revise the list of indicators by 2020. The official list of global SDG indicators is available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>.

- **Support for promoting good governance, the rule of law, the eradication of poverty and hunger**

UNDPs support to MICs in Europe and Central Asia (ECA) is tailored to country-specific needs, with EU accession being the main entry point for promoting good governance, rule of law and human rights in Western Balkans and to lesser extent in the Eastern European Partnership Area. In other parts of the region, demand for support for governance reforms also remains substantial.

UNDP's work in this region is mainly focused on strengthening national policy and legislative frameworks and institutions for greater responsiveness and transparency, including strengthening local governments and participatory local planning and development, and public administration and public service delivery across all countries in the region. This support has included the strengthening of electoral processes (Armenia, Albania, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova) and the oversight, representation and legislative functions of national parliaments, including women in decision-making (Serbia, Moldova, Georgia, Montenegro, Ukraine, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo (All references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)). In addition, UNDP has supported MICs in strengthening national anti-corruption prevention institutions (Ukraine, Moldova), creating GOPAC (Global Organisation of Parliamentarians against Corruption) Chapters for more inclusive and transparent political processes at the national level (for example, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo, Moldova), and assessing corruption risks and developing integrity plans to address these risks in the sectors, including at the local level (for example, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Kosovo).

With relatively high levels of connectivity, internet penetration and digital skills, UNDP in ECA also works closely with governments, citizens and institutions to expand the knowledge and skills of using data for improving governance and public policy. A key part in these efforts is strengthening the capacities of governments to mainstream evidence-based decision-making, and raising overall awareness on the multiple applications of existing information by making data open and available. UNDP also has contributed to creating new spaces for collaboration between different societal actors: in spaces with fledgling public trust and limited overall civic space, the open government agenda and open data is becoming a vehicle to bring together actors that do not interact with each other, hence fostering new form of communication between governmental officials, technologists, civil society, civic actors and academia.

Another important element of UNDP's support to governments in the region, in partnership with OHCHR, has been the strengthening of national systems of human rights protection to ensure that existing frameworks protect even the most disadvantaged people. UNDP has been instrumental in developing the capacity, independence and effectiveness of the National Human Rights Institutions in a range of MICs including Moldova, Turkmenistan, Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. UNDP has also provided technical expertise for the design of National Human Rights Action Plans in Belarus, Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine, and Turkmenistan, including the establishment of an implementation and monitoring system for the plans. Support has also given to legislative reforms and to building effective justice systems in Uzbekistan and Montenegro, as well as to widening access to justice in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Georgia, through establishing and expanding legal services with a focus on vulnerable groups. Addressing discrimination and social exclusion of minorities in the region, UNDP has facilitated the adoption of anti-discrimination laws and policies in Georgia, Moldova and Albania and promoted the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in Armenia, Belarus and Turkmenistan.

A special focus has been on provision of services and protection of rights of refugees in Turkey and IDPs in Ukraine.

Moreover, UNDP in ECA has worked on strengthening the regional and cross regional partnerships, knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer support in the areas of rule of law, justice and human rights. UNDP facilitated cooperation among war crimes prosecution offices and institutions for the search of missing persons in Western Balkans to speed up the processing of war crimes cases and search of missing persons. The cooperation among NHRIs in Central Asia was also boosted through the series of regional consultations and development of the roadmap facilitated by UNDP, OHCHR and Global Alliance of NHRIs. In 2016, UNDP Istanbul Hub has also launched the project protecting and promoting the rights of LGBTIs together with UNDP offices in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia.

Support has also provided security sector reform confidence building, knowledge exchange and information-sharing, and enhancing capacities for evidence-based policymaking, through the regional project of the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC). It has supported the countries in South Eastern and Eastern Europe in strengthening the capacities of national and regional stakeholders to control and reduce the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, and thus contributed to enhanced stability, security and development. Additionally, it promoted an innovative approach to transforming the security sector through the integration of the gender perspective, making security institutions more responsive to the needs of both men and women by raising capacities for gender mainstreaming, advocacy and awareness raising. Over 4,000 military personnel received gender training delivered by an innovative network of military gender trainers, a system transferred also to countries in Africa under the 'South-South' cooperation principle.

The Gender Equality Facility (GEF) works to ensure that gender is mainstreamed through the EU accession process and the EU Gender Equality acquis is successfully transposed to help ensure more equitable socio-economic development outcomes for women and men, girls and boys, in candidate countries of south-east Europe. Initially piloted in Albania the approach is being developed and expected to be funded and implemented in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina with other countries also interested to adopt the approach. GEF has facilitated south-south cooperation for sharing experience in Serbia with regards to building capacities of Ministries in gender-mainstreaming in IPA (Instrument for Pre Accession) process, support to Municipalities to sign and implement the European Charter for Equality between women and men in local life, gender equality Index, the use of the Social Impact Assessment Tool in the Economic Reform Programme. In its new phase, GEF also plans to engage national gender machineries in the region in joint action on gender mainstreaming in the EU accession process/ negotiations.

## UNDP in Latin America and Caribbean Region

### **Citizen security**

An increasing number of MICs and HMICs are facing extended and pervasive multi-modal violence. With epidemic levels of homicides, the LAC region for instance is the most violent region in the world (3 times higher than the global average) with more than 100,000 annual homicides and very high numbers of gender-based violence. UNDP and the broader UN agencies are uniquely placed in those

settings to facilitate efforts of key actors to mitigate its effects, provide assistance to and protect the rights of affected populations. Furthermore, tackling the root causes of violence and its key drivers demand consensus building efforts across political parties, private sector and the entire society. Again, the UN is a privileged partner in advocating for bold policy changes conducive to address exclusion, corruption, impunity amongst many other triggers of violence.

Gender and Identity-Based Violence continues to be a major challenge in a large amount of HMICs and MICs. Of the 25 countries of the world with the highest rates of femicide, 14 are in Latin America and the Caribbean. According to the Regional Human Development Report for LAC (HDR), 27 per cent of women in the region report experiencing violence by their intimate partners. Furthermore, UNDP's own studies on violence in the Central America sub-region showed that 2 of every 3 women die because of their gender. Violence against women is the hidden side of citizen insecurity in Central America. It is so invisible that, according to perception surveys, public opinion does not even perceive it as part of the "crime problem". It is, therefore, of utmost importance to address the structural roots of this violence, integrating peace and security, sustainable development and human rights. UNDP

## **Inequalities**

Beyond economic growth, HMICs and MICs often face significant challenges related to the exclusions and vulnerabilities that slow multidimensional progress for millions of people. Discrimination and exclusion based on gender, race, sexual identity, migrant status and disability do not disappear with more income. As for vulnerability, it applies to people who have escaped poverty but are in danger of sliding back due to labor market conditions, and to a lack of social protection, care systems and access to physical and financial assets.

In the case of most SIDS, the obstacles to multidimensional progress are deeply structural and frequently linked to an extremely high debt burden, vulnerabilities to disasters and the additional costs of Small Island Developing States – high costs for food imports and high costs for energy. Therefore, key multidimensional priorities include reducing the debt burden, building resilience to shocks at all levels and addressing significant challenges in youth unemployment and social inclusion of vulnerable groups.

Given the structural (hard) inequalities that still exist even in the high growth years, certain groups of the population have been systematically left behind. Many citizens have not reaped the benefits from economic growth. In the LAC region for instance, according to UNDP estimates, over 220 million people have neither been able to rise into the middle class, nor are classified as poor. These are the vulnerable women and men in that region, living slightly above the poverty line of US\$4/day but risking falling into poverty as soon as a financial crisis, health emergency/disease outbreak or a disaster hits. Up to 28 per cent of LAC population can be classified as multidimensionally poor.

UNDP has consistently analyzed the evolving regional, national and subnational poverty and inequality situation and developed innovative tools that draw on corporate regional and global knowledge and experience, provided robust development solutions, public policy advisory services and delivery support to social programs. UNDP's in depth understanding of country specificities while bringing to bear the latest regional and global development thinking is particularly valued by partner countries in MIC contexts.

## **Quality of democracy**

Quality of democracy and institutional architecture continue to limit inclusion, participation, and access to services in HMICs and MIC contexts. Democracy has been firmly established as societies have embraced the democratic principles, with most countries holding regular and transparent elections. Notwithstanding, there is a need to improve the quality of democracy in terms of improving citizen participation and inclusion of most excluded populations as well as strengthening the quality of public institutions and the rule of law. UNDP and the UN have robust expertise and global experience that contribute to shape public policies that address some of these structural exclusions. The close monitoring of these gaps also allows for a better understanding of these challenges and the identification of meaningful avenues to address them.

It is also worth noting that in most MICs/HMICs contexts, public institutions are still fragile and operate in a political climate marked by the tensions derived from social polarization. While the overall levels of technical competence and efficiency have increased significantly, there is still a lot to be done for improving the credibility, transparency and accountability of institutions to address inequality and social fragmentation, while ensuring that standards are met and rights are respected. Institutions need to be strengthened to provide secure and stable structure to social interaction and to distribute the benefits of collective action in a socially acceptable way. Subnational and local governments are clearly included in these demands.

According to the Regional and Caribbean Human Development Reports, the LAC region, and in particular, the Caribbean continue to face some obstacles to efficacious policy-making in three critical areas: i) evidence based decision making ; ii) the need to further improve public participation and consultation in the process of design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies; and iii) improve the rate of implementation – that is making the fundamental leap from planning to good and effective implementation. The stark implementation deficit in the region is heavily influenced in some cases by limited institutional capacity in the form of skills due in great part to the impact of migration, lack of appropriate technology and mechanisms for efficient and effective policy coordination, implementation and evaluation.

## **UN & THE PEACE PROCESS**

### **UNCT Strategy**

The UN vision of our role in Colombia is built around three main elements: i) The need for peace efforts to become a national project; ii) an understanding of peacebuilding as closing development gaps and advancing the SDGs; and iii) the need to build trust and promote reconciliation.

Based on the UNDAF the UNCT identified two strategic areas for its support to Colombia:

Short term support to stabilization efforts in critical regions (including FARC cantonment zones and areas previously under FARC influence); and

Strengthen the linkage between our humanitarian, human rights, development and peacebuilding work to support Colombia's efforts towards achieving the SDGs.

Within this framework the Country Team has prioritized 6 main areas for UN joint efforts in 2017:

- Carry out an assessment of stabilization needs in prioritized zones in order to support national stabilization efforts to prevent new outbreaks of violence, increase support to the peace process, and to the State for addressing emerging social conflicts.
- The assessments will allow to carry out high level political dialogues to mobilize UN and Government rapid response in prioritized regions to protect civilians, reduce the risk of a relapse into violence and improve the conditions of living for affected communities.
- Based on the assessments and the political dialogue, inter-agency ‘integrated stabilization packages’ will be prepared to be implemented in a coordinated manner by UN Agencies and other partners in the prioritized regions.
- An assessment of possible UN support to the implementation of the peace agreement will be worked. While the peace agreement explicitly requests the support of some Agencies, UN support can be broader and focus also in critical areas that have not been considered by the parties.
- Prepare strategies to prevent and address emerging social conflicts.

Facilitate an inter-sectoral dialogue to promote a long-term joint vision in the framework of the Sustainable Development Agenda. The objective is to serve as a bridge between different sectors of the population in order to find common ground that will allow the country to advance in the development agenda notwithstanding the differences around the peace agreement with the FARC.

## **UN SUPPORT**

At the request of both parties in Havana, UNCT support to the peace process included the organization of national and regional fora to collect and systematize the views of civil society on the different items of the peace agenda, as well as providing high level technical assistance on key issues such as (i) gender and women’s participation; (ii) victim’s rights and participation; (iii) child soldiers; and (iv) sexual violence.

Furthermore, the UNCT supported the participation of civil society in the peace process by accompanying civil society delegations to Havana, which included five victims’ delegations and representatives and experts on women participation, LGBT rights and sexual violence. A concrete result of this support was a complete gender revision of the peace agreements.

The UNCT also facilitated high level visits, such as the SRSG for Children and Conflict and the SRSG for Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict. Furthermore, while negotiations were still ongoing the parties requested UNICEF and IOM support for the preparation of a protocol to release all children in FARC ranks; and UNODC, IOM and FAO support for a pilot project to substitute illicit crops. UNMAS is also accompanying a joint Government-FARC demining pilot project.

For the last two years the UNCT has been preparing to support the Government’s stabilization strategy in the immediate aftermath of conflict. For this purpose, the UNCT has provided technical assistance to the Government (Office of the High Counsellor for the Post-conflict) in the preparation of its Rapid Response Strategy, which aims to increase confidence in the peace process and the State, prevent new expressions of armed violence and prevent emerging social conflicts and tensions to turn violent.

Furthermore, in a partnership with the Government and donors, a UN Post-conflict Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Colombia was established in February 2016 to fund projects related to post-conflict stabilization, confidence building measures and preparation for and implementation of the peace

agreements. For the period 2016-2018, the Fund has received contributions of USD 55 million from eight donors (UK, Canada, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Switzerland, Ireland and the UN Peacebuilding Fund), with another USD 1 million contribution confirmed by the Global Acceleration Instrument for Women, Peace and Security. In addition, the UN Peacebuilding Fund contributed critical seed funding to kick-start the Fund. So far 2 projects have been approved and implementation started (benefiting communities in 188 municipalities of 23 departments).

The final peace agreement between the Government and the FARC-EP (November 2016) explicitly requests the support of various UN Agencies during the implementation phase: FAO and UNDP on rural reform; UNDP and UNESCO on reintegration of ex-combatants; OHCHR on security guarantees of former combatants, victims' rights (together with UNHCR) and the situation of FARC members in jail; UNODC on the dismantling of criminal organizations and illicit drugs; and UN Women on gender mainstreaming across the implementation of the agreements.

The Agreement also specifies that the Government will extend OHCHR's mandate for three years and requests this Office to include a chapter on human rights aspects of the implementation of the peace agreements in its annual report. Several other Agencies are also supporting peace implementation efforts, including UNICEF, IOM, and UNMAS.

Taking into account that possible UN support to peace implementation goes beyond the issues and Agencies mentioned in the final peace agreement, the UNCT is currently analyzing its potential contribution to the implementation of the peace agreements in order to prepare a more comprehensive strategy for UN post-conflict support. Once finalized, this roadmap will be presented and discussed with the Government.

With regards to stabilization efforts, together with the UN Mission we are working with the Office of the High Counsellor for the Post-conflict and the Territorial Renovation Agency (ART) to carry out joint needs assessments in the municipalities hosting transitional local zones and points for normalization where the laying down of arms would take place. The purpose of these assessments is to identify critical needs to prevent new outbreaks of violence and increase the population's support to the peace process. The assessments will be action-oriented and will serve as the base for a programmatic approach to support stabilization efforts in prioritized regions. State authorities will also use the results to inform and mobilize response. We are convinced that this is a great opportunity to demonstrate the impact of working together and of a close coordination between humanitarian, development, peacebuilding and human rights actors.

## United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UN ESCAP)

### **Support for promoting good governance, the rule of law, the eradication of poverty and hunger**

ESCAP's flagship publication, the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific of 2017 has focused on governance. The survey argues that, when institutions are weak, inequalities tend to increase and the pace of poverty reduction declines. Weak institutions also partially explain inequality in access to social services, particularly for females as well as the poorest and most

vulnerable segments of the society. The quality of governance also affects environmental outcomes, as reflected for instance in varying capacities to make and apply environmental rules and safeguards, and initiate ecological innovation and technological transfer.

Moreover, ESCAP is implementing the Development Account 9th Tranche to enhance capacity among government officials and trade negotiators to formulate inclusive development-friendly comprehensive preferential trade agreements. Five middle income countries are selected as pilot countries to have capacity building on “Enhancing the contribution of preferential trade agreements to inclusive and equitable trade”. Moreover, ESCAP has been providing a secretarial support to the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT) – a forum for researchers, policymakers, other government representatives and stakeholders from middle-income and low-income countries to discuss the policy issues related to regional cooperation, national trade and related policy reforms in the context of sustainable development. ESCAP supports middle-income countries in building SME connectivity platforms to link SMEs with investors and business service providers. It established the UN Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific (UNNEXT) to strengthen the capacity of transition and developing economies to participate in agricultural supply chain. Also, ESCAP assists countries to establish sustainable trade and transport facilitation monitoring mechanisms (TTFMM). Serving as the secretariat of ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN), the secretariat promotes sustainable business practices.

#### **Efforts to mainstream support to South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation (para 5, A/RES/70/215)**

ESCAP works with middle-income member countries to support their effective realization of deeper intra-regional trade and investment in the region, and to reaffirm the primacy of the multilateral system in governing trade. ESCAP's means of supporting South-South Cooperation include: serving as the secretariat to the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA); moving forward the Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific; establishing the Asia-Pacific Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Network. Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Advisory Board was set up to provide advice on issues, challenges and opportunities for STI in the implementation of the SDGs. The first session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation, was held in October 2016, discussing how to best share best practices and on facilitating knowledge-sharing and collective action through the possible establishment of an Asia-Pacific innovation forum. ESCAP's regional cooperation initiative, Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway, is critical towards promoting access to affordable and resilient broadband connectivity among the Asia-Pacific countries.

SPECA, a joint programme of ESCAP and UNECE, serves as a platform to facilitate economic cooperation among Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and their integration into the world economy (all but one are middle income countries). Progress towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as national statistical capacity were reviewed at SPECA's Economic Forum held in Ganja, Azerbaijan, on 22-23 November 2016. SPECA's Ganja Declaration aims to accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals through enhanced cooperation, partly through working groups on Gender and Economy, Knowledge-based Development, Statistics, Trade, Transport and Border Crossing and Water, Energy and Environment. Moreover, partly through DCF, ESCAP facilitates evidence based discussion among researchers and practitioners of North-East Asian countries including China and Russia on

development cooperation in North-East Asia towards achievement of SDGs, exploring ways to strengthen effectiveness of development cooperation through such means as South-South Cooperation.

Assessment and determination of national priorities, supporting the formulation and implementation of national sustainable development strategies, five year plans and other development plans and policy documents (paras 6 and 14, A/RES/70/215)

ESCAP supports national government in determining national development priorities and formulate national development plans. Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2016 presented unique analytical framework to determine national development priorities to achieve 2030 Agenda. The report presented the computation for the following middle income countries: Bangladesh, Kazakhstan and Fiji. In 2016 ESCAP has organized sub-regional workshops on “Data and Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals” to discuss national SDG readiness and options for integrating the SDG framework in national development plans. (13 MICs were involved). In the Pacific, ESCAP facilitates national policy reviews and legislative analysis and reviews and to draft legislation for compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. ESCAP provided technical support to the government of Kiribati to prepare the Kiribati Development Plan 2016-2019.

The Commission is active in supporting member states strategies and development plans related to environmental protection and climate change. It is implementing a project to help build national capacity to produce environment-relevant indicators through the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting in Fiji, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Samoa and Vanuatu, and regional training was conducted for Pacific countries in September 2016. Through a three year regional project, ESCAP is providing technical and advisory services to national financial institutions, including in five beneficiary countries - Fiji, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Philippines for development of innovative climate financing instruments for up-scaling national investments in low carbon climate resilient development. ESCAP and the Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Climate Change of Viet Nam (IMHEN) jointly designed a study in 2016 to establish a Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) programme for “Waste-to-Resources for Cities in Viet Nam” to support the nation-wide adoption of waste-to-resource solutions modelled on ESCAP’s Integrated Resource Recovery Centres, to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and to implement 2030 Agenda and SDGs. ESCAP is jointly implementing a project with ECE on “Strengthening Institutional Capacities for Developing of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) and Sustainability Outlook of Mongolia (SOM)”, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, to develop national pathways for Mongolia to implement the 2030 Agenda and SDGs and meet commitments under the Paris Agreement, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and other MEAs.

Moreover, ESCAP collaborated with UNCT in India, to provide strategic, evidence-based analysis and policy support to transition to and jump start the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In South Asia, ESCAP has provided support to the formulation and implementation of national strategies and key policy documents, such as the National Policy for Women 2016, the national guidelines on disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction, in addition to supporting the development of a roadmap to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment in the SAARC member States through the SAARC Gender Policy Advocacy Group (of relevance to six MICs in the sub-region - namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives). ESCAP also provided extensive support to the formulation of the India-United Nations Sustainable Development Framework 2018-2022, as well as that of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. A range of high-level policy advocacy activities were also conducted by ESCAP SSWA office in the recent past, including in India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan.

## **Support for collecting quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data to monitor the progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (para 16, A/RES/70/215)**

ESCAP supports efforts related to statistics systems development and facilitates regional and sub-regional discussions and consultations. The Commission has worked with Lao PDR, Maldives and Mongolia to review and develop their National Statistical Systems and National Statistical Laws. ESCAP supported governments in Asia and the Pacific to establish national targets and submitting their baselines for the Asian and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade (2015-2024) as well as to establish national CRVS multisectoral coordination mechanisms. ESCAP organized workshops, meetings and events to support the implementation of the Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific and the work of the Regional Steering Group on CRVS in support of the shared vision that, by 2024. Four sub-regional workshops supported the application of a self-assessment diagnostic tool to prioritize the development of environment statistics to address national policy priorities. Thirty-five countries presented self-assessments, participated in targeted training and developed work plans to implement priority statistics. Eight countries also benefitted from direct support on environment statistics. The Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week was instituted in 2016. In 2017, the Week was organized within the theme of "Strengthening Economic Statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals" - the event attracted more than 40 expert papers from the region and 100 participants. The First Subregional Workshop on Data and Statistics for the SDGs, in India, with participation from senior officials from the national statistical offices and SDG focal points from seven South Asian countries (including five MICs, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka) facilitated the sharing of information and results from national initiatives integrating the SDGs into development plans, as well as the mapping of SDG indicators and data availability for the implementation of the SDGs.

Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific was established in 2014. The Expert Group is tasked with the development of statistical guidelines for strengthening the collection of disaster-related statistics for monitoring the internationally agreed development goals contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

## **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE)**

UNECE technical cooperation strengthens middle income countries' national capacity to effectively implement international standards and good practices to produce high-quality statistics in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. Advisory missions, training workshops and other technical cooperation activities are conducted in response to countries' request for assistance to improve their statistical capacity. UNECE technical cooperation activities rely on recent reviews of national statistical systems. These reviews, called Global Assessments, are conducted jointly by UNECE, Eurostat and EFTA, and provide recommendations for the further development of statistical capacities in the countries.

Implementation of the SDGs is creating strong data demands for all countries, including middle income countries. UNECE is assisting them to address the multiple data challenges they face, including by facilitating the exchange of information on national road maps and sharing best practices on national coordination and consultation related to statistics for SDGs. UNECE is also preparing Guidelines for National Reporting Mechanisms, which will help these countries in providing information on SDG indicators and document the role of different data producers. UNECE will also develop a generic template that will help countries in producing national plans for SDG statistics.

## UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

### **Support for promoting good governance, the rule of law, the eradication of poverty and hunger**

UN Environment is supporting the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment in the development of documentation outlining key aspects of sound environmental governance, reflecting on the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda and recognising the importance of sound institutional structures for delivery responding to the related decisions of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment that recognised the need to develop and enhance environmental governance in the Arab region. The Arab Region is comprised of Least Developed Countries, Middle Income Countries and High Income Countries, with this work encompassing all.

Recurrent and persistent drought in Central America have had a serious effect on the Dry Corridor and the Dominican Republic, leading to major losses in the agricultural sector. UN Environment together with FAO with support from the Central American Bank of Economic Integration, has been providing technical assistance and promoting cooperation among Central American countries in order to develop a proposal to strengthen resilience to climate change. This proposal has recently been endorsed by the Ministries of Environment and of Agriculture of the sub-region.

In the framework of the Poverty and Environment initiative, South-South cooperation is being promoted by supporting the Dominican Republic's General Secretary of the SIUBEN (Social Benefit System) to share the advances in the establishment of a Vulnerability of Climate Hazards Index and contribute to multidimensional measures of poverty in the region. The PEI LAC team has actively supported the Paraguay's Social Action Secretariat (SAS) to incorporate environmental issues in its Quality of Life Index.

Recognising the vitally important role that civil society plays in good governance, UN Environment has an established Stakeholder Engagement Policy and works with civil society organisations from all countries, with regional networks established in support of this work. Through its funding support structures, UN Environment is able to ensure that those organisations based in Middle Income Countries that might not be able to fund themselves to join consultations, including the UN Environment Assembly, are provided with relevant funding support.

Under the European Union funded EUROCLIMA Programme, UN Environment contributes to support the high-level policy dialogue among the countries of the region, promotes national climate change debate and legislation, enhances the role of civil society and raises public awareness about the topic. So far, high level policy dialogues were held during the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers

of the Environment which resulted in the agreement on a regional cooperation programme on climate change.

Also, UN Environment works jointly with entities such as the PARLATINO and PARLAMERICAS, with whom it has recently signed cooperation agreements, to advance environmental legislation, policies and access to environmental information, decision-making and justice.

UN Environment is supporting the implementation of SCP projects that contribute to the regional implementation of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP (10YFP). All priorities of the 10YFP have on-going work in the region, a recent workshop on sustainable agricultural systems has identified the priority actions in this additional programme for LAC, an initiative that is being implemented jointly with FAO.

### **Efforts to mainstream support to South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation (para 5, A/RES/70/215)**

UN Environment has an ongoing partnership with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, and the Zayed Foundation, who were co-organisers of the 2016 Global South-South Cooperation Expo. At the event, UN Environment organised a solutions forum on “Delivering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through innovative South-South Cooperation solutions” with case studies from Middle Income Countries (China and Argentina). China focussed on its work in Gabon, where Chinese companies hold 50 per cent of forest resource, but there was historically limited sustainable management. China has now issued guidelines to its companies working overseas and works with the World Wildlife Fund and non-governmental organisations to provide the technical expertise in sustainable forest management. This has seen a dramatic increase in sustainable management, with some companies even being awarded sustainable forest certification. In Argentina the “Forward” fund for intra-regional technical cooperation projects looks at how projects are developed to ensure that they are sustainable, providing technical cooperation as relevant.

UN Environment connected MICs in the Asia-Pacific region to knowledge and experience to address environmental priorities in line with SDG-17 on Partnerships. This was achieved through the support provided by UN environment to regional and subregional thematic intergovernmental forums with MIC participation including: Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production, Siem Reap, 12-13 July 2016; Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership, Bangkok, 25-27 November 2016; Regional Ministerial Forum on Environment and Health for Southeast and Northeast Asian Countries, Manila, 6-8 October 2016; Acid Deposition Network for East Asia, 24-25, Bangkok, November 2016; Annual Workshop of Regional Enforcement Network for Chemicals and Waste, 8-9 November 2016, UNCC, Bangkok, Thailand; Asia Pacific Adaptation Forum, Colombo, 17-19 October 2016. At the same time, UN environment bridged the gap between civil society and MIC governments as a means to strengthen the discussions and outcomes of key intergovernmental meetings by convening the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development, 26 – 28 March 2017, jointly with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific. The outcomes of this meeting informed the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in Bangkok on 29 - 31 March, 2017

Through the Microfinance for Ecosystem Based Adaptation (MEbA) project, UN Environment is promoting the inclusion of microfinance institutions (MFIs) in Peru and Colombia. Progress has been

made by various small scale producers that have achieved a high level of profitability in agricultural activities with the help of microfinance institutions, aided by sound agriculture practices, proper land management, and automated irrigation.

Recognising that private sector innovation and investment is needed to drive transformational change to sustainable development, UN Environment worked with more than 70 private companies in MICs in the Asia-Pacific region. This work included expanding green business and investment opportunities through the UN Environment Finance Initiative with banks and insurance companies and integrating natural capital risks and opportunities into private sector operations and investments through the Natural Capital Declaration with 5 banks from China and India. The Sustainable Rice Platform also completed its first pilot in 2017 with the Loc Troi Group, a leading Vietnamese rice exporter, with 150 rice farmers who saw their incomes increase 18 per cent while their chemical use and water pumping costs were reduced. This Rice Platform also works with 19 other rice and food producing companies in the region including Nestle and Mars to promote climate smart agriculture. UN environment has also been working to mobilise and deploy clean technologies through the Clean Technology Centre and Network Asia Pacific with 23 technology and related companies in the region. In addition, UN environment has worked with companies to promote sustainable lifestyles working with dive operators in Philippines, Malaysia and Maldives to promote sustainable tourism practices and with restaurants and food producers in Thailand to increase awareness on food waste.

The consolidation of the Regional Gateway for Technology Transfer and Climate Change Action in Latin America and the Caribbean (REGATTA). This cooperation network aims to strengthen capacity and knowledge sharing of climate change technologies and experiences for adaptation and mitigation. Its design and development is aligned with the international climate change negotiations in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), after the Cancun Agreements at COP16, which established a Technology Mechanism. REGATTA pilots the establishment of a regional network of technology centres to support Latin American and Caribbean countries in meeting their technology requirements for a low carbon and climate resilient development. This regional Network aims to contribute to the implementation of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) in the region.

Assessment and determination of national priorities, supporting the formulation and implementation of national sustainable development strategies, five year plans and other development plans and policy documents (paras 6 and 14, A/RES/70/215)

UN Environment is working closely with Middle Income Countries in the West Asia region supporting their sustainable development strategies in response to the 2030 Agenda. In Jordan, UN Environment has worked with the Ministry of Environment in mapping the SDGs against a number of sector action plans and policies to identify the extent of current correlation and identifying the gaps for further focus. It has also worked with Jordan on the indicators for Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water as part of a global pilot.

UN Environment also works with UN Country Teams in a coordinated supportive process with member states, working with the UN Country Team in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine on developing a coherent strategy of support.

In the Asia-Pacific region, UN Environment provided support to increase capacity of MICs to address national and regional environmental challenges, through our seven sub-programmes in 25 MICs in Asia and the Pacific focused on: Goal 7 (Energy), Goal11 (Cities), Goal 12 (Sustainable consumption

and Production), Goal 13 (Climate), Goal 14 (Oceans) and Goal 15 (Ecosystems) and Goal 17 (Partnerships, Data, Finance and Technology).

UN Environment also works closely with the 32 MIC countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and is implementing its Programme of Work jointly with the Governments to catalyse a transition towards a low carbon, low-emission, resource-efficient and equitable development based on the protection and sustainable use of ecosystem services, coherent and improved environmental governance and the reduction of environmental risks. To support the implementation of its PoW, UN Environment continues to strengthen its strategic partnerships with other UN agencies, governmental institutions and major groups to catalyse transformational change and leverage impact. UN Environment provides the Secretariat to the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, one of the most relevant platforms of political dialogue to establish and identify regional priorities on environmental issues.

UN Environment is promoting an integrated approach for environmental sustainability in SDG planning and implementation in the region. Additional to the work being done in the regional pilot, Costa Rica, a regional analysis was undertaken to identify advances and gaps in implementing and integrated approach for sustainable development in LAC.

After the organization of a regional symposium in Brazil (October 2016), main priority actions for South-South cooperation were identified and are now under implementation in the field of: agroforestry and energy, linking SDG 1 and 15 with mechanisms that incorporate the poor in environmental conservation, and institutional arrangements for an integrated approach to sustainable development.

With regard to Resource Efficiency, following Decision 7 of the Forum of Ministers of Environment on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), UN Environment - as Secretariat of the Regional Council of Government Experts on SCP- has supported the design, discussion and approval of the Regional Sustainable Consumption and Production –SCP- Strategy and its roadmap.

**Support for collecting quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data to monitor the progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (para 16, A/RES/70/215)**

Through UN Environment.live, UN Environment has an ongoing exercise with all countries to validate their country's data that is included in the database. In the Arab region, a regional information network workshop on Sustainable Development Indicators (SDI), Amman, 13 - 15 March 2017 has been conducted. It was attended by focal points from both the environment sector as well as national statistics offices from fourteen Arab countries. The workshop was an excellent occasion to assess the data infrastructure of the sustainable development indicators in the Arab region. Additionally, the participants came up with a proposed set of regional indicators and an action plan for 2017-2019.

UN Environment has supported national SDG data assessments in Mongolia, Indonesia and Samoa and is currently implementing a project to strengthen countries' capacity for environmental data sharing and reporting in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal and Samoa.

UN Environment has reached all the countries of the region OF LATIN America and the Caribbean through the online platform (<http://www.cambioclimatico-regatta.org>) which has relevant

information to the region on climate change, the communities of practice that are being implemented on different climate change areas on adaptation and mitigation, vulnerability impact analysis, information on key institutions, financing opportunities and tools and documents, country profiles which contain information on the integration of climate change into Latin American planning and regulatory frameworks. It also gathers good practices that are taking place in the region, such as the recent effort to compile Ecosystem Based Adaptation initiatives. Through links to other sources of relevant information, these profiles allow deepen into the efforts that Latin American countries are doing in the area of climate change, focusing on legal, institutional and financial frameworks. The recent work to analyse and promote electric mobility in the region is to be highlighted.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, UN Environment, acting as the Secretariat of the Global Environment Outlook process, facilitated the elaboration of an updated GEO-6 for Latin America and the Caribbean.

## United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

UNFPA implements 87 country programmes in the middle income countries (MICs), including two multi-countries programmes that cover 36 small island states, which account for about sixty per cent of country programme regular resources. Building on its comparative advantages, UNFPA is actively supporting the MICs in areas of brokerage of expertise, convening of partners and advocacy for strengthening health systems for integrated SRH service, implementation and support to monitoring of international norms, standards and agreements, and leverage global, regional and domestic resources.

At the same time, some MICs, especially large emerging economies, have higher national capacity compared to low-income countries, including comparatively greater resources for social and economic investment to reduce inequality, as well as ambitions to play a greater role in international affairs and development. Many MICs consider South-South and triangular cooperation to be important vehicles for addressing regional and country/local challenges, and have become active proponents of such cooperation as a critical mechanism for convening global actors and governments, assuming global leadership on particular issues, and transmitting best practices between countries. A growing trend in recent years has been the increasing co-financing by MICs of UNFPA's work in their countries.

Many MICs have not reached the agenda 2030 target of maternal mortality rate of less than 70 per 100,000 births, with highest at 814 per 100,000 births. Therefore, as stipulated in the Strategic Plan 2014-17, UNFPA has taken tailored approach to support the MICs, based on the different stages of development in the MICs and the requests of programmes countries. In the MICs that are still far from achieving ICPD agenda, UNFPA provides full modes of engagements from service delivery, capacity development, knowledge management, to advocacy and policy dialogue. For these MICs that have much more advanced in ICPD agenda, the focus of UNFPA's support in the countries is upstream work.

As of 2016, 77 UNFPA-supported MICs have guidelines, protocols and standards for health care workers for the delivery of quality sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents and youth, 59 middle income countries have gender-based violence prevention, protection and response integrated into national SRH programmes, and 60 middle income countries have participatory

platforms in place to advocate for increased investments in marginalized adolescents and youth, within development and health policies and programmes.

UNFPA's intervention is based on the evidence and analysis of MICs' realities, including multi-dimensional inequality. UNFPA is not only monitoring and using the income ratio of poor to richest quintiles of population, but also the skilled birth attendance rate for the poorest quintile of population to make informed decisions on resource allocation and targeted intervention. In 21 UNFPA-supported MICs, civil society organizations have implemented accountability mechanisms for addressing the reproductive rights of women and girls and marginalized and key populations. As a critical contributor in population data, UNFPA is supporting countries to leverage census, survey and administrative data including in humanitarian settings for disaggregated information, to improve the measurement of inequality and vulnerability. In 77 UNFPA-supported countries, at least one census of good quality that was processed, analysed and disseminated following internationally agreed recommendations, during the last 10 years.

Resilience building in MICs is a crucial area for UNFPA to ensure the advancement in ICPD under the agenda 2030 will be sustained. Of critical importance is the issue of brokerage of high-level expertise and leverage domestic resources through engaging with key stakeholder. For example, in 30 UNFPA-supported MICs, civil society organizations have supported the institutionalization of programmes to engage men and boys on gender equality (including gender-based violence), sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. In 2016, UNFPA has developed a new South-South and Triangular Cooperation strategy, to create a platform and opportunities for exchange of know-how and support between the countries in need and those with ready and deployable expertise.

### **UNFPA's experiences and major achievements in the cooperation with the MICs**

Although UNFPA presence in MICs has changed over the years based on different criteria such as capacity of the country to finance its own development and the achievement of key ICPD indicators, the engagement of the Fund continues to be relevant following a two-tier approach. On one side the Organization performs technical and normative policy work that will benefit the country directly. On the other side the engagement would be about partnership, coordination and South-South cooperation ensuring the contribution the country may give to other countries worldwide.

Examples of advocacy/policy interventions can be shared from different countries in six regions UNFPA is operating in. Although the challenges and opportunities are unique to each country there are some cross cutting similarities such as the internal disparities, the UNFPA unfinished agenda concentrated among the furthest left behind, especially women and girls from ethnic minorities and those living in rural and marginalized urban areas. Other similarities includes conservative forces belonging to the Government or faith based that are opposing the advancement of UNFPA mandate.

#### **Eastern Europe and Central Asia**

In Armenia, UNFPA supported the Government in the development and adoption of the first national programme to tackle pre-natal sex selection. Through the analysis of official statistics the problem of sex selection was identified, an evidence based policy campaign was conducted which created widespread concern and awareness. UNFPA Armenia's work strongly contributed to shifting the public and government views on sex selection from resistant to cooperative. The preparatory

research and the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders including non-traditional were key to success.

In Belarus, UNFPA supported the advocacy efforts by establishing an evidence base on domestic violence prevalence, which was used to sensitize decision makers, and development of the multisector referral mechanisms to address domestic violence. In this context the partnership with different stakeholders such as CSOs and FBOs helped to ensure the reach of marginalized groups. Also a large awareness campaign including training of specific groups (Police, social workers, health workers, journalists) ensured sensitization on the topic.

In Georgia, UNFPA worked with partners on generating evidence on youth SRH through periodic research, building a strong partnership with the government, and supported the creation and strengthened platforms for policy dialogue among different stakeholders. This led the Government of Georgia to adopt the “National Youth Policy Action Plan 2014-2020” and, “Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism of implementation of the National Youth Policy.

#### Latin America and the Caribbean

In El Salvador, UNFPA’s advocacy efforts resulted in a five year commitment from the Ministry of Health to allocate resources to ensure contraceptive supplies and improve contraceptive services. UNFPA El Salvador collected evidence and implemented an advocacy policy strategy. This was a milestone in a context where conservative forces can influence decision makers and the Government usually prioritize social issues different from SRHR.

In Ecuador, UNFPA provided technical assistance in launching the National Intersectoral Strategy for Family Planning and Teen Pregnancy Prevention. Through advocacy and policy dialogue, evidence-generation and quality technical assistance directed at the Ministry of Public Health, UNFPA Ecuador supported policy development that resulted in launching the National intersectoral Strategy for Family Planning and Teen Pregnancy Prevention. UNFPA work facilitated positioning of family planning as cornerstone in reducing maternal mortality facilitating the partnerships between the Government, CSOs, the academia and other stakeholders. The Fund’s efforts contributed to strengthening of national capacities and the allocation of resources to ensure the availability of modern contraceptive methods for all persons in Ecuador.

#### Asia and Pacific

Most recently, the Population and Development South-South Cooperation Center of Excellence was officially launched at the China Population and Development Research Center (CPDRC) during the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing. With support from UNFPA, NHFPC, the Chinese National Health and Family Planning Commission, the Centre of Excellence will be a knowledge hub, fostering exchanges of research, training, good practices and lessons learnt in population and development among research institutions and think tanks from developing countries.

#### **UNFPA’s support to data collection, analysis and utilization in MICs**

Under Outcome 4 of UNFPA's 2014-2017 strategic plan, support to developing countries in collecting and using quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data is a primary emphasis of the Fund's work with middle income countries. The foremost support UNFPA provides is for the census, including major technical, financial and logistical support to the 2010 and 2020 rounds of censuses; in the 2010 round, UNFPA provided support to more than 130 countries in the conduct and use of their censuses, and 2020 support is ongoing and expanding at this time.

UNFPA also helps countries establish and expand civil registration and vital statistics systems, conduct demographic and health surveys, and locate and use alternative and non-traditional sources of data, including remote sensing and Big Data. A primary strategic focus is technical support for the analysis, dissemination and use of these data to inform efforts to identify those left behind and develop policies and programmes that reach the furthest behind first, taking account of population change. In high-risk settings, UNFPA supports MICs and humanitarian actors in integrating geo-referenced population data into risk and impact assessments, risk reduction measures and humanitarian response and in generating data systems to support protection and effective response associated with gender-based violence.

As part of UNFPAs overarching strategy to provide capacity strengthening to national partners as well other UN and international partners in the monitoring, collection and use of data for the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Fund conducted two rounds of regional capacity building workshops, in the third and fourth quarters of 2015 and 2016, with participation from most middle income and other developing countries. These workshops were part of UNFPA's commitment to support the achievement of SDG target 17.18, which specifically highlights capacity building support to developing countries by 2020 to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

These workshops brought together national officials responsible for SDG adaptation and implementation, as well as senior officials from national statistical offices from each participating country. Conducted in close collaboration with sister UN agencies in the regions, the workshops served as a key platform for knowledge sharing and exchange of best practices with regards to the development and application of the SDG indicator framework as well as the national adaptation of the SDGs. The second round of workshops also prioritized technical support for monitoring 16 priority indicators associated with UNFPA mandate, including definitions, methodologies, disaggregation and input to further development as necessary.

### **South-South and triangular cooperation**

UNFPA established in 2015 the "South-South Project" with the main objectives of mainstreaming South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) and proposing innovative alliances with developing countries to accelerate the implementation of the ICPD and the SDGs.

A new Corporate Strategy for SSTC aims to enable exchange among other issues of evidence-based policies and strategies to harness the benefits of the demographic dividend; policy and regulatory frameworks related to universal access to sexual and reproductive health and a better balancing of policy development and delivery in the empowerment of women and adolescent girls.

In demonstration of result of the work of various units in promoting and supporting SSTC, three statistical reference centers are being established to provide South-South Cooperation for censuses

and other related areas; in South Africa, Senegal and Cape Verde, following the model and with the support of IBGE Brazil. The centers will be able to support national statistical institutes in the region to strengthen national capacities for production, analysis and dissemination of population data and indicators that contribute to policies, plans and programs at the national and international levels.

In an effort to advance partnerships for upstreaming training of civil servants and local partner institutions based on the accumulated know-how of academic institutions from the global south (such as the partnership between UNFPA and the University of Santa Catarina on domestic violence). UNFPA has partnered with University of Santa Catarina (Brazil) in a new modality of collaboration that will enable the Fund to make available formal training courses on domestic violence to health professionals and CSOs in the global south including civil servants and community workers.

## Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

UNHCR, in close cooperation with humanitarian and development partners, has addressed the spill-over effects of the conflict in Syria on the neighbouring middle income countries of Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. These include the largest and most complex refugee and displacement crisis confronted by UNHCR since the Great Lakes and Balkans conflicts of the mid-1990s. Such has been the speed, scale and complexity of refugee arrivals that UNHCR has had to adopt new operational strategies and systems to assist Governments with alleviating the consequent socio-economic pressures. These derive partly from the middle income status of the three most affected countries since there were few large official development cooperation programmes in place prior to the start of the conflict in 2011. Moreover, the cost of delivering humanitarian aid in such contexts is notably higher than in least developed countries.

Closely aligned with the government-led national resilience programmes, the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), co-led by UNHCR and UNDP, is an example of operationalizing integrated humanitarian and development responses. It provides a consolidated framework to address refugee protection needs and the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable, as well as reinforcing national capacities and building resilience among individuals, communities and institutions in host countries. The 3RP is a regionally-coordinated plan, composed of country chapters developed under the leadership of national authorities with support from the UN and NGOs in each country. It draws together and is produced in support of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), Jordan Response Plan (JRP), and country chapters in Turkey, Iraq and Egypt.

The resilience component of the 3RP continued to grow in scope and as a proportion of the overall regional appeal, from 28 per cent in 2015, 38 per cent in 2016, and 41 per cent in 2017. The 3RP is now a fully-costed rolling two-year plan, enabling the planning and implementation of longer-term and more sustainable interventions. Under the 3RP model, funding compartmentalization is beginning to break down and more donors are making multi-year funding pledges (from two donors in 2015 to 17 donors in 2016). Overall, at the Brussels Conference on Syria in April 2017, 41 donors pledged a combined USD 6 billion in 2017 and USD 3.7 billion for 2018.

Reflecting a clear shift in emphasis, support for local municipal and national services and systems continues to expand under the resilience component of the 3RP response model. In Lebanon, some

USD 157.5 million was channelled to public institutions during 2016 as part of the international response to provide assistance to vulnerable Lebanese and Syrians. In Jordan, some 2.7 million people (refugees and host community members) are estimated to have benefited from investments in municipal infrastructure and basic services in 2016.

The 3RP partners also advocate for direct financial support to host countries. At the Brussels Conference, some USD 30 billion in loans for refugee hosting countries were announced, of which USD 2.3 billion are on concessional terms. The World Bank has provided support through the Global Concessional Finance Facility (GCFF). On 21 April, the GCFF announced funding for three new projects (two health projects in Jordan and Lebanon and waste-water project in Jordan), bringing the total of concessional financing unlocked by the Facility for Jordan and Lebanon to USD 1 billion. The GCFF is also supporting a USD 300 million project in Jordan to promote investment and job creation for both Jordanians and Syrian refugees. In Lebanon, the GCFF is helping fund a USD 200 million roads and employment project which will create construction jobs for Lebanese workers and Syrian refugees.

### **Recommendations:**

There is a need to enable a more integrated response to enhance economic opportunities and employment generation for refugees and host communities. The governments of Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan agreed at the February 2016 London Conference to Compacts which contained notable commitments in the areas of education and livelihoods and employment. Jordan has issued or renewed 46,000 work permits to Syrian refugees, while Turkey has granted more than 10,000 work permits to Syrian refugees in 2017. In Lebanon there have been some positive developments with regards to the waiver of the residency fees for certain refugees. The progress made on policy and regulation change by the host countries needs continued support through multi-year funding, concessional loans, development projects and market development.

## **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)**

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has continued facilitating activities in middle-income countries targeting inclusive and sustainable industrial development challenges faced by this group of countries. The impact of UNIDO's actions can be seen in, among others, the creation of jobs through industrial diversification and upgrading, mobilization of resources in support of inclusive and sustainable industrial development activities, increased sustainable production and consumption using smart business models, and commitments to sustainable development through partnerships with relevant stakeholders. For example, UNIDO's Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) is an innovative partnership model for accelerating inclusive and sustainable industrial development at country level. Aligned with the national development agenda and focused on a limited number of sectors with growth potential, the programme supports a country in achieving its industrial development goals. Beginning 2016, the pilot PCP for Peru was launched. The programme is mobilizing partners, coordinating technical support and leveraging investments with a focus on quality and innovation, value chain development,

sustainable industrial parks, industrial resource and energy efficiency, and renewable energy. In June 2017 was announced that UNIDO has expanded its PCP approach to Kyrgyzstan.

Within the framework of a project to foster inclusive and sustainable industrial development along the New Silk Road Economic Belt (NSREB), UNIDO is providing analytical and advisory inputs to middle-income countries in Central Asia on various aspects of business infrastructure (soft and hard) for triggering key agglomerations, creating jobs and promoting new innovative industries and technologies. In Central Asian MICs, UNIDO is working with the Asian Development Bank since May 2016 to draft diagnostic studies summarizing countries' experiences with industrial parks and zones, within the context of national development priorities, the international trade regime, and legal and regulatory issues. In January 2017 UNIDO published a working paper on "Skills policy instruments for industrial development in low and middle income countries". The paper includes policy recommendations to improve skills development in manufacturing in middle income countries such as, support collaborations to smooth the transition from university to innovative industries; making financing for training available, efficient and equitable; engage the private sector in the design of technical vocational education and training (TVET) and skills policies in general; and support the development of soft transferable skills for manufacturing.

UNIDO is channeling its efforts toward mitigating inequalities in African MICs by aligning itself with the international agendas such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the African Union's Agenda 2063 for the socio-economic transformation of the African continent, and the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III). In parallel, the Organization promotes South-South and triangular cooperation in the African Region and takes action by teaming up with stakeholders to pursue regional endeavors that benefit not just one country but entire regions in Africa. Regional contributions are exemplified in the framework of "Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency: ECREEE / SE4All / Philips Project", an ongoing project that so far benefitted four middle-income states in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), namely Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Nigeria. UNIDO's activities in African MICs also focus on attracting foreign investment and promoting best technologies. On 15 March 2016 an Investment and Technology Promotion Office (ITPO) opened in Nigeria's capital, Abuja, to promote initiatives on new technologies to enhance clusters for the production of industrial goods such as finished leather products, agricultural value chains to support food and beverage processing, and creative fashion and craft industries

Building on an existing partnership in agribusiness development, trade, investment and innovation for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), renewable and rural energy, energy efficiency and climate change, environmental management, resource efficiency and the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed in November 2016 between UNIDO and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA). Also in November 2016, UNIDO and the Bulgarian Industrial Capital Association signed another MoU underlining the importance of private sector's involvement in development assistance.

In May 2017, UNIDO and Uruguay signed a MoU fostering the establishment of a Regional Office in Uruguay for the Promotion of South-South and Triangular Cooperation. This is an innovative mechanism that will be established as a pilot programme based on the promotion of new models of strategic partnerships for the achievement of the SDGs and their means of implementation. The programme will complement the competencies of the UNIDO Regional Office in Montevideo, with a special focus in relevant areas related to South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

UNIDO has recently adopted the implementation of several Country Programmes (CPs) in middle income countries. The Cuba's CP 2016 – 2020 is structured according to three main outcomes: a)

improvement of the business environment and sustainability, b) improvement of industrial competitiveness, and c) attraction of foreign investment, all aligned with the national economic guidelines and the UNDAF 2014 - 2018. The CP 2016 - 2020 for El Salvador is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as with the outcome on promotion of decent jobs and life media of the recently approved UNDAF 2016-2020. The CP for El Salvador focus on two main components: a) enhancing industrial policy implementation by fostering improved performance in selected industrial value chains; and b) innovative approaches for an efficient use of resources and cleaner industrial production.

## United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC)

### **Cooperation developed to promote good governance, rule of law, poverty eradication**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development affirms that development requires peaceful and inclusive societies, justice for all, and effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. SDG 16 specifically ensures that the rule of law, peace and security are an integral part of the framework. Fostering adherence to the rule of law as a foundation for just and fair societies is at the centre of UNODC's work.

UNODC provides normative, analytical and operational assistance to Member States, including middle-income countries, for strengthening the effectiveness, fairness and accountability of their criminal justice institutions to tackle different forms of crime.

In particular, UNODC continued to promote the ratification of, and accession to, the Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the Protocols thereto (the Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children; the Protocol against the smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air; and the Protocol against the illicit manufacturing and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunitions)

In January 2016, UNODC launched a new four-year Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants (GLO.ACT), implemented in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), assisting 13 partner countries in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America and fostering international cooperation.

Furthermore, UNODC continues to produce standard-setting technical materials to promote good governance and rights-based responses by actors working to prevent and combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Examples include the publication entitled *Combating Trafficking in Persons: A Handbook for Parliamentarians* (2009), developed with the Inter-Parliamentary Union; the *International Framework for Action to implement the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol* (2012), which associates actions like those noted above with minimum standards for action, and operational indicators to measure and help implementation over time; and the *Model Law against Trafficking in Persons* (2009) which, for example, proposes legislative action to create and govern office-holders like those noted above.

These efforts directly contribute to the implementation of a number of SDGs other than SDG 16, including SDGs 5 and 8, which refer to trafficking in persons and which are bound together by one

common indicator (the agreed global indicator for the review of SDG 16.2), relating to the progress made in combatting trafficking in persons.

As regards support for promoting good governance and the rule of law in a firearms context, UNODC has been following an integrated approach to promote adherence to and support implementation of the Firearms Protocol based on five main pillars, as follows: (1.) Reviewing and enhancing national policies and legislation on firearms in line with international legal instruments; (2.) Supporting implementation of preventive and regulatory firearms control measures, including firearms management, record-keeping and marking as well as arms collection and destruction activities; (3.) Strengthening criminal justice responses to firearms trafficking and related crimes including organized crime, gang criminality or terrorism, through effective investigations and prosecutions, cross-border control and cooperation; (4.) Promoting and facilitating effective international cooperation and information exchange on matters relating to firearms and organized crime; and (5.) Supporting the identification of trends and patterns in illicit firearms trafficking and monitoring steps towards achieving SDG target 16.4 through data collection and analysis on seized and trafficked firearms.

In particular, from 2015 to date, UNODC provided tailor-made, specialized legislative assistance to help six African States develop effective national legislation in line with the Firearms Protocol and provided legal advice on the transposition and implementation of the Protocol to almost 20 States in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

UNODC reviewed its methodology and updated its data collection questionnaire on illicit firearms trafficking which will foster information exchange and the identification of illicit trafficking trends and patterns, as well as support monitoring achievement of SDG target 16.4 which calls on States to, among others, significantly reduce illicit arms flows.

In 2016, UNODC, through its Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism, continued providing, upon request, technical assistance in the area of terrorism prevention to several middle-income countries, including Albania, Algeria, Cameroon, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco, Nigeria, Serbia and Uzbekistan, to name a few. In line with the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, special focus was given to promoting good governance and integrating the rule of law and human rights standards into criminal justice responses to terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. Further progress has been made towards the universal implementation of the international legal framework against terrorism with 14 additional ratifications of counter-terrorism conventions and protocols by assisted middle income countries, in particular the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. Legislative services for the revision of anti-terrorism legislation were provided to several States, including Iraq and Sri Lanka. UNODC also continued supporting Tunisia in its implementation of the counter-terrorism law and strategy, both of which developed with UNODC's substantive contribution. The Office, in partnership with IPU and PAM, enhanced its outreach to parliamentarians and policy in middle-income countries to promote parliamentary response to terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. To help respond to newly emerging terrorist challenges, the Office advanced the delivery of a number of regional and national level projects with the participation of middle-income countries, such as UNODC's major Initiative on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Foreign Terrorist Fighters for the Middle Eastern, North African and South Eastern European Member States. At the national level, the multi-year partnership of Nigeria, UNODC, EU and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate on supporting counter-terrorism efforts of the Nigerian Government should be noted.

UNODC is the guardian of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and acts as the secretariat not only of its Conference of the States parties, but also of the Convention's Implementation Review Mechanism (IRM). Through the IRM, all States that are party to UNCAC undergo a peer review in order to highlight ways in which they have incorporated their international legal obligations at a national level. To date, over 160 States of the total 181 parties to the Convention have either completed or are in the final stages of completing their implementation reviews. In line with its terms of reference, the IRM also allows States to identify their own technical assistance needs to improve the implementation of the Convention, preferably in a prioritized manner. In delivering its technical assistance programmes, UNODC builds on these national priorities by developing country-led and country-based technical assistance delivery in supporting States to strengthen their implementation of the Convention. In particular, UNODC's field-based anti-corruption advisors play an important role in strengthening regional coordination, encouraging South-South cooperation, engaging all sectors of society, and facilitating the exchange of good practices, thereby creating lasting bilateral, multilateral and regional exchanges of knowledge and expertise.

In its support to anti-corruption bodies and other stakeholders, UNODC, through the UNODC-UNDP project for the Pacific region, for example, ensured that anti-corruption officials from Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste contributed to the discussions with Solomon Islands on the establishment of its anti-corruption body. UNODC also supported anti-corruption bodies in devising capacity development strategies in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar.

It is important to note that frequently, middle income States that have received this type of technical assistance have been able to step up later as technical assistance providers, as e.g. in Malaysia. UNODC also gathers information on what has been done after the IRM country reviews, which contain a varying number of recommendations on how the framework in the fight against corruption can be further strengthened. The information that States have provided comes from all regional groups, and from developed and developing economies alike.

In accordance with its objective of making the world safer from crime, drugs and terrorism, UNODC assisted a number of middle-income countries adopt and implement crime prevention and criminal justice reform strategies that strengthen the rule of law.

In Pakistan, for instance, UNODC established specialized homicide investigation units and modern police reporting rooms in police stations in the Province of Baluchistan in order to improve dialogue and collaboration between the public and law enforcement agencies. Similar initiatives were conducted in Jordan with the establishment of the training centre of the Criminal Investigation Department and the training of a total of 747 criminal investigation officers. In Tunisia, UNODC equipped and trained 14 crime investigation units of the interior security forces, building their capacity to use crime analysis techniques.

The Office continued its efforts to assist middle income countries in addressing violence against women and violence against children through effective, fair and humane justice systems. In Mexico, UNODC trained criminal justice practitioners in responding to violence against women and providing assistance to victims; and in Egypt, the Office provided equipment to enhance the capacity of forensic doctors dealing with cases of violence against women. UNODC also equipped and provided assistance to five detention facilities that host about 550 children and as a direct result, 45 children were reunited with their families and 200 children benefited from reintegration services, including legal, educational, sanitary and economic support.

Focusing on improving the criminal justice response of the countries affected by maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, UNODC pursued its legal reform work and training of prosecutors and judges on

counter-piracy and armed robbery at sea in African middle-income countries such as Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Nigeria, and Sao Tome and Principe.

- **Support to South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation**

In Latin America and the Caribbean:

During the 2016-2017 period, the UNODC and WCO/Global Container Control Programme Team for Latin America and the Caribbean has been very active in the region. At the moment, the programme is being implemented in Argentina, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Peru and Suriname. Cuba will also join the CCP in June 2017.

AIRCOP has also been very active in Latin America and the Caribbean with a view to expanding the coverage of its operations in the region. The project is being implemented in international airports of Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Jamaica, Panama and Peru, and discussions are also being held with Bolivian and Colombian authorities for these Member States to join the project in the near future.

Both initiatives heavily rely on international cooperation, both at the intra- and inter-regional levels to disrupt illicit trafficking flows.

In Colombia:

Between 2015 and 2017 the project "Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Colombia" has been supporting the Government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote bilateral agreements with countries of South America and Central America in order to design and implement actions such as the exchange of information and the establishment of direct bilateral communication channels on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

Under South-South cooperation, UNODC has developed the project "Strengthening public security policies in Latin American and African cities" in partnership with UN-HABITAT in order to work together with national authorities from Colombia (Cartagena), Mexico (Queretaro) and South Africa (Durban) for enhancing data collection, exchanging good practices and knowledge, and monitoring and analysis of crime to prevent violence and improve the security of the cities.

Under South-South cooperation, in 2016 UNODC Colombia provided technical assistance to different organizations which are beneficiaries of the Alternative Development Program in Myanmar. Different training sessions were carried out to teach farmers how to do post-harvest processes of coffee production in order to obtain coffee with the best quality and consistency, as well as how to export the product.

In Mexico:

UNODC FO Colombia worked with UNODC LPO in Mexico in the organization of technical meetings with staff of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL/US) and the Mexican Secretariat of National Defense in order to identify the technical and operational viability for the implementation of a platform for the recording and validating of manual eradication undertaken by armed forces of Mexico.

In coordination with the Education for Justice (E4J) UNODC global initiative, UNODC is developing a video game for children under 12 to prevent gender violence. The social network and smartphone application features fun adventures where the main character must identify and deal with gender violence situations. Through the game children must decide how to act on sensitive gender issues.

Together with the Federal Police and AMERIPOL, UNODC is organizing the LE-TraiNet (Law Enforcement Training Network), a UNODC global initiative that will bring together police academies and training institutions from across the globe in order to share best practices of law enforcement training (The event will take place in late August 2017 in Mexico City).

UNODC, through the Center of Excellence (CoE) in Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice (Mexico) in collaboration with 12 countries in the region, OAS, UNDP and IDB has developed a harmonized methodology and a common questionnaire which seeks to standardize the measurement of victimization. The questionnaire has been used by Chile, Colombia and Panama already, and will be fully used by Guatemala and Ecuador. Also and in cooperation with the UNDP INFOSEGURA Project, UNODC/CoE supported the implementation of international standards for criminal justice statistics in Central American countries and Dominican Republic. Over 780 participants from National Statistical Offices and entities of the Criminal Justice System in 24 countries<sup>3</sup> also benefited of the LPO Center of Excellence in Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice's online and onsite training on victimization surveys.

UNODC/CoE also acts as Technical Secretariat of the Crime Statistics Group of the UN ECLAC Statistical Commission of the Americas, providing secretarial support to regional initiatives aimed at improving crime statistical systems in the region.

South-South cooperation has been fostered as well from the awareness-raising angle. Campaigns such as the "Blue Heart against human trafficking" and "Migrant smuggling: #DeadlyBusiness" are examples of initiatives developed and promoted in Mexico using a communication for development approach and human centered design, and then exported regionally.

UNODC, in partnership with PROFEPA (Federal Prosecutor's Office for the Protection of Environment) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has significantly contributed to the positioning of the Latin American agenda to prevent and combat wildlife and forest crimes and has led a process to improve international cooperation within the region.

South-South cooperation has been promoted in the areas of investigating and prosecuting the crimes of migrant smuggling and human trafficking (i.e. exchange of expertise and best practices with Central America. These actions have had a positive impact in the combat of those crimes with the region and the creation of specialized units to tackle those crimes.

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<sup>3</sup> Argentina, Australia, Belice/Belize, Bolivia, Brasil/Brazil, Canadá, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, EUA/USA, España/Spain, Guatemala, Honduras, Italia/Italy, Jamaica, México, Nicaragua, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, República Dominicana/Dominican Republic, Suiza/Switzerland, Uruguay

In Central America and the Caribbean:

Central America and the Dominican Republic: In the context of a regional initiative focused on combatting Trafficking in Persons (TIP) in Central America and the Dominican Republic, UNODC keeps providing criminal justice practitioners and law enforcement officials working in border areas with relevant training to detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate TIP cases and identify and assist victims.

Panama and the Dominican Republic: In the context of an Inter-Regional Programme to strengthen criminal investigation and criminal justice along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa, UNODC is providing technical assistance to the Offices of the Attorney-General in Panama and the Dominican Republic. As part of the initial activities implemented under this initiative, a continental training on institutional integrity was delivered to Law Enforcement Officials of beneficiary countries in LAC in 2016.

- **Support to formulation/implementation of sustainable development strategies/plans/policy**

In Colombia: Under the Alternative Development Program UNODC supports the Colombian government in the implementation of illicit crop substitution and elimination strategies, as well as in land titling programs to strengthen public policies, formulate sustainable development plans and protect natural national parks affected by illicit crops. Therefore, UNODC works in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and Law, the National Agency for Territorial Renovation, the Agency for Rural Development, the National Land Agency and the Agency for Integral Fight against Drugs. Also, with cooperation agencies such as Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

In Central America and the Caribbean:

Central America and the Dominican Republic: UNODC keeps supporting drug demand reduction efforts in Central America and the Dominican Republic through parental skills-focused programmes, successfully implemented in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

Panama: In October 2016, in the context of a larger technical assistance project on Prison Reform implemented by UNODC, the Government of Panama and UNODC launched the IntegrArte (Integration + Art) commercial brand with a view to promote a more sustainable social and labor reintegration of people deprived of liberty through the production and marketing of high quality and competitive hand-made products, which are already available for sale in a number of important shops in Panama.

In Bolivia: UNODC launched a Country Programme (2016-2020) developed to support strategic national plans and priorities (e.g. Economic and Social Development Plan for 2016-2020, and Patriotic Agenda 2025). In addition, it is aligned with the Agenda 2030 and with the Outcome Document of UNGASS 2016. The programme includes a pillar on Alternative development, which specifically focuses on producing reliable and timely information on coca crops, and the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

In Peru: UNODC continues working with national counterparts in strengthening the sustainability of farmer-owned cooperatives as part of an alternative development programme covering coca-production regions, and as part of a National Drug policy. Specialized technical assistance includes advice to improve the services offered by local cooperatives, training in commercial management, and direct work with farmers in crop substitution / development.

Support to data collection / monitoring linked to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

In Colombia:

The project “Integrated Monitoring System of Illicit Crops in Colombia” together with the Ministry of Justice and Law initiated a process of design and implementation of a new system of indicators for the follow-up and monitoring of the policy against drugs. This system includes indicators that contribute to the development of Agenda 2030. The project has also published a report on alluvial gold exploitation in Colombia which evidences illegal mining activities in the country and productive chains that strengthen and finance organized crime. This report contributes to data collection for following up environmental indicators.

UNODC Colombia provides support to the National Administrative Department of Statistics in collecting data and pertinent information for monitoring 55 global indicators. Furthermore, UNODC participated in the organization of the First Andean Data Congress for the SDG’s in Bogota.

In Mexico: UNODC, through the Center of Excellence in Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice supports efforts to develop methodological frameworks to measure the SDG indicators on Violence, Security, Small arms, Corruption and Illicit financial flows.

In Central America and the Caribbean:

Panama: Under the SECOPA initiative, UNODC is supporting the Integrated Criminal Statistics System (SIEC) of Panama in the establishment of a national Centre of Excellence on Drugs and Crime Trends. With a view to enhancing the quality of statistics and trend analysis on crime- and drug-related matters (SDGs 3 and 16) in the country, UNODC provides training and technical assistance to the personnel of national institutions involved in the work of the SIEC.

Bolivia: The UNODC Country Programme (2016-2020), is aligned with the 2030 Agenda. Monitoring the implementation of the Programme will help the monitoring of technical assistance delivered and linked to the 2030 Agenda.

The monitoring of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including its Goal 16, will be of particular interest for middle-income countries in the coming years. For each of the Targets of Goal 16, the international community has agreed on specific indicators that are based either on data collected from administrative sources or on data derived from sample surveys. UNODC offers its experience in monitoring the relevant indicators to assess progress towards the SDGs.

Improved policy coherence and increased multi-stakeholder partnerships are the key factors for implementing the most critical element of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: the ability of Member States to effectively raise, retain and manage their own domestic resources. Under the guidance of its governing bodies, UNODC will continue to provide its knowledge, skills and

experience to help middle-income countries Member States reach these goals. Efforts to strive towards such assistance should not underestimate the need to avoid any adverse impact on the assistance provided to low-income countries.

## UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (UN OSAA)

During the period under review, the UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (UN-OSAA) contributed to strengthen international cooperation in support of Africa's development priorities including the development of African middle income countries.

The Office continued to support the coordinated and integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of the African Union's Agenda 2063 by promoting synergies between the global and regional agendas. The Office continued to coordinate the UN system wide support for NEPAD with a view of ensuring coherent and coordinated UN support for Africa, including African middle income countries.

The Office advocated for the mobilization of partnership in support of the implementation of the regional and global development frameworks including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the New Urban Agenda.

The Office also contributed to monitoring the implementation of commitments made toward Africa's development through the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism (UNMM).

- Support for promoting good governance, the rule of law, the eradication of poverty and hunger;

Following the adoption of the landmark global development Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the AU Agenda 2063, the Office partnered with AU strategic partners to sensitize and popularize the international community and the UN System of the priorities of both Agendas with a view to promote their coordinated synergistic implementation. In this context, in April 2016, OSAA co-organized with the African Union Commission and the Government of Sweden a high-level Forum on "Early Action and Results: The Africa We Want in 2030, 2063 and Beyond". The Forum raised global awareness of the synergies between both agendas and stressed the importance of partnerships to support their implementation.

To sustain the political momentum for peacebuilding in Africa and discuss effective ways to implement the outcome of the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the African Union Commission and the Peacebuilding Support Office co-organized a high-level meeting entitled "Sustaining peace: mechanisms, partnerships and the future of peacebuilding in Africa" in May 2016. The meeting outlined proposals for strengthening peacebuilding partnerships among the United Nations and the African Union, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the regional economic communities, and called for adequate and predictable financing for peacebuilding and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.

On the margin of the General Assembly debate on the Development of Africa in October 2016, OSAA co-organized with the Department of Public Information, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Agency and the African Peer Review Mechanism Secretariat, Regional Economic Communities, the Africa Week 2016, which comprised several high level events on how to strengthen partnership and galvanize international support for Africa's transformational agenda and press briefings including: (i) Strengthening Partnerships for Inclusive Sustainable Development, Good Governance, Peace and Stability in Africa; (ii) Strengthening Partnerships for Peace, Security and Stability in Africa; (iii) A Renewed Global Partnership for Entrenching Good Governance and the Rule of Law in Africa; (iv) Leveraging Partnerships for the Effective Implementation and Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 in Africa; and (v) High-level meeting of the Inter-Departmental Task Force on African Affairs. The Africa Week underscored the importance of strengthening partnerships to implement both development Agendas in Africa. The events also enlightened the discussion on the Development of Africa in the General Assembly. All these events fed into and enriched the UNGA debate on the development of Africa where African countries and their development partners (traditional and new and emerging development partners) reaffirmed their commitments to implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

OSAA prepared analytical policy reports on important relevant issues straddling peace, security and development nexus to appraise Member States and the international community of current and emerging challenges to the continent's development and national and international efforts aimed at addressing them. In this regard, OSAA prepared three Secretary-General's Reports on: "New Partnership for Africa's Development: fourteenth consolidated progress report on implementation and international support" (A/71/189); "United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development" (E/AC.51/2016/5); "Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa" (A/71/211-S/2016/655). These reports emphasized the need for a strengthened focus on the nexus between development, peace, security and human rights in the activities UN entities are supporting in order for Africa to achieve an inclusive structural transformation.

On the margin of UNCTAD 14, OSAA co-organized with UNCTAD a high-level panel discussion on "promoting tourism as an engine of inclusive growth and sustainable development in Africa" in July 2016, in Nairobi, Kenya. The event raised awareness on the critical role of tourism sector for fostering the implementation of both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. Middle income countries such as Egypt and Kenya were able to also share their experience and best practices with other African Member States, in the tourism industry.

OSAA as a co-organizer of the Tokyo International Cooperation on African Development (TICAD) VI with AUC, World Bank and UNDP, was involved in preparation and organization of all the preparatory meetings and events leading to the sixth TICAD Summit between March and August 2016. As a result, TICAD VI strengthened North-South partnerships in support of the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda in Africa and \$30 billion were committed under public-private partnerships for 3 years in support of Africa's infrastructure, health systems and peace and stability.

Following the adoption of the global and regional strategic development frameworks, the Office organized global advocacy activities to support their implementation with a particular attention to the domestication and mainstreaming of the development frameworks into national and regional development strategies. For instance, OSAA advocated for the joint implementation of the New Urban Agenda and Agenda 2063 as well as the 2030 Agenda through a High Level Meeting on "the New Urban Agenda and Demographic Dividend: Investments for Africa's Youth" held in March 2017, in Dakar, Senegal, on the sidelines of the African Ministers of Finance annual meeting. of

The Office provided a global platform to advocate for African development priorities within the ECOSOC with a particular focus on women and youth empowerment during the ECOSOC youth Forum and the Integration Segment. Moreover, from November 2016 to May 2017, OSAA supported the preparation of the Special ECOSOC Meeting on Innovations for Infrastructure Development and promoting Sustainable Industrialization as a core organizer. This involved logistical preparation and servicing of a Regional Meeting on “Innovations in Infrastructure Development and Promoting Sustainable Industrialisation”, held in Dakar, Senegal, in March 2017 and an Expert Group Meeting on “Agriculture and Agro-industries Development towards Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems”, held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, in April 2017. These meetings called for the operationalization of agriculture and industrialization goals as well as the development of infrastructure in developing countries, and particularly African countries.

In September 2015, the Office, UNECA, UNIDO and the AU Commission co-organized a High-level Event on the Operationalization of the 2030 Agenda for Africa’s industrialization in 2015, on the margins of the UN Sustainable Development Summit 2015. The meeting rallied the political support of and commitment from key stakeholders for Africa’s development priorities in the area of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) The meeting forged stronger regional, inter-regional and global cooperation for inclusive and sustainable industrial development and made recommendations for appropriate mechanisms to facilitate such cooperation, including through South-South cooperation and new partnership models. As a follow-up to the outcome of this meeting, the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa 2016-2025 was launched in July 2016 through the adoption of a GA Resolution.

- **Efforts to mainstream support to South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation (para 5, A/RES/70/215)**
- **Assessment and determination of national priorities, supporting the formulation and implementation of national sustainable development strategies, five year plans and other development plans and policy documents (paras 6 and 14, A/RES/70/215)**
- **Support for collecting quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data to monitor the progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (para 16, A/RES/70/215)**

As it has been underscored by Member States in several UN resolutions and outcomes of major UN Summits and Conferences, effective follow-up and monitoring of commitments is key to ensuring effective implementation of commitments. In this regard, the Office leveraged its UNMM established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/293 to translate commitments into concrete action through mutual accountability between African countries and their development partners. The second biennial report of the UNMM Report on the Review of Commitments made toward Africa’s development was issued in July 2016. The UNMM report monitored 13 commitments in the area of trade, infrastructure development, gender and women empowerment and a conflict-free Africa. The report identified gaps and challenges in the implementation of commitments, and called for strengthening support through partnerships and mutual accountability between African Member States and their development partners. The recommendations will enlighten discussion on the 2030 Agenda’s implementation at the High-Level Political Forum.

# United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

Across much of the Europe and Central Asia region there has been steady progress in terms of average social indicators. However, in most places there are still significant disparities, while discrimination against excluded groups remains a challenge in most societies of the region. Likewise, respect for human rights and space for social debate vary across the region, with an independent and vocal civil society and media still nascent in many countries.

In this context, UNICEF’s primary programme focus is on reducing equity gaps through addressing remaining bottlenecks in the enabling environment, supply/quality and demand determinants, with an emphasis on promoting child friendly social norms.

Specifically UNICEF’s engagement and technical assistance across the region is organized through a set of eight Core Roles, which are bringing results for children:

- Advocacy (the independent voice): advocating and communicating to mobilize political will and dialogue on social issues, social norms, behaviours and attitudes, in order to positively impact the realization of the rights of all children and adolescents;
- Policy dialogue and advice: influencing the development of the normative frameworks for child rights compliant national legislation, policies, regulations and standards, budgets, and programmes, based on evidence and UNICEF’s knowledge of best practices;
- Knowledge generation and child rights monitoring: generating independent data, research, evaluation and analysis on the situation of children and critical bottlenecks to the realization of their rights[1], strengthening national collection, availability and use of reliable, disaggregated data, as well as developing accountability institutions, mechanisms and partnerships for effective monitoring of child rights implementation[2];
- Convening partnerships and leveraging resources for children: fostering catalytic partnerships of diverse public and private stakeholders for the achievement of results for children, including platforms for direct engagement with children and adolescents, and using evidence-based advocacy to leverage the influence and investments of major actors for children;
- Capacity development of government and civil society: strengthening the technical capacities of government and civil society actors, at national and local levels, for the improved development, implementation and monitoring of inclusive, rights-based, child-friendly policies and services;
- Modelling and testing innovations: modelling the operationalization of inclusive programmes and policies at local level (at scale), independently evaluated and costed to secure government commitment to nationwide replication, demonstrating new ways in which social

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<sup>[1]</sup> Including reporting through EC Progress Reports, UPR, CRC, CEDAW, CRPD, etc.

<sup>[2]</sup> Child rights institutions and mechanisms include, but are not limited to, the Office of the Ombudsman and other independent human rights institutions, the legal system (courts), and the Parliament. In addition, participation from social partners and civil society requires a variety of set ups and fora to expand the space and capacity of claim-holders to effectively contribute to CRM, such as Child Rights Observatories and Child Rights Fora at national and/or subnational level. These arrangement for participatory and independent CRM need to be able to access, analyze and advocate for children’s rights based on reliable information, data and evidence.

norms, systems and services for children can evolve to reduce equity gaps and guarantee fulfilment of the rights of all children;

- Horizontal cooperation beyond-borders: enabling horizontal cooperation and exchange of experience, resources, expertise, and knowledge among countries and regions on 'what works' for enhancing child rights realization, gender equality and equity.

## UN Women

### **Support for promoting good governance, the rule of law, the eradication of poverty and hunger**

UN Women's Flagship Programming Initiative on "Women's Entrepreneurship and Gender-Responsive Procurement" focuses on creating opportunities for women-owned businesses in corporate and government value chains, as well as within the UN system. For example, within the UN system, UN Women successfully advocated for a commitment from the Chief Executives Board, which covers 31 UN organizations, to prioritize the access of women-owned businesses to procurement flows of more than \$17 billion annually. At the global, regional and national levels, UN Women provides capacity development, tools, knowledge and advocacy for procuring entities, entrepreneurs and women's business associations, which will result in increased sourcing of goods and services from companies owned by women. The programme is a vehicle for delivery on the recommendations of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment, which identified procurement from women-owned businesses as one of the primary drivers of women's economic empowerment. The UN system can draw on the growing supply of SMEs in middle-income countries to source goods and services for women, and use that as a fiscally responsible pillar of development cooperation because it channels economic opportunities directly to the hands of women, while simultaneously delivering on other investments.

UN Women is facilitating exchange of knowledge, lessons learned and good practices from Ministries of Finance across several countries in the ECA region and beyond so that countries in the south can benefit from mutual support initiatives and integrate gender equality in national budget planning. This means that women and girls will benefit from inclusive sectoral budgetary allocations that actually meet their specific needs and priorities. UN Women through its regional programme on gender-responsive budgeting has facilitated the sharing of knowledge and expertise on gender mainstreaming of fiscal policies, and successful pilot strategies to be replicated in counties of the ECA region. For the first time in the region, Ministries of Finance from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYR Macedonia, Moldova and Ukraine formally committed to applying gender-responsive budgeting in their respective financial systems.

UN Women has already been successful in supporting transformative action in the area of procurement in middle-income countries through a corporate guide to gender-responsive procurement, "[The Power of Procurement: How to Source from Women-Owned Businesses.](#)" This new guide, developed in close collaboration with representatives from business government and civil society in two emerging markets, Brazil and India, provides corporations and their suppliers with a deeper understanding of the barriers and challenges preventing women-owned businesses from accessing and fully participating in local and global values chains. It provides the tools and techniques

for reducing or eliminating these barriers and for leveraging the vast untapped economic potential represented by women-owned businesses. This guide is intended to support signatories of the Women's Empowerment Principles, which UN Women and UN Global Compact jointly promulgate, to take action on Principle 5: Implement enterprise development, supply chain and marketing practices that empower women. Corporations are well positioned to promote gender equality and empower women in their workplaces, in their communities and through their purchasing policies and practices.

As part of UN Women's EU-funded programme, "Promoting and protecting women migrant workers' labour and human rights: engaging with international, national human rights mechanisms to enhance accountability," UN Women has worked closely with Mexico, Moldova and the Philippines to strengthen migration governance in line with existing normative frameworks such as the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). A gender-responsive assessment of the Moldova National Action Plan (NAP) 2014-2016, conducted under the project, led to the development of a new National Action Plan 2017-2019 on the reintegration of citizens returned from abroad, which contains a much stronger gender focus in line with CEDAW provisions. In the Philippines, UN-Women's technical support contributed to the adoption of the CEDAW-compliant Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Act. This is a significant development for a country with one of the highest rates of out-migration globally and is estimated to benefit six million women migrant workers. In Mexico, UN Women supported a CEDAW-based legal analysis, and provided technical assistance to develop legislation that complies with the provisions of CEDAW on migration.

### **Support for collecting quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data to monitor the progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (para 16, A/RES/70/215)**

At a high-level event in September 2016, under the auspices of the 71st General Assembly, UN Women launched a new Flagship Programme Initiative, "Making Every Women and Girl Count."<sup>4</sup> The five-year programme aims to affect a radical shift in the availability, accessibility and use of quality data and statistics on key aspects of gender equality and women's empowerment. Through an integrated and coordinated approach at the national, regional and global levels, this programme will address three interrelated challenges: (i) weak policy space and legal and financial environments to produce gender statistics; (ii) technical challenges within national statistical systems that limit the production of gender statistics; and (iii) lack of access and limited capacity to analyse and use data to inform policies. Actions to address these challenges will be country specific, but will promote an enabling environment to ensure gender responsive localization of the Sustainable Development Goals and will support efforts to increase the regular production of quality and comparable gender statistics and allow greater access to data.

As a pilot initiative, between 2017 and 2020, the programme will be implemented in 12 pathfinder countries, specifically in middle income and low income countries, through partnership with national statistical offices and in coordination with other actors. Joint country-level projects will be developed to provide technical support to improve the production of gender statistics in all areas of the Sustainable Development Goals, namely to: (i) support country level assessments of policies and practices governing the production of gender statistics; (ii) provide technical support to and capacity

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<sup>4</sup> See <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/9/un-women-launches-flagship-programme-initiative-making-every-woman-and-girl-count>. The MEWGC FPI benefits from the financial support of the Governments of Australia, Ireland, the United States and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

building of national statistical offices to produce gender statistics, including gender-related SDGs indicators; (iii) and provide support to information exchange platforms, including user-producer dialogues on gender statistics and the SDGs.<sup>5</sup> An independent country selection process is underway to inform the selection of the 12 middle and low income countries that will implement the programme. The country selection process is expected to be completed in July 2017.

As part of the regional component of the programme, UN Women and the government of Mexico announced the establishment of a Global Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics in 2016. The Centre will aim to strengthen the generation, analysis and use of gender statistics with a focus on fostering analysis and innovation on gender statistics in key emerging areas; strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices; and promoting information sharing on best practices around the production and use of gender statistics.

As part of the global component of the programme, UN Women is developing an SDG monitoring platform and global database to facilitate the dissemination of SDGs data to a broad constituent of users, serving as a 'one-stop-shop' for monitoring all the gender-related indicators of the SDGs. This important tool will be used to further support improving the accessibility of timely data for all countries, including middle income countries, to monitor progress of the SDGs from a gender perspective.

## UN Women in LAC region

### **b. Efforts to mainstreaming support to South-South Cooperation and triangular cooperation**

UNW is an articulator of South-South cooperation among countries of LAC in various themes, including gender statistics, time use surveys, prevalence surveys on GBV, constitutional reform, legal reforms on the age of marriage, ILO Convention 189, among others. With the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, there is renewed momentum to scale up this type of cooperation.

### **Inter-governmental dialogues and agreements**

UNW is actively engaged in the regional inter-governmental fora defined to discuss gender equality and women's empowerment in LAC and promotes the LAC position in global normative fora. In addition to providing technical and financial assistance to these conferences, it actively supports the organization of civil society meetings on the side of these regional events to ensure the voices of women's organizations and machineries are included in inter-governmental discussions. In February 2017, women's ministers and top gender officials from 23 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean participated in the UNW organized Regional Consultations prior to the 61st session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) calling for decisive measures to promote women's economic empowerment in a [joint declaration in Panama](#). This declaration was a key input in the global negotiations during the CSW61.

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<sup>5</sup> For further information see UN Women 2016. *Making Every Woman and Girl Count: Supporting the monitoring and implementation of the SDGs through better production and use of gender statistics*.

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/flagship-programmes/making-every-woman-and-girl-count>

In 2016, UNW jointly organized with ECLAC the LAC's CSW 60 regional consultation dedicated to women's empowerment and its links to sustainable development in Chile, January 25th to 28th 2016. It contributed to the XIII Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean held in Montevideo, Uruguay, in October 2016, providing technical support to the three preparatory inter-governmental processes, organizing 9 side events during the Conference and supporting the organization of the Feminist Forum prior to the Conference. The Montevideo Strategy serves as a roadmap for the implementation of commitments related to women and children's rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women and children in LAC and a key new regional normative framework that links, on the one hand, all previous regional normative instruments related to women's rights and gender equality, and on the other, the recently adopted Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

In Colombia in 2016, UN Women promoted a cooperation process between the Mexican Government and the Government of Colombia, focusing on CEDAW. The inter-states cooperation has the purpose of generating a dialogue that supports the exchange of good practices and lessons learned between the countries, encouraging an innovative exercise in the region that can possibly be replicated and scaled up.

In 2016, UNW supported the organization of the International Seminar on Gender Responsive Constitution-Making in the Context of Sustainable Development, hosted by the Government of Chile. Contextualized in South-South and North-South cooperation, the seminar exposed good examples from Mexico, Colombia, Rwanda, Canada, Australia; Ongoing lessons were exchanged from countries which are in "constitutional transition" in the light of their ongoing reforms. This was an important contribution to the ongoing discussion on the constitutional reform. The views and aspirations of the women have been collated into a historic Women's Charter which serves as a frame of reference for the Presidency and other decision-makers.

Five agencies, UNW, UNICEF, UNDP, UNAIDS and PAHO/WHO are implementing a joint regional initiative to eliminate child marriage in LAC focusing on national legal reforms that align the age of marriage with international norms. As part of this effort, the initiative facilitated a South-South exchange through a regional seminar in August 2015 titled "Toward a region free of early and child marriage: Legislative changes to the marriage age in Ecuador, Mexico and Panama". The webinar was hosted by UN Women in Panama City with participants in Panama as well as 11 UN inter-agency gender groups connected from the LAC region. The presenters included Government representatives, Parliamentarians, and civil society activists from the three countries. The panelists shared the process that was followed in their respective country to achieve the change of legislation in the age of marriage (raising the age to 18 years old for both women and men without exceptions). The presentations showed the important differences in the three countries, with a very quick process in Panama (4 months to obtain the parliamentary vote to change the civil code), and complex and lengthy processes in Ecuador and Mexico, which generated more resistance from conservative groups within and outside Parliament. Several success factors were identified, which may be useful to other processes that are being supported in various countries in the region. A guidance note was compiled with the experiences of these countries and is [available online](#).

## **Women's economic empowerment**

In Paraguay, four South-South exchanges and triangular cooperation initiatives were developed with UN Women's technical and financial support in 2016 to provide technical assistance for the Time Use Survey: 1) National Institute of Statistics of Uruguay; 2) National Institute of Statistics of Mexico; 3) Institute of Women in Mexico; and 4) National Secretariat of Care - Ministry of Social Development of Uruguay.

In Brazil, UNW, the Secretariat for Policies of Women, and the Ministry of Social Development partnered to generate data and quality information on the impact of the budgetary cuts of a number of social policies on the economic empowerment of women. The Booklet “More Equality for Brazilian Women: ways of social and economic transformation” was launched, with information and data on the positive impacts of social policies for women. The booklet served not only as a knowledge product to inspire South-South exchanges, but also as an advocacy tool to prevent setbacks for women in the current political and social context.

UNW in Brazil promotes the incorporation of the gender and race perspectives in South-South cooperation with countries in Africa through an agreement with the Brazilian Agency for Cooperation (ABC) financed by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom, between 2015 and 2017. This innovative strategy crosscuts different impacts, and may serve as a global reference for other Country Offices. Under the scope of the interagency project “Brazil-Africa: fighting poverty and empowering women through South- South Cooperation”, UN Women leads, together with UNFPA, the component on EAW and on promoting women’s economic empowerment. Other components are led by UNDP and IPC. Partial results achieved until December 2016 include: : (a) strengthened engagement of both Mozambican and Brazilian Government institutions in promoting gender equality, responding to GBV and enhancing women’s economic empowerment; (b) a “training of trainers” methodology on integrated attention to GBV victims and trained 80 GBV focal points in various ministries in Mozambique; (c) increased capacity of the Government of Mozambique to monitor national and international women’s rights normative framework; (d) increased visibility of women’s economic empowerment in the Mozambican government agenda and improved national policy framework; and (e) impacts of policies for promoting women’s economic autonomy in Brazil disseminated.

To help with the positive regional trend of ratification and implementation of ILO Convention 189, UNW at regional level facilitated South-South cooperation and good practices among LAC countries, contributing to Jamaica ratifying the Convention in 2016.

### **EVAW and Safe cities**

At regional level, in 2016, UNW organized a regional event of global stature on the dissemination of best practices of primary prevention from around the world in Panama in December. A total of 25 countries were represented and UN women key guidance documents such as the [UN prevention Framework to End Violence against Women and Girls](#) as well as the [Essential Services Guidelines](#) were effectively disseminated. A community of practice will be established as a follow up to the meeting. More information on the meeting available [here](#).

UNW Guatemala facilitated South-South exchange between the municipality of Guatemala City and the municipality of Puebla Mexico as part of the UNW-supported Safe Cities Programme.

### **c. Supporting the formulation and implementation of gender-responsive national development plans and removal of discriminatory legislation within the SDG framework**

The region has achieved important normative progress. To date, all countries have ratified the CEDAW Convention (1979) and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (1994), known as the Convention of Belém do Pará. Besides. The majority of Latin American countries have a comprehensive normative system including legislation against different forms of violence against women. 15 countries have typified femicide. Seventeen (17) countries count with laws establishing a quota or parity for women in electoral processes.

Several countries also have gender-responsive national development plans, such as in Colombia and Mexico. In Colombia, the national development plan prioritizes: formulation of public policy for rural women (1), budgeting from a gender perspective (2), and assessment of national public policy on gender equality for women (3). In Mexico, the National Gender Equality Policy -PROIGUALDAD- is aligned with international commitments and policy documents, and constitutes an instrument to implement the Beijing Platform for Action as well as the national legislative framework on gender equality and ending discrimination and violence against women. All sectorial policies mainstream a gender perspective, as well as legislation and norms relating to planning and budgeting. The National System on Equality between Women and Men, created by the Gender Equality Law in 2006 was raised to ministerial level, which positions gender equality at the highest decision-making level of government. The National System to Prevent, Address, Sanction and Eradicate Violence against Women, created by the EVAW Law in 2007, is also a key public mechanism for monitoring compliance and making national policy decisions.

UNW supports the removal of discriminatory legislation and the advancement of laws in favor of gender equality and women's empowerment. As key examples in 2016:

In Mexico, the 2016 emblematic "Call to Action for Parity Democracy" promotes 10 commitments, including legislative and public policy reforms to put substantive equality principle into practice with a mandate for parity participation in the three branches and levels of Government. This was a key event for political commitment and 2017 advocacy for legislative reforms.

The Province of Buenos Aires became the fourth province in Argentina to have a parity law on electoral lists, following Córdoba, Rio Negro and Santiago del Estero.

In El Salvador, by legislative decree, a specialized jurisdiction (Specialized Courts in VAW) was approved to install a specialized court on VAW with instructions judges in three departments: San Salvador, Santa Ana and San Miguel. These courts have joint jurisdiction to act on gender violence, as well as three special sentencing courts in VAW and discrimination in the same departments with jurisdiction in criminal matters submitted by the specialized instruction courts above mentioned.

Jamaica ratified ILO Convention 189

In Colombia, UN Women consistently maintained an advisory role to the Congress of the Republic and the Legal Commission for Gender Equality, a support that led to improve measures of political surveillance of the act regarding violence against women and the creation of a policy for rural women. Among the most important initiatives contributing to policy reforms aiming at ensuring the advancement of women's rights, it is worth highlighting technical support provided to four departmental administrations to prepare gender responsive development plans, and to national

institutions to establish the first ever gender responsive budgeting measures for the national budget approved by the Congress of the Republic.

In 2016, Paraguay adopted Law 5777 – “Comprehensive protection of all forms of violence against women and girls”: The new law introduces advances in Paraguayan legislation: among them, it establishes the figure of femicide, protective measures and the prohibition of conciliation. UNW played a key role in convening multi-stakeholder dialogues, and in providing evidence and policy advice for this new legislation.

#### **d. Support to strengthening and data disaggregation and gender statistics**

Mexico is a global player in promoting gender statistics, via the National Statistical and Geographical Institute (Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía, INEGI): together with the Philippines it co-chairs the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs); and along with Finland, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS). Regionally, Mexico chairs the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA), a subsidiary body of ECLAC, for 2016-2017, in addition to taking the lead on gender statistics by chairing the SCA-ECLAC Working Group on Gender Statistics since its creation in 2007<sup>6</sup>. Mexico is working to establish a Global Center of Excellence in Gender Statistics<sup>7</sup> in partnership with UN women and various other actors, aimed at stepping up efforts in terms of investigation, innovation, cooperation, and the exchange of experiences to contribute to the effective adaptation/contextualization, implementation, and monitoring of the SDGs.

Progress in using gender statistics in Mexico was achieved by improving databases, information systems, and platforms for monitoring progress toward the SDGs. Mexico was the first country in the world to become part of the "Economic Dividends for Gender Equality" project (EDGE), which aims to accelerate existing efforts to generate internationally comparable indicators on the undertaking and characteristics of employment with a gender focus. Similarly, it participates in the DATA2X: Partnering for a Gender Data Revolution initiative<sup>8</sup>, aimed at measuring the well-being of women from a gender perspective. Mexico is the pioneer of surveys on the use of time and measurements of the economic value of unpaid work in national accounts. INEGI, the National Institute of Women (Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres, INMUJERES), UN Women, and ECLAC developed the Gender Atlas, which seeks to gather some of the most important gender equality indicators in Mexico on an online platform where users can access maps showing demographic, social, and labor-related trends in terms of the use of time, employment, poverty, decision-making, and violence against women.

The XVII International Meeting on Gender Statistics was organized in Aguascalientes in September 2016 to reflect and share best practices for achieving gender equality and analyze statistical challenges with regards to indicators of SDG, as well as opportunities South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, to regional challenges of the implementation of Agenda 2030.

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<sup>6</sup>See UN Women/ECLAC/INEGI/UNWOMEN. *Gender Statistics. A Strategic Alliance for Latin America and the Caribbean* – available at: <http://mexico.unwomen.org/es/digiteca/publicaciones/2015/01/gender-statistics-a-strategic-partnership-for-latin-america>

<sup>7</sup>Secretariat for Foreign Relations. Press release. September 26, 2016. Available at: <http://www.gob.mx/sre/articulos/la-canciller-claudia-ruiz-massieu-participo-en-el-lanzamiento-de-making-every-woman-and-girl-count?idiom=es>

<sup>8</sup>Among the projects to collect data via social networks, Data2X has worked with INEGI to develop a methodology and collect and analyse data on adolescent mental health by using negative and positive expressions on Twitter. Since depression is one of the main causes of illness globally among adolescents, and due to the lack of information available on the theme, it is hoped that this project will contribute innovatively to closing the gap in gender data in key areas of health for women and girls. <http://data2x.org/partnerships/>

Participants included National Statistical Offices from 17 countries of the region and representatives from 6 Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women, in addition to academics, specialists and organizations. As a contribution for instance, UNW Guatemala supported the participation of delegates from the Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM), Secretariat for Planning and Programming of the Presidency (SEGEPLAN) and National Statistics Institute (INE), with the objective of establishing a dialogue on gender-related SDG indicators and strengthen national capacities.

In 2016, UNW facilitated an exchange between the Government of Colombia and the Government of Mexico, enabling a mission of the Mexican Government to Colombia, with the purpose of generating a dialogue that supports the exchange of good practices and lessons learned between both countries with regard to gender-responsive SDG implementation.

## **Brazil**

The work on gender statistics in Brazil began with the implementation of activities of two programmes: one funded by DFID between 2003 and 2006 that aimed to incorporate gender and racial equality perspectives into public policies; and another funded by AECID aimed to incorporate gender, race and ethnicity into poverty eradication programs. Both programmes had statistics as a strategic action to advocate for public policies to promote human rights for women and gender equality. As in Brazil racial inequalities are also structural ones, all work in statistics aimed to show differences and specific challenges faced by Afrodescendant women.

UN Women provided technical support for the main publications on gender statistics in Brazil: the Portrait of Gender and Racial Inequalities and the first edition of the National Gender Information System (SNIG). UN Women provided technical, financial and institutional support for: the elaboration of the National Report on socioeconomic situation of women in Brazil (RASEAM) and is part of the Committee on Gender Studies and Use of Time and the Technical Group (TG) on Gender Indicators of the Brazil Observatory on Gender Equality.

## **Colombia**

Countries have the main responsibility to monitor and evaluate progress in achieving the new objectives, for which it will be necessary to gather, produce, and process quality, accessible, and appropriate data. In this context, Colombia created the High Level Inter-Institutional Commission for the Preparation and Effective Implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals in February 2015, which aims to be a formal space for monitoring and decision-making in implementing the SDGs via public policies, plans, actions, and programmes. The Commission guides and coordinates competent authorities regarding the 2030 Agenda by connecting with territorial bodies, civil society, the private sector, academia, and the international community, among other interest groups, to support the process of registration, coordination, and compliance in the implementation of the Goals. This Commission is hosted by the Technical Secretariat of the National Department of Planning (Departamento Administrativo Nacional, DNP) and is co-directed in terms of information, data, monitoring, and evaluation by the National Administrative Department for Statistics (Departamento Nacional de Planeación, DANE). As one of the strategies to close gaps in information identified in its diagnosis together with other requests, DANE asked for the support of the United Nations System and in response the SDG Working Group was set up by DANE and the United Nations System, which defined four areas of work: 1) Territorial

measurement requirements; 2) New technologies and data<sup>9</sup>; 3) Promotion of partnerships; and 4) Outreach and socialization actions.

Since it is necessary to proceed with strengthening the statistical capabilities of the National Statistical System (Sistema Estadístico Nacional, SEN) and to reinforce partnerships, it was important to create a space for dialogue with statistical experts from UN agencies to develop indicators, that in addition to being monitored, would constitute the baseline for the design and implementation of public policies. In this context, it was decided to organize an international event facilitating cooperation with UN agencies and their expertise to strengthen the statistical abilities of SEN bodies that produce information for monitoring the progress of the SDGs. The key goal of the event, which was held on March 22-24, 2017 in Bogotá was: to strengthen the capacities of the National Statistical Systems of the Andean sub-region to produce information required for the reporting of SDG global indicators and the design of public policies to achieve the goals by 2030. The event involved work sessions corresponding to the five Ps of the Agenda 2030 (Peace, Prosperity, People, Planet, and Partnerships), seeking to create the statistical capacity to ensure the availability of information for SDG indicators classified as tier I and II. Various opportunities and challenges were identified for each P. In the thematic area of Peace, which is a fundamental part of the Colombian agenda, it was concluded that it was necessary to begin disaggregating data much more specifically. For example, measurements of equality and violence, with a gender focus, must be disaggregated at a territorial level and be available for various population groups. It is equally important to facilitate the reporting by citizens of violent acts and to reinforce notification systems. As immediate actions, inter-institutional coordination, with support from civil society and international organizations, is crucial in avoiding the duplication of information, strengthening registers, and enhancing information. The UN is thus committed to assisting the national government in defining a road map that makes it possible to close the information gap and act as a bridge in facilitating inter-institutional dialogue.

UNW developed a strong partnership with CARICOM around the development of a regional (i.e. CARICOM) model for measuring GBV that could be replicated at national levels. As a result, the Council of Ministers of Human and Social Development for CARICOM (COHSOD), endorsed the CARICOM Model on National Prevalence Surveys on Gender-Based Violence, which is based on the WHO Model. UNW also developed solid alliance with the CARICOM Regional Statistics Programme to develop a CARICOM set of Gender Equality Indicators. This allowed for a further relationship with National Statistics Offices across CARICOM, that all agreed to adopt the CARICOM GEI which includes indicators to measure GBV, Economic Empowerment, Education, Health and Public Participation.

## The United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC)

The United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC), through its Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development in Bonn, Germany, is committed to enabling learning across the UN system and beyond

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<sup>9</sup>As one of the tasks of this group, DANE identified a group of 55 global indicators, 29 red and 26 yellow, which could be used jointly by DANE and the UN. Based on this information, it was confirmed that agencies could offer support for 13 yellow indicators and 9 red indicators. In addition, support for approximately 40 (green) indicators was offered, which DANE had not initially contemplated, despite their relevance for the processes of intensification, territorial disaggregation, and distribution.

in support of sustainable development results. This includes designing and organizing learning, training and knowledge management on Global Partnerships, of which South-South and triangular cooperation form an integral part.

In the lead up to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the UN Secretary General pointed out that “the United Nations system is well positioned to help strengthen collaborative relations among developing countries, owing to its convening power, global reach, country presence, technical expertise and impartiality.”<sup>10</sup> South-South Cooperation (SSC) is a key modality under Sustainable Development Goal 17 to “[s]trengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development”.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda also recognizes SSC as “an important element of international cooperation for development as a complement, not a substitute, to North-South cooperation.”

During the [UN Reflection Series 2016](#) “Development Cooperation, Policy Advice and Middle Income Countries”, roundtable discussions on South-South and Triangular Cooperation relating to Middle Income Countries (MICs) were organized. The event was held in Berlin as a joint effort by UNSSC and the Hertie School of Governance.

The series looked at the quality and nature of support delivered in MICs by external partners with a focus on the United Nations System. It explored interactions with governments’ capacities and accountabilities.

Topics discussed ranged from the necessity of upstream engagement, improved policy advice, capacity building and the importance of emerging donors, to tackling inequality, implementing social protection floors and strengthening civil society participation.

South-South and Triangular cooperation were identified as key drivers having the potential to accelerate sustainable development progress, allowing countries to leave the so-called “middle-income trap,” while maintaining a balance between social, economic and environmental advancements.<sup>2</sup>

The UN system is exploring new methods to support MIC governments that act as providers of development cooperation to countries of the ‘South.’ Presenters at the UN Reflection Series highlighted that this enables field-based UN agencies to harness the rise of new potential supporters for programme activities in countries. Further, it can allow the establishment of additional programme-related initiatives and broad-based partnerships.

South-South cooperation facilitates upstream engagement, through the exchange of regional experiences and the scanning of related political positions and policy analysis, while strengthening diplomacy and partnerships. It ensures sustainability of solutions adopted through greater national ownership. By brokering and promoting partnerships, and South-South Cooperation, different UN entities can support and jointly implement systemic and sustainable solutions to national challenges. South-South Cooperation also allows to cultivate subject matter champions across the globe, thereby rallying a critical mass of action needed for far-reaching impact.

The UN Reflection Series explored challenges and opportunities related to the UN’s role in supporting MIC’s engagement with South-South cooperation. This included discussions on the need to map and

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<sup>10</sup> UN Secretary-General’s 2014 State of South-South Cooperation Report.

analyse existing support schemes to analyse what has and what hasn't worked; to adopt proactive-policy-input approaches to country support, and to develop approaches tailored to the needs of individual countries.

The capacity of the United Nations System to leverage global and country level networks within and among UN entities was pointed out as a comparative advantage. Another key advantage is the perception of impartiality and the neutral space for discussion, which a multilateral agency can provide. The UN's convening power was underlined with the caveat that the different types of one-off gatherings must produce concrete results. The requirement for follow up mechanisms essential for longer term gains was also mentioned.

Authors at the UN Reflection Series argued that South-South Cooperation should take place in a network of ongoing multi-stakeholder dialogue and communities of practice, among countries of the global South, as well as with partners from around the globe. This would facilitate in depth knowledge sharing and collaboration for long-term results.

Considering the growing relevance of South-South Cooperation as a vehicle to accelerate development in countries, and the important catalytic role the UN can play in promoting the South-South Cooperation agendas of its Member States the UNSSC and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) Regional Division for Arab States, Europe and the CIS developed and launched a joint course in 2016, in Bonn, Germany on [“UN Catalytic Support to South-South & Triangular Cooperation in Implementing the Agenda 2030”](#).

Following a successful pilot in November 2016, in 2017 the [UN Office for South-South Cooperation](#) approached the UNSSC Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development for a joint important initiative on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in implementing the 2030 Agenda. Ten trainings in 9 countries, including an EU country, have been conducted in partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). This politically vital initiative targets key national players in the area of agricultural development and enhanced food security, development and international cooperation. The nine countries include: Algeria, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Turkey, Sudan, Tunisia, and Uzbekistan.

A fundamental element of all learning and training services provided by the UNSSC is the effort to collaborate with the most suitable partners, within and beyond the UN system. For South-South Cooperation capacity building partnership initiative, our partnership approach to learning aligns with the key underpinnings of the 2030 Agenda, which encourage multi-stakeholder engagement and partnerships. In particular, through its collaboration with various institutions, the UNSSC Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development has worked with UNOSSC and its partners in this initiative: IsDB, IFAD, SESRIC.

UNOSSC and UNSSC have partnered to build the capacity of main actors in two regions (Arab States and Europe and the CIS) towards a common understanding of the theory and practice of SS&TC, identifying and capitalizing on the entry points towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The capacity building initiative had two streams and ran in the wider context of the reinforced efforts to promote SS&TC of both institutions. Key outcomes included:

Increased common understanding of the theory and practice to help promote the South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Identification of needed actions on expert exchange between the countries participating in UNOSSC initiative on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Agricultural Development and Enhanced

Food Security (SSTC-ADFS) jointly supported by the IFAD, Islamic Development Bank and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

One of the recent culminating results of several joint efforts is the conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding between Sudan and Hungary Ministries of Agriculture on cooperation, including on crop production and seed production technology.

The UN System Staff College, through its Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development, looks to continue the learning and capacity-building support on South-South and Triangular Cooperation to UN Country Teams and development practitioners (amplifying the UN's catalytic role to support SS&TC), as well as to expand its range of free learning products on a new learning management platform.

## United Nations University (UNU)

### **Support for collecting quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data to monitor the progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (para 16, A/RES/70/215)**

Appropriate measurement of poverty, crucial for monitoring the progress of SDG1, remains complex and controversial. This is particularly true in middle-income countries where (i) the stakes with respect to poverty reduction are high; (ii) the determinants of living standards are often volatile; and (iii) related information bases, while much improved, are often characterized by significant non-sample error. The United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research ([UNU-WIDER](#)) open access book, ['Measuring Poverty and Wellbeing in Developing Countries'](#), published in early 2017 at Oxford University Press, seeks to enhance the transparency, replicability, and comparability of existing practice. In so doing, it also aims to significantly lower the barriers to entry to the conduct of rigorous poverty measurement and increase the participation of analysts from middle-income countries in their own poverty assessments. The book focuses on the measurement of absolute consumption poverty as well as a specific approach to multi-dimensional analysis of binary poverty indications, known as the first order dominance approach (FOD).

While absolute poverty lines are appealing in the context of developing countries where the focus remains on attaining minimum standards of living for large portions of the population, consistent with the SDGs and the approach in the UNU-WIDER volume, it is essential to conceive of and monitor poverty in its different dimensions. It has long been recognized that poverty and wellbeing are multi-dimensional phenomena, which cannot be adequately represented by a single income variable.

### **Major challenges for the development of middle-income countries**

United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) has a 2014-2018 work programme that was developed in direct response to the challenge of providing and promoting sustained economic growth and sustainable development, and economic transformation is a critical element in successfully navigating to sustained and sustainable economic

growth. UNU-WIDER has devoted considerable effort to research in this area, in particular to addressing the paucity of data and solid evidence available for middle-income countries. To that end, the Institute has led on enhancing local capacity in generating data, and supporting evidence-based policy-making in middle-income countries.

Further, goals such as SDG8, SDG9, SDG10, and SDG12, all require that an understanding of poverty, supported by reliable and disaggregated data, be combined with a strong understanding of economic and industrial development. Critical questions for middle-income countries, such as the reason for Africa's relative lack of industry compared to Asia, are at the heart of both the challenge of sustainable development, and UNU-WIDER's '[Learning to Compete](#)' project. Industry—including modern services and agro-industry—is often the key to job creation, poverty reduction, and growth. Most Asian economies began their industrialization processes with initial conditions quite similar to many African countries today, yet, while Asia had explosive industrial growth, Africa's shares of global manufacturing value added and exports have fallen. To sustain growth, middle-income countries must learn to compete in global markets. In the special issue, '[Learning to Compete: Evidence on Exporting and Firm-Level Performance](#)', UNU-WIDER researchers employ detailed and long-term datasets generated through in-depth country studies to show strong, robust evidence in support of learning-by-exporting, and other specific policy recommendations.

### **Cooperation of the UN system with middle-income countries**

The crucial nature of accurate data, both for local decision making, and to support evidence-based policy elsewhere in the world, has been behind a project by the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER), '[Structural Transformation and Inclusive Growth in Viet Nam](#)'. The project builds on and further develops two unique panel data sets: the Viet Nam Access to Resources Household Survey (VARHS) and the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) survey. The latest VARHS 2016 survey was administered in mid-2016, and the project team presented a draft version of the report in May 2017 with the formal report to be launched in Hanoi in November 2017.

The project furthermore helped generate a new 2012 Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) that will provide greater clarity on the macroeconomic features and structural changes of Viet Nam since 2007. This work started in early 2015 and was completed in 2016. The Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM) and UNU-WIDER co-organized a workshop in Hanoi in November 2016 to present and discuss the findings of the report '[Viet Nam 2012 Social Accounting Matrix \(SAM\)](#)'. The report is an important contribution to the process of strengthening the analytical foundation for the economic reform process in Viet Nam. It is therefore a key reference on the economy of Viet Nam, as well as the starting point for subsequent improvements and refinements.

A thorough examination of the key constraints facing African economies as they attempt to maintain a long-run economic growth and development trajectory is being conducted by UNU-WIDER as part of the '[Understanding the African lions – growth traps and opportunities in six dominant African economies](#)' research component. By providing a firm analytical basis for policy recommendations and value-added guidance to domestic policymakers in the fast-growing economies of Africa, as well as for the broader global community interested in middle-income development.

In November 2016, UNU-WIDER released this research as the book, '[Africa's Lions: Growth Traps and Opportunities for Six African Economies](#)'; this established a platform for expert African researchers to offer unique perspectives into the challenges and issues in states including Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria,

and South Africa. Targeted directly at key audiences by UNU-WIDER, the book and its research were quickly picked up by international media including [Newsweek](#), and regional media, such as the South Africa based [Business Day](#) and [Eyewitness News](#).

In February 2017, UNU-WIDER launched the '[Towards Inclusive Growth and Economic Reform – Myanmar](#)' project, a four-year collaboration with the Central Statistical Office (CSO) of the Ministry of Planning and Development of Myanmar. Under the UNU-WIDER approach, already pioneered in projects in the region, a rigorous Myanmar Enterprise Monitoring System (MEMS) – focused on the industrial small and medium enterprise (SME) sector which is vital to job creation – will be established. The overall aim is to strengthen evidence-based policy-making and analysis to help underpin Myanmar's move through a challenging structural transformation and development process.

The MEMS will contribute to the on-going improvement of the quality of economic policy discussions in Myanmar, thus supporting the Government's efforts in assessing and implementing relevant industrial policies for the future. In addition, the MEMS will foster transparency and openness in the public discussion on policy options engaging all relevant stakeholders. The effort incorporates quantitative surveys (to be implemented in 2017 and 2019), qualitative/experimental approaches (to be implemented in 2018 and 2020), and stands on three pillars: data collection (surveys) to be repeated in biannual intervals, data analysis, in-depth policy relevant research and preparation and dissemination of policy briefs and recommendations, and training and capacity building of CSO staff.

Addressing the challenge of providing experts in middle-income countries with high quality data, as well as the challenge of building local capacity to generate it, is behind UNU-WIDER's successful '[SOUTHMOD](#)' effort, which helps policymakers simulate the impact of alternative policy choices. While microsimulation models are routinely used by researchers and policy makers in developed countries, few developing countries have access to such tools. Many middle-income countries are now building up their social protection systems and the financing of public spending is increasingly based on domestic tax revenues. In this process, understanding the system-wide impacts of different policy choices is critically important. UNU-WIDER, the EUROMOD team at the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) at the University of Essex, and Southern African Social Policy Research Insights (SASPRI) have launched a major research project to build tax-benefit microsimulation models for selected developing countries in Africa (including, Ghana and Zambia) and elsewhere (Ecuador and Viet Nam). In October 2016 researchers and civil servants from ministries in Namibia joined a training event – organized by UNU-WIDER and SASPRI, and supported and hosted by UNICEF Namibia – promoting NAMOD's use in government for evidence-based policy-making. In September 2016, the very first version of GHAMOD, a tax-benefit model for Ghana, was presented, and in February 2017 government officials and researchers in Ecuador gathered for ECUAMOD training.

UNU-WIDER's, '[Inequality in the Giants](#)', project is part of a broader international effort designed to shed light on a set of new questions regarding between-country and within-country inequalities, by generating integrated datasets and applying a consistent methodology to investigate the determinants of inequality dynamics in 10 of the world's largest economies, including China, India, Indonesia, Mexico and South Africa. The effort collaborates with local actors to provide a platform for research and policy discussion, in particular in India, Mexico, and South Africa, on the dynamics of inequality. In addition to a June 2017 policy dialogue with high-level South African policy makers, a series of outreach events will take place in each of the three countries to communicate the project's main findings in 2018.

UNU-WIDER's strong gender and discrimination focus is evident in all its work, but is guided by its '[Gender and Development](#)', and '[Disadvantaged Groups and Social Mobility](#)' projects. In September

2016 this led to 'Gender Discrimination and Violence' becoming a core element of UNU-WIDER's successful 'Responding to Crises' conference, and in November 2016 to the Institute's work on gender equality in India being reported by the US edition of [The Huffington Post](#), as well as local media.

## **Conclusions and policy recommendations**

The mandate, experience, and research of the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) all point towards the paramount importance of effective implementation of principles of effective governance, and strategies for integrated action with middle-income countries to achieve poverty eradication.

To this end, thirteen of the world's leading development economists, including UNU-WIDER Director Finn Tarp, four former Chief economists of the World Bank, and ten prominent members of the UNU-WIDER global network, have released the [Stockholm Statement](#). Based on two days of intense discussions held in Stockholm, and hosted by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the World Bank, the Statement summarizes the core principles for development policy-making going forward: traditional economic thinking no longer applies, inequality within countries is threatening social cohesion and economic progress, and development needs to be seen in a broader perspective in order to achieve more equitable and sustainable results. The Statement is already available in 23 languages.

Socially and economically sustainable development is only possible through reducing inequality. The Statement emphasizes the importance of policies that tackle inequalities. GDP growth is needed as a means to grow the common economic pie and thus fund the achievement of social objectives — but ensuring this growth is inclusive requires a combination of policies. Deliberate interventions are needed to eradicate oppressive norms and discriminatory practices, as well as to attend to the impact of global technology on inequality. Taking into account environmental sustainability and social norms is a requirement, not an option. The Statement is crystal clear on the importance of stepping up efforts globally and nationally for mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The thirteen economists also emphasize the importance of incorporating social norms more consciously in policy-making and use their potential for curbing corruption.

The Statement underscores the importance of official development assistance and the role of the international community in advancing development opportunities, both in middle-income countries, and for the world's poorest citizens generally. The international community has a responsibility to ensure that assistance is directed to developing countries and marginalized groups within them, and that middle-income, and all developing, countries are better represented in the governance structures of international institutions.

Internal governance, and state capacity, is a core issue when it comes to development collaboration with middle-income countries, and the open access UNU-WIDER book, '[Building State Capability: Evidence, Analysis, Action](#)' by Matthew Andrews, Lant Pritchett, and Michael Woolcock, addresses the issue directly. Governments play a major role in the development process, and constantly introduce reforms and policies to achieve developmental objectives. Many of these interventions, especially without support, suffer from limited impact; schools get built but children don't learn, IT systems are introduced but not used, plans are written but not implemented. These achievement deficiencies reveal gaps in capabilities, and weaknesses in the process of building state capability.

By providing evidence of the capability shortfalls that currently exist in many countries, this book addresses these weaknesses and gaps. Many governments lack basic capacities even after decades of reforms and capacity building efforts. By analysing this evidence, identifying capability traps that hold many governments back - particularly related to isomorphic mimicry (where governments copy best practice solutions from other countries that make them look more capable even if they are not more capable) and premature load bearing (where governments adopt new mechanisms that they cannot actually make work, given weak extant capacities), the research can then define a process that governments can use to escape these capability traps. Called PDIA (problem driven iterative adaptation), this process empowers people working in governments to find and fit solutions to the problems they face.

As such, robust policy recommendations are available, and the outcome of UNU-WIDER's ReCom – Research and Communication on Foreign Aid – programme, in which more than 300 researchers from 59 countries came together and provided evidence on what does and could work in development, and what can be transferred and scaled up, serves to demonstrate this. In addition to the 247 original studies produced, and 92 outputs in 2015-17 alone, the [‘15 ReCom findings for post-2015’](#) report identifies 15 concrete actions for moving forward, and stresses that policy action is a critical need.

## UN Volunteers (UNV)

### Asia Pacific

China: - Efforts to mainstream support to South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation

Volunteering and South-South Cooperation share common ideals of mutuality, respect, and equality that make them perfect partners. Today there is great potential for them to combine for mutual benefit. The volunteering landscape has shifted and programmes are no longer confined to traditional Northern donor countries. New volunteering organizations have emerged in the Global South as volunteerism becomes increasingly mainstream, more organized, and better governed. This momentum provides exciting new opportunities for volunteering to add significant value to South-South Cooperation. Organizations like the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme can support participatory approaches to South - South Cooperation by strengthening the capacities of new volunteering actors and facilitating people to people exchange.

UNV is partnering with Beijing Volunteer Federation to create opportunities for Chinese Volunteer Involving Organizations (VIOs) to engage in regional and international cooperation following the principles of South-South cooperation and sustainable development across the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) region. The cooperation will significantly enhance Chinese volunteerism through sharing international experiences, developing local capacity, and promoting the ideals of volunteerism and international cooperation in China's youth. The project will enable Chinese partners to create a platform (volunteer alliance for South-South Cooperation along the BRI), to pioneer regional 'people-to-people' cooperation and demonstrate how South-to-South volunteerism can tackle sustainable development challenges.

## Thailand - Efforts to mainstream support to South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation

Thailand has a unique approach to sustainable development informed by the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) developed by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej. SEP and SDGs have been integrated in the 20 – Year National Strategy Framework and the 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2017 – 2021). UNV assists the Thai Cooperation Agency in strengthening volunteer engagement in South-South Cooperation, as well as in engaging youth as relevant partners for localizing the SDGs through volunteer action. As a first step, a knowledge exchange on Youth Volunteering for the SDGs: Sharing SEP and other approaches from ASEAN countries is organized in June 2017.

## India - Supporting implementation of national sustainable development strategies, five year plans, perspective plans and other policy documents\*

In 2013, UNV, the Government of India, and UNDP launched a flagship initiative to provide help young people to reach their full social, economic and human potential, while instilling a strong sense of civic engagement facilitating greater youth participation in achieving sustainable development goals. Called [Strengthening Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan \(NYKS\) and National Service Scheme \(NSS\)](#), the project mobilizes 33 UN Volunteers to strengthen the capacity of youth clubs throughout 29 districts. In 2016, the capacity of rural youth clubs was strengthened, with more diversified opportunities for Indian youth volunteers created. All 29 districts involved in the project conducted situational analyses to better understand the needs and aspirations of local youth. UN Volunteer District Youth Coordinators worked to enhance the of youth clubs, while also forming more than 2,000 new youth clubs with over 22,500 new youth volunteers as members (taking the total number of youth clubs to more than 7,000 in 29 districts) and conducted youth development and volunteering programmes for more than 124,000 young people. To strengthen NYKS, the UN Volunteers are also engaging facilitators to train volunteers in volunteering, skills development, and communication. During 2016, the project also began developing an online volunteering portal to connect volunteers and volunteer seeking organizations in India. The portal will help to promote youth volunteerism in the country, connect youth networks, volunteer-involving organizations, civil society, governments and the private sector. The portal will be launched in 2017.

## West and Central Africa

One of the UNDAF Outcomes in Gabon states that the Gabonese population, especially the most vulnerable, shall benefit from strategies and sectoral policies on equitable development, egalitarian and inclusive human capital. As a MIC, Gabon has a vulnerable youth population at risk of violence and extremism.

In response to this Outcome, the UN system [United Nations Volunteers, UNDP and UNFPA] in full collaboration with the Government is supporting the establishment of a national youth volunteer programme. A feasibility study was conducted, a joint project document produced and signed by all partners in May 2016. The total budget of project is five million USD of which 400,000 \$ US have been mobilized by the UN system (USD 300,000 SVF from UNV and USD 100,000 from UNFPA), USD 100,000 by OIF and the Government also has committed to contribute financially.

The overall objective of the project is to set up a national volunteer program for young people in order to enable young Gabonese women and men to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. The project duration is for three years and should reach 200 young women and men during the first year of implementation.

Once the project will be completely implemented the Gabonese national volunteer programme will participate in the south-south and triangular cooperation initiatives on volunteerism in West and Central.

UNV has also supported capacity building of Gabon National Youth Council on volunteerism to promote youth civic engagement and citizenship.

The support from the UN system including UNV is aligned with the national priority plan “Plan Gabon Emergent”.

### East & Southern Africa

Country	UNV Supported Project	Project Budget <sup>11</sup> (USD)
Angola	Supporting the Establishment of a National Volunteer Programme Allowing Young Angolans to Contribute to the Development of their Country and to the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals	
Kenya	Enhancing Security, Co-existence and Refugee Protection through Refugee Outreach Volunteers	200,000.00 (through BMZ)
	Harnessing the Demographic Dividend Through Improved Maternal and Newborn Health Outcomes	17,221.00
Lesotho	Support to Youth Action and Volunteerism in Lesotho	92,000.00
Sudan	Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur	300,000.00
Zambia	UNV Support to SDGs Domestication in East and Southern Africa	45,000.00
Botswana	COMESA Youth Volunteer and internship Scheme	50,000.00
Djibouti		
Mauritius		
Namibia		
South Africa		
Swaziland		

<sup>11</sup> UNV contribution to the project/initiative.

*Note: Angola, Kenya, Lesotho and Zambia are also beneficiaries of the COMESA Youth Volunteer and Internship Scheme by virtue of their COMESA membership.*

## World Bank Group (WBG)

Middle-income countries (MICs) are the largest segment of World Bank Group (WBG) clients—108 of the 189 member countries of the WBG, accounting for one-third of global GDP in 2015. With a population of over 5.5 billion, MICs are home to over 70 percent of the world’s poor people, host almost 60 percent of the world’s refugees, and generate 58 percent of global CO2 emissions. In 2017 Forward Look – A Vision for the World Bank Group in 2030: Progress and Challenges, the World Bank committed to engage with MICs, support them in economic transformation, identify drivers of growth, promote policies to reduce inequality, assist with financial crises, and address global public goods. The World Bank has extended a total of US\$ 62.6 billion to 78 MICs through IBRD and IDA in the last two years.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This commitment excludes regional projects, IFC and MIGA. The data is of June 19, 2017

The World Bank undertakes a systematic country diagnostic (SCD) for each developing state, including the UMICs. The objective of the diagnostic is to identify how the WBG can best achieve its twin goals i.e. to: i) eradicate extreme poverty by reducing the number of people living on less than \$1.25 a day to 3 percent by 2030; and ii) promote shared prosperity by fostering the income growth of the bottom 40 percent in every country in a sustainable manner. The SCD frames the WBG engagement with the UMICs where ending poverty is central to its UMIC agenda.

The WBG has helped MICs incentivize increased private capital flows through guarantees for corporate investors and support for macroeconomic stability, appropriate legal frameworks, a resilient financial sector, and a robust business environment. The WBG invests in infrastructure, sustainable energy, improved urban services, and strengthened connectivity to provide an enabling environment for capital inflows, and it either invests its own capital or provides political and credit risk insurance products to incentivize private investment.

A new WBG initiative, the cascade process, aims to crowd-in commercial finance for development in MICs by identifying bottlenecks to commercial finance and providing support to address those constraints. The support involves addressing the risks private capital faces, providing risk guarantees where appropriate, and making available WBG seed capital to leverage added commercial investments.

The WBG has also helped MICs on the global public goods agenda, particularly in the area of climate change. Fast-growing MICs increasingly contribute to carbon emissions and face the issues of urban air pollution, urban floods, and extreme weather events. The WBG works with MICs on low-emission development strategies, energy efficiency, and green growth, including renewable energy development, energy security, the retrofit of buildings to ensure energy efficiency, and access to solar-powered electricity. The WBG also supports emission-trading schemes for air pollutants, urban air quality management, municipal greenhouse gas emissions management, carbon market initiatives, and greening approaches to transportation. It has helped to structure public-private partnerships on renewable energy and ventures that entailed significant emissions reductions.

As MICs develop, populations live longer and confront second-generation health concerns—that is, the diseases of affluence. MICs' health care systems, which were designed to address primary health care and infectious pandemics, need to be repositioned to address costlier non-communicable diseases. The WBG supports MIC health care systems in reforming to more effectively deal with this shift. Through WBG lending, performance-based incentives have been introduced to encourage primary health care providers to focus on prevention, early detection, and control, thus helping to pre-empt expensive treatment.

Rural-to-urban migration and urban agglomeration are characteristics of MICs. While urbanization allows for improved service delivery and productivity, it also requires improved spatial planning, transport connectivity, and hazard preparedness. WBG lending to MICs supports inter-modal transportation systems, sustainable municipal transportation finance, slum upgrading, low-income housing, urban land management, urban climate adaptation, and municipal finance.

While MICs are less prone to fragility and conflict than lower-income countries, they do have pockets of fragility. Accordingly, in working with MICs the WBG has emphasized underserved urban communities and slums, youth employment, violence, community policing, support for displaced and refugee communities, and the peace process, as relevant.

## World Food Programme (WFP)

The World Food Programme (WFP) continues to make relevant contributions in the dynamic contexts of middle-income countries, where differences in development often result in vulnerability. In line with its mandate, WFP supports 51 middle-income countries to strengthen their national policies and systems, working effectively as an independent and impartial partner, and enhancing capacity-building efforts in its areas of expertise to assist countries in eliminating extreme poverty and hunger. 50 per cent of WFP procured food comes from MICs.

WFP's new Strategic Plan (2017-2021) – aligned to the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development outlines how WFP will operationalize actions to support governments to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the country level. Through five-year Country Strategic Plans, which are based on country-owned national zero hunger strategic reviews and in line with the planning processes of the Government and the United Nations country team, WFP identifies the national SDG targets that it is well placed to support.

WFP operations at the country level support emergency preparedness and response, and address residual and unequally distributed food insecurity, urban hunger and the double burden of malnutrition. WFP continues to strengthen national capacity in the areas of social protection and safety nets, and vulnerability analysis and mapping.

Driven by rising country demand and a changing operating environment, WFP has significantly stepped up its corporate approach towards facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation for the implementation of SDG 2. 60 per cent of WFP's Country Offices are actively engaged in supporting their host governments on exploring and realizing South-South opportunities– a significant increase from 48 per cent in 2014. In 2016 WFP established the China Centre of Excellence, adding to the already existing Centre of Excellence in Brazil.

WFP is committed to participating in humanitarian-development joint needs assessments and combined data analysis, including on progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Its operations continue to analyse food insecurity and mainstream evidence-based programming.

## World Health Organization (WHO)

### Background

WHO plays an active role supporting middle-income countries in achieving health related SDGs. WHO country presence in these countries is ensured through a WHO country office, a WHO country office covering more than one country or through a WHO regional office covering countries and areas.

WHO's technical cooperation with MIC countries, where it has physical presence, is defined in the country cooperation strategies (CCS)<sup>12</sup>. In the European Region, WHO uses an alternative tool called a biennial collaborative agreement for collaboration with the countries. In this region, WHO has country offices in 19 middle income countries. Each MIC has a biennial collaborative agreement for collaboration.

Support provided to MIC has evolved from direct operational support towards upstream policy advice on implementing agreements and conventions agreed by the Governing Bodies and by WHO offices at the subregional, regional and headquarters level. Support is also provided to strengthen country capacities in health diplomacy for better engagement in national and internal global health governance, supporting processes for increased multi-stakeholder engagement and supporting South-South and Triangular cooperation.

Below are some of the example of the support provided from WHO to MIC:

#### **WHO Regional office for Europe (EURO):**

Members States of the European Region, including MIC, have endorsed "Health 2020: the European policy for health and wellbeing". Health 2020 is also fully aligned with the SDGs and currently Member States are implementing Health 2020 by integrating its principles into their national plans and policies. Main priorities of Health 2020 are: fostering intersectoral approaches, a whole of government and society approach and tackling the economic, environmental and social determinants of health regional and at country level. The Regional Office supports countries in addressing these priorities.

EURO has also promoted and leads an issue-based coalition of sister UN agencies on the health related SDGs, under the UN Regional Coordination mechanism (RCM). One of its key objectives is to accelerate the progress towards the SDG targets in the middle-income countries in the region.

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<sup>12</sup> A country cooperation strategy is WHO's medium-term strategic vision to guide the Organization's work in and with a country, responding to that country's specific priorities and institutional resources needed to achieve its national health policies, strategies and plans and the action needed to achieve its national targets under the Sustainable Development Goals

**Jordan:**

The WHO country office in Jordan supported the government to join the International partnership for Universal Health Coverage 2030 (UHC2030) Alliance / UHC2030 global compact as an opportunity to promote a comprehensive and coherent approach for collective commitment to Universal Health Coverage, and to strengthen sustainable health systems, and effective development cooperation across all health targets. This helps also to ensure coordination and alignment of health system strengthening efforts at global, regional and country levels and appropriate linkages with other sectors.

The WHO country office agreed to support the Ministry of Health to do a mapping for the health system governance and health related institutions and an institutional review of the Ministry of Health functions, structure and capacities. This exercise will contribute to the process of updating the current 5 years strategic plan of the Ministry of Health 2013-2017.

Support has been provided to the High Health Council in the development of the National Strategy for the Health Sector in Jordan (2016-2020). This strategy represents the general framework for strengthening the capacity of the health system and strengthen Jordan's leading position in the provision of health care.

WHO country office has an active role supporting Jordan in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs through: i) the implementation of STEPS. The Non –Communicable Diseases (NCDs) STEPs wise survey is a, standardized method for collecting, analyzing and disseminating data about NCDs burden and risk behaviors among population for better planning and resources utilization as well as monitoring progress towards achieving SDG target 3.4; ii) conducting a Joint External Evaluation of the International Health Regulations (IHR) to align with the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) across all relevant sectors at national level. This tool is also used to monitor the progress towards achieving SDG target 3.d .

**China:**

WHO has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of China (January 2017) on cooperation on health in countries included in China's Belt & Road Initiative (BRI). This was followed by an implementation plan for the MOU signed in May. These two documents map out an overarching vision and intention for WHO to work with the Government of China for the betterment of health in Belt & Road countries. WHO China Office is now working with National Health and Family Planning Commission to explore new models of trilateral cooperation on health under the MOU on health cooperation in China's Belt & Road Initiative countries.

WHO country office in China is involved in frequent dialogue with Chinese counterparts on South-South cooperation. During the past two years, much of this has focused on Chinese development of Emergency Medical Teams in preparedness for urgent need in other countries.

Conducted with support from Ministry of Finance, National Health and Family Planning Commission, and Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of China and at request of the Chinese Premier, WHO and the World Bank delivered a Joint Study on Health Care Reform. The report provided eight broad recommendations for the next steps of health care reform in China. Many of the recommendations have been considered in development of the current China 13th Five Year Plan.

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