



**THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA-
UNITED NATIONS
STRATEGIC COOPERATION FRAMEWORK,
2013-17**



South Africa

The South Africa-United Nations Strategic Cooperation Framework (UNSCF) 2013-17

The South Africa-United Nations Strategic Cooperation Framework (UNSCF), 2013-17, is the overall framework for the work of the UN system in South Africa. The SCF has been developed in 2012 through a participatory and consultative process, coordinated by the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) and the UN Country Team.

The SCF is based on a common understanding of the strengths of the United Nations system and how the United Nations could be best placed to add value to Government's own Plan of Action in the pursuit of its objectives and priorities as reflected, inter alia, in the New Growth Path (NGP), Government's National Development Plan (NDP): Vision for 2030, as well as the Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) and the 2010 Millennium Development Goals Country Report. These have informed the identification of four pillars of UN cooperation, which are: inclusive growth and decent work; sustainable development; human capabilities; and governance and participation. The SCF also considers the role of South Africa on the continent and globally.

The United Nations Country Team in South Africa is deeply appreciative of its collaboration with the Government of South Africa.

Sincere thanks and appreciation go to the many officials in Government and the many representatives of the United Nations Funds, Programmes and Agencies represented in South Africa for their tireless efforts and useful contributions to produce this SCF.

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We, the United Nations Country Management Team in South Africa, pledge our commitment to foster cooperation and coordination between all our Agencies to enhance the performance and impact of the UN System by embracing a dynamic system wide coherence for a common UN response to development cooperation with South Africa.

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ARVs	Antiretrovirals
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
CSG	Child Support Grant
CSTL	Care and Support for Teaching Learning
CCPAP	Common Country Programme Action for South Africa
CPAP	Country Programme Action Plan
CPD	Country Programme Document
DAC	Department of Arts & Culture
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
DaO	Delivering as One (UN)
DBE	Department of Basic Education
DCoG	Department: Cooperative Governance
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DHA	Department of Home Affairs
DHET	Department of Higher Education and Training
DHS	Department of Human Settlements
DIRCO	Department of International Relations and Cooperation
DJCD	Department of Justice and Constitutional Development
DMR	Department of Mineral Resources
DoE	Department of Energy
DoH	Department of Health
DOHO	Department of Housing
DOL	Department of Labour
DoT	Department of Transport
DPE	Department of Public Enterprises
DPSA	Department of Public Service and Administration
DPW	Department of Public Works
DSD	Department of Social Development
DST	Department of Science and Technology
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
DWA	Department of Water Affairs
DWCPD	Department for Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EDD	Economic Development Department
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
eMTCT	Ending Mother to Child Transmission of <i>HIV</i>
EPWP	Expanded Public Works Programme
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
FET	Further Education and Training
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GoSA	Government of South Africa
GMS	General Management Support (UN)
HACT	Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ILO	International Labour Office

IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISHP	Integrated School Health programme
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEC	Members of the Executive Council
MHSC	Mines Health and Safety Council
MTSF	Medium Term Strategic Framework
NDP	National Development Plan: Vision for 2030
NEDLAC	National Economic Development Labour Council
NGP	New Growth Path
NPC	National Planning Commission
NSDA	Negotiated Service Delivery Agreement
NSP	National Strategic Plan on HIV, STIs and TB 2012 -2016
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
RDLR	Department of Rural Development and Land Reform
SALGA	South African Local Government Association
SANAC	South African National AIDS and TB Council
SAPS	South African Policy Service
SARB	South African Reserve Bank
SARS	South Africa Revenue Service
SASS	South African Secret Service
SASSA	South African Social Security Agency
SCF	Strategic Cooperation Framework
SETA	Sector Education and Training Authorities
SOCA	Sexual Offences and Community Affairs
SRSA	Sport and Recreation South Africa
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCHR	United Nations Commission on Human Rights
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDAF	United Nations Development Action Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIC	United Nations Information Centre
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS)
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organisation

BACKGROUND AND PROCESS

The South Africa-United Nations Strategic Cooperation Framework (UNSCF), 2013-17, is the overall framework for the work of the UN system in South Africa. The SCF has been developed in 2012 through a participatory and consultative process, coordinated by the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) and the UN Country Team. The SCF includes the presentation of the situation in South Africa overall, as reflected, inter alia, in the New Growth Path (NGP), Government's National Development Plan (NDP): Vision for 2030, as well as the Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) and the 2010 Millennium Development Goals Country Report. These have informed the identification of four pillars of UN cooperation, which are: inclusive growth and decent work; sustainable development; human capabilities; and governance and participation. In addition, a brief analysis of past cooperation and lessons learned, including those identified in the 2009 Joint Evaluation of the Role and Contribution of the United Nations System in South Africa, and the planned results to be achieved by all partners in the South African context, with the UN contributions indicated at the outcomes level. The SCF also considers the role of South Africa on the continent and globally.

1. INTRODUCTION

South Africa has made significant progress in both economic and social development since the end of apartheid in 1994. Human rights are part of the national discourse, enshrined in one of the most progressive Constitutions in the world; governance issues and challenges are freely and openly debated in a free press and with a highly dynamic civil society. Multi-party elections are held regularly, in accordance with the South African Constitution (1996), and there is a delineation and separation of powers amongst the three spheres of government. More people are accessing health care, with free health care services available to all pregnant women and children under 5 years of age. More children are receiving an education, and more vulnerable groups are protected by a robust social protection system. People living with HIV¹ and TB have gained increased access to antiretroviral treatment (ARVs) and other forms of treatment, care and support. In 2011, 56% of the population with advanced HIV infection had access to ARVs, compared to 14% in 2005.²

While applauding South Africa's overall progress, it is equally important to recognise some of the major development challenges facing the country, namely, persistently high levels of poverty and inequality, and associated problems of high unemployment (especially among the youth), hunger, violence and crime. According to the Government's *Development Indicators 2011*, one out of every three South Africans in 2009 lived below the poverty line of R422 a month, which represents a decrease, from one in two in 1994, but which is still a very high figure for an upper-middle income country.³

¹ UNAIDS dissuades the use of the term 'HIV/AIDS' as it tends to conflate HIV (the virus) with AIDS (which refers to the very specific end-of-life epidemiological diagnosis that may result from HIV). It is increasingly the case that not all people living with HIV will develop AIDS, hence the more appropriate term to use in almost all contexts is HIV. Refer to UNAIDS Terminology Guidelines, January 2011.

²HCT Campaign and Treatment Expansion Review report, NDOH 2011.

³The incidence of poverty is likely to have increased as a result of the 2008-2009 recession, which claimed over one million jobs.

The same report showed that the richest 20% of South Africans earned 68.1% of national income, compared with 1.6% for the poorest 20%, which is an indication of the persistently high levels of inequality in the country, despite a slight decline in the Gini-coefficient, from 0.665 in 1994, to 0.644 in 2009.⁴

Despite the decline, which resulted largely from a dramatic increase in the number of social assistance recipients over the past decade, the Gini-coefficient figure remains amongst the highest in the world.⁵ Against this background, Government has made the elimination of poverty and a reduction in inequality the twin strategic objectives of its long-term NDP: *Vision for 2030*.

Uneven access to essential social services such as education, health services, housing and sanitation also remains a major source of inequality, with deprivations experienced in one sector (e.g. access to quality education) being reinforced by deprivations across other sectors (e.g. low income, inadequate housing). When comparing a child growing up in the richest 20% of households, a child in the poorest 20% of households is two times less likely to be exposed to early childhood development programmes; three times less likely to complete secondary education, and seventeen times more likely to experience hunger.⁶ This context of 'intersecting inequalities' means that disadvantaged South Africans face multiple obstacles to the full enjoyment of their human rights, as enshrined in the Constitution, and thus require multi-faceted strategies and interventions to help them to overcome these obstacles.

Government has articulated its medium-term priorities in the 2012/13 to 2014/15 MTSF and its commitment to 12 national development outcomes, which are as follows:

- Outcome 1: Improved quality of basic education
- Outcome 2: A long and healthy life for all South Africans
- Outcome 3: All people in South Africa are and feel safe
- Outcome 4: Decent employment through inclusive economic growth
- Outcome 5: A skilled and capable workforce to support an inclusive growth path
- Outcome 6: An efficient, competitive and responsive economic infrastructure network
- Outcome 7: Vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities with food security for all
- Outcome 8: Sustainable human settlements and improved quality of household life
- Outcome 9: Responsive, accountable, effective and efficient local government system
- Outcome 10: Environmental assets and natural resources that are well-protected and continually enhanced
- Outcome 11: Create a better South Africa, a better Africa and a better world
- Outcome 12: An efficient, effective and development oriented public service and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship.

In addition, the NDP presents a longer-term vision for the country, based on addressing nine major challenges:

1. Unemployment.
2. The standard of education for most black learners is of poor quality.

⁴ Republic of South Africa, *Development Indicators, 2011*.

⁵ The number of children receiving the child support grant, for example, increased from about 22 000 in 1998/1999 to 10.4 million in 2010/11, according to the *Development Indicators 2011* (p.29).

⁶ Department of Women, Children, and People with Disabilities, South Africa Human Rights Commission and UNICEF, *South Africa's Children: A Review of Equity and Child Rights*, Pretoria, 2011.

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

The nine challenges cover economic, social, environmental, and governance issues, indicating the broad and multi-faceted nature of the development challenges faced by South Africans. The UN's role is to provide support to Government in those areas where it is agreed that it could make a difference towards addressing these challenges.

While the country has a highly developed and comprehensive national policy framework that guides planning, economic and social development, effective implementation and policy alignment remains an on-going challenge⁷. The skills and competencies required for effective policy implementation remains an under-developed area in the South African context, and there are shortcomings with regards to performance monitoring and evaluation, which has been noted in the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) report as an area where the UN could make a contribution. However, Government has recognised the inadequacies in human resources capacity, and efforts are underway to address, in more systematic ways, the skills and performance management and evaluation gaps in different sectors, e.g. through the establishment of the Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation in January 2010 and Government's commitment to the 12 national outcomes approach.

In 2011, South Africa's population numbered 50.6 million, with young people (14-35 years) constituting 42% and women about 52% of the national population. South Africa's total fertility rate has declined, from an average of 2.92 children per woman in 2001, to 2.35 children in 2011.

The South African economy continued its recovery from the recession in 2008-2009, although at a pace that is generally considered fragile and inadequate to reduce the country's high unemployment rates (21.8 % for men and 26.5 % for women⁸). Towards the end of 2011, government revised the economic growth rate downwards, from the previous estimate of 3.4% to 3.1%, partly in response to on-going weaknesses in the global economy. For the medium term (2012-2014), the economy is expected to grow at a rate of 3.4%, 4.1 %, and 4.3 %, respectively, for the next three years. A number of factors, such as low real interest rates and increased public sector spending, are expected to facilitate this optimistic outlook.

Women, youth, children and older people face additional challenges by virtue of their particular status. Gender inequality remains a stark reality in the country. Female-headed households are significantly more likely to live in poverty, with more than half (51.4%) of female-headed households having an income of less than R570 per month, compared to less than a third (29.5%) of male-headed households in 2010.⁹

Gender-based violence (GBV) continues at very high rates in South Africa, with one in four girls having been sexually abused.¹⁰

⁷ National Planning Commission, *National Development Plan: Vision for 2030*, 2011

⁸ StatsSA, Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) for 4th quarter of 2011; available at <http://www.StatsSA.gov.za>

⁹ Social Profile of South Africa, 2002-2010, Pretoria: Statistics South Africa, 2011.

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

Despite improvements in women's access to political power and decision-making – 45% of seats in national parliament are held by women¹¹ (particularly Black women) in rural areas, and those disabled continue to be disproportionately burdened by poverty, socio-economic inequality and the persistence of gender based violence.

People with disabilities continue to experience exclusion and lack of equal access to services, opportunities and information due to persistent negative attitudes, ignorance and stereotyping, despite one of the most progressive policy and legislative frameworks worldwide. According to the National Census 2001, there were approximately 2.3 million people (estimated at 5% of the total population) reported to have a serious disability - namely an impairment that prevented their full participation in life activities such as socialising, education and work.

The Community Survey of 2007 estimated that only 29,9% (389,013 out of 1,393,236) of children with disabilities attended early childhood development (ECD) facilities in 2007. The number of children with disabilities of school going age who were out of school in 2007 was estimated to be as high as 33.5%. The Survey further indicated that 44,847 children aged between 7-18 years did not attend school because of their disabilities.

The 11th Commission on Employment Equity Report 2010-11 reports that employees with disabilities in both the private and public sector constitutes only 0,83% (up from 0,7% in 2006 and 2008). A total of only 43,913 people with disabilities were in formal employment against the target of 89,998 set by employers for this period. It should also be noted that 60% of the 43,913 employees with disabilities were employed in semi or unskilled and temporary positions, and that the majority of employees with disabilities were in the white male category.

The youth face particular challenges, including high unemployment and an education system that often does not prepare them adequately for the formal labour market. According to the Quarterly Labour Force Survey done by Statistics South Africa, young people aged 15-34 make up slightly more than 70% of the 4.4 million South Africans who were unemployed at the end of 2011. Among factors that militate against the employability of this segment of the labour force are health risks (notably high-rates of HIV and teenage pregnancy), as well as low levels of technical and professional skills. There are also multiple factors contributing to children's vulnerability, including crime and violence in schools, homes and communities; almost 4 million children orphaned; and over 50% of children living in poverty. These challenges call for a multi-sectoral response across government policies and programmes.

South Africa continues to have the largest HIV epidemic in the world, driven largely by sexual transmission. New HIV infections continue to fuel the epidemic with an estimated 390000 new HIV infections in 2009 alone, and with an estimated 5.6 million adults and children living with HIV in 2009, including 3.3 million females and 330000 children.¹² People living with HIV still face discrimination and stigma, due to a variety of factors, such as lack of understanding of the illness, inadequate access to knowledge, fear, prejudice and socially sensitive issues, such as sexuality and gender identity.¹³ However, considerable advances have been made thus far, and the disease is now showing signs of stabilizing.

¹¹ Republic of South Africa and UNDP, MDG Country Report 2010

¹² UNAIDS 2010 Global Report on the AIDS Epidemic

¹³ National Strategic Plan on HIV, TB, and STIs 2012-2016, SANAC, Pretoria, 2011

Climate change has become one of the key priorities of Government. Its inherent consequences, which amongst others include droughts, floods and diseases, have the potential to reverse positive achievements made towards the attainment of the MDGs. Poor and vulnerable communities in both rural and urban areas will be most exposed to and affected by the negative impacts of climate change. The adoption of the White Paper on National Climate Change Response prior to the 17th Climate Change Conference of Parties (CoP17) in 2011, demonstrated Government's commitment to addressing the challenge.

The policy articulates key climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes to be implemented in order to ensure the transition of South Africa's economy into a climate-resilient, equitable and internationally competitive lower carbon economy and society.

As a large democracy and country with an impressive transformation development agenda, South Africa has articulated a clear vision of how it can contribute at the sub-regional, regional, and global levels. With a focus on addressing socio-economic challenges at home and as a partner for development in the region, South Africa can contribute its own experience to help shape the regional and global discourses on development and cooperation to better address existing as well as new development challenges, such as climate change.

South Africa has been active in peace and security initiatives in Africa, and has played a facilitating role in resolving tensions and supporting peace building in various African countries, and is a major contributor of peacekeeping forces on the African continent. South Africa manages large migratory flows of both internal and cross-border migrants; likewise, it receives a large number of refugees and asylum-seekers. Migration can play an important, constructive role in development, yet migrants, both internal and cross-border, refugees and asylum-seekers, often face particular challenges and risks. This is especially the case for undocumented individuals or stateless persons (i.e. those without an official nationality). Effectively managing migration while promoting a "Better South Africa, Better Africa and a Better World" will continue to be a challenge for the South African Government, particularly as it seeks to ensure the rights and interests of both host communities and migrant populations.

The UN is well positioned to support South Africa, as needed, at the national, sub-national and regional levels. Therefore, this SCF provides guidance on the UN's assistance to South Africa with regards to its domestic as well as its international development commitments and objectives.

The remainder of this section is devoted to the four thematic focus areas of UN cooperation in South Africa, namely: inclusive growth and decent work; sustainable development; human capabilities; and governance and participation. cross-cutting priority areas where the UN system has a comparative advantage, include HIV and TB; gender equality and rights; and, a focus on youth.

A) Inclusive Growth and Decent Work

Achieving full employment, decent work and sustainable livelihoods is one of the key strategic priorities adopted by Government towards eradicating poverty and reducing inequality. Much of the poverty and inequality is driven by high levels of unemployment and under-employment that have disproportionately affected the majority of the black population. This is largely due to the legacy of apartheid and current economic downturns worldwide. The internationally comparable unemployment rate in 2011 was 24.9%.¹⁴

¹⁴ Stats SA, Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) for 4th quarter of 2011; available at <http://www.StatsSA.gov.za>

Women in general, and the youth in particular, have borne a disproportionate share of unemployment, constituting two-thirds of all unemployed.¹⁵ Poverty and unemployment are particularly high in the rural areas where the employment to population ratio is 26.2%, compared with 48.5% in urban areas in 2010.¹⁶

The productivity of the South African workforce is threatened by a high burden of preventable diseases, such as HIV, and curable diseases, including TB as well as accident and injury that affect primarily working age adults.

The immediate Post-apartheid period of the South African economy experienced strong jobless growth; this challenge is compounded by the structural nature of South Africa's unemployment and the ill preparation of (low quality basic education and irrelevant post-school programmes) new job entrants during their development years. For this reason, Government policies and legislative frameworks have focused on creating an economy that is more inclusive and in which the fruits of growth are shared more equitably. Government's strategy is to move away from a relatively resource and capital intensive economy, towards a more diversified one that lends support towards labour absorbing activities. In particular, public investment in infrastructure development constitutes a critical intervention for fostering inclusive economic growth.

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

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

B) Sustainable Development

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

¹⁵ National Planning Commission, National Development Plan: Vision for 2030, November 2011 available at

<http://www.presidency.gov.za>

¹⁶ Ibid.

Even under current emission scenarios, that are more conservative than international emission trends, it has been predicted that by mid-century, the South African coast will warm up by around 1 to 2°C and the interior by around 2 to 3°C. By 2100, warming is projected to reach around 3 to 4°C along the coast, and 6 to 7°C in the interior. With such temperature increases, life as we know it will change completely, parts of the country will be much drier, and increased evaporation will cause a drastic decrease in already scarce and limited water resources. This will significantly affect human health, well-being, agriculture, other water-intensive economic sectors, such as the mining and electricity-generation sectors. Increased occurrence and severity of veld and forest fires; extreme weather events; and floods and droughts will also have significant impacts.

Furthermore, rising sea levels will negatively impact on coastal human settlements and infrastructure. Mass extinctions of endemic plant and animal species will greatly reduce South Africa's biodiversity, with consequent impacts on eco-system services.

South Africa is a water scarce country with a highly variable climate, and has one of the lowest run-offs in the world – a situation that is likely to be significantly exacerbated by the effects of climate change. Uniquely, South Africa shares four of its major river systems with six neighbouring countries. These four shared catchments amount to approximately 60% of South Africa's surface area and approximately 40% of the average total river flow. Based on current projections, South Africa will exceed the limits of economically viable land-based water resources by 2050. The adequate supply of water for many areas can be sustained only if immediate actions are taken to stave off imminent shortages. Water demand is expected to rise by 52% over the next 30 years while supply of water is likely to decline if current trends due to leakage from old and poorly maintained municipal infrastructures and the loss of wetlands persist. This would make the prospect of water shortage a frightening reality in the near future. To better cope with the unpredictable and severe impacts of climate change, adaptation plans for key sectors of the economy need to be developed. To reduce the rate of hunger and ensure national food security, the percentage of land affected by soil degradation must decrease from 70% to 55% and land reforms strengthened. Increased support for small holdings and subsistence farmers will be required.

The first national green economy summit (held in May 2010) catalysed national efforts towards a resource-efficient, low-carbon and pro-employment growth path. References to greening the economy and creating green jobs have also recently begun to emerge as key aspects of general policy framework development. Transition to the green economy is viewed as a pathway for job-rich growth (green and decent) targeting, amongst others, the most vulnerable groups. The need to reduce South Africa's footprint with regard to greenhouse gas emission, increase the percentage of power generated from renewable sources and to mitigate the catastrophic impacts of climate remain key priorities towards this end. The transition to a green economy requires science and technology as a key input, and this also represents a potential area for South-South Cooperation.

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

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

The negative impacts of climate change on the socio-economic standing of the most vulnerable communities, and the consequences in terms of food security and the nutritional status of individuals within these communities threatens to further undermine their resistance to diseases such as HIV and tuberculosis.

Thus the high HIV and TB incidence and prevalence in high density informal and agricultural settlements needs to be urgently addressed.

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

C) Human Capabilities

Addressing inequalities in human capabilities is a critical prerequisite for realizing the economic and social transformation and inclusive growth agendas evident in South Africa's focus on a developmental and capable state. The NDP and related policies articulate a clear focus on measures to reduce inequalities regarding human capabilities as well as to enhance access to assets and productive resources such as land, training and credit. In particular, the human capabilities dimension encompasses education, health, social protection and a decent standard of living, and community safety, among others.¹⁷

Strengthening of human capabilities and state capacities is a thread that runs through the whole SCF and underpins the support that the UN system is able to provide to South Africa to realize a developmental and capable state. While skills development, jobs, rising incomes, basic services, including housing, safe communities and HIV are covered by the focus areas relating to Decent Work and Inclusive Growth and Governance and Participation, this focus area stresses the UN contribution in support of national development outcomes relating to education, health care and social protection.

Health

South Africa has made progress in increasing access to health services, but faces a quadruple burden of disease and injury consisting of: (i) HIV and tuberculosis (TB); (ii) high maternal and child mortality; (iii) non-communicable diseases and; (iv) violence and injuries. It also currently ranks as the third highest in the world in terms of the TB burden, with an incidence that has increased by 400% over the past 15 years.

¹⁷ National Planning Commission, *NDP: Vision for 2030*, 2011:44, 227. For decent standard of living see <http://www.npconline.co.za/MediaLib/Downloads/Home/Publications/English.pdf>

Since 1994 life expectancy has been reduced by almost 20 years—mainly because of the rise in HIV-related mortality¹⁸—and average life expectancy at birth is now 50 years for men and 54 years for women.¹⁹ South Africa is also one of only 12 countries in the world in which mortality rates for children younger than 5 years have increased since 1990.²⁰

Malnutrition among children aged six months to five years has decreased between 1993 and 2008. Outbreaks of measles in recent years and national surveys indicate gaps in immunization coverage among children.²¹ Maternal mortality remains unacceptably high, estimated at 310 deaths per 100 000 live births in 2011, which has more than doubled from an estimated 150 deaths per 100 000 live births in 1998.²² The maternal mortality goal is one of the MDGs that is not likely to be achieved by South Africa in 2015. This is therefore a key priority for the Government. In 2012, a total of 40.5% of maternal deaths were mainly attributed to HIV infection complicated by Tuberculosis and Pneumonia.

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

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

Education

In the education sector, the government has worked to transform all facets of the education system since 1994. The fragmented and racially duplicated institutions of the apartheid era have been replaced by a single national system including nine provincial subsystems.²³ Policies have been developed for all aspects of education, including those for school governance, school funding, post-provisioning, conditions of service for teachers and the curriculum.

The Department of Education’s vision for the future is reflected in its *Action plan 2014: Towards the realization of 2025*. It contains 27 goals accompanied by targets and indicators.

¹⁸ Mickey Chopra, Joy E Lawn et al ‘Achieving the health Millennium Development Goals for South Africa: challenges and priorities’. The Lancet, Volume 374, Issue 9694, Pages 1023 - 1031, 19 September 2009.

¹⁹ Statistics South Africa. ‘Mid-year population estimates’. Statistical release P0302. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa, 2008.

²⁰ The Lancet, August 2009

²¹ Shisana O, Simbayi LC, Rehle T, Zungu NP, Zuma K Ngogo N, Jooste S, Pillay-van-Wyk V, Parker W, Pezi S, Nwanyanwu O, Dinh T percent SABSSM III Implementation Team. 2010. South African National HIV Prevalence, Incidence, Behaviour and Communication Survey, 2008: The health of our children.

²² National Health Data Advisory Coordinating Committee HDACC 2011.

²³ OECD. *Review of National Policies for Education. South Africa. 2008.*

The *Action Plan* is based on evidence which reveals that the greatest challenge in basic education today is poor quality learning outcomes and the inequalities that exist across the basic education sector. The *Action Plan* has identified four key interventions to deal with these fundamental problems, namely: simplifying the curriculum; introducing annual national assessments for learners in Grades 1 to 9 in Language and Mathematics (ANA); providing workbooks and textbooks to all learners for every subject; and, improving the state of school infrastructure especially the provision of water and sanitation to schools.

In the area of Early Childhood Development (ECD), Government is committed to ensuring that all Grade 1 learners have had an access to a reception year, namely Grade R. Currently, over 80% of Grade 1 learners have experienced Grade R, while the Grade R Gross Enrolment rate was 91% in 2010 (DBE, Report on the GHS: Focus on Schooling). According to the DBE's analysis of the 2010 General Household Survey, in 2010, over 80% of five year old children attended an education institution. Data trends over the past decade show encouraging signs of improved access to Grade R, with over 86% of primary schools offering Grade R; however the Department acknowledges that the quality of Grade R needs to improve.

The country is on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goal on access to primary education (MDG 2). Gross enrolment rate in primary education (Grades 1-7) is 98%, and in secondary (Grades 8-12) the figure is 85%, with gender parity.²⁴

In the compulsory band of education (namely children aged 7 to 15), enrolment in education is close to 99%.²⁵ Enrolment in education institutions among children in the 16 to 18 year band (the post-compulsory age band), although lower, is fairly high at 83%. This means that about 17% of children aged 16 to 18 do not attend an education institution.²⁶ Research has shown that many of these (out-of-school) children live on farms in rural areas. Teenage pregnancy often compels girls to drop out of school too early. In 2011, 11.5% of 13-19 year old girls were out of school because they were pregnant.²⁷ Substance abuse, crime and violence are some of the social ills that appear when young people of school-going age are not in school and idle around in communities.

There is a clear need to address risky adolescent risk behaviour in South Africa. The Integrated School Health Programme (ISHP) and the Care and Support for Teaching Learning (CSTL) programme present opportunities to address issues of high-risk sexual behaviour and drug abuse amongst adolescents, through improved quality youth-friendly services, rights-based sexual and reproductive health information and effective referral systems.

Learners' achievement in national and international assessments is generally poor, with South Africa ranking lower than Zimbabwe, Kenya and Tanzania.²⁸ The chances of learning successfully are very unequally spread across the country. Learners in rural areas and children in the poorest households tend to have lower achievement levels. Some of the underlying causes for the poor quality of education include inadequate qualifications and low motivation of educators; large class sizes especially in disadvantaged areas; poor physical conditions at schools; lack of proper sanitation facilities especially in rural areas; and widespread violence in and around schools.

²⁴ Statistics South Africa. 2010. *General Household Survey 2009*.

²⁵ DBE Report on the GHS: *Focus on Schooling*.

²⁶ DBE Education Management Information Systems (EMIS).2011

²⁷ Statistics South Africa. 2012. *General Household Survey 2011*

²⁸ Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality (2010) SACMEQ III Project Results: Pupil achievement levels in reading and mathematics.

Issues of financing and resourcing continue to be of great concern, as does the need for greater inclusion, especially of younger children and those with special education needs. Altogether, in bridging inequity gaps in quality education, there is the urgent need to ensure access by all students to learning inputs, step up teacher effort through focused support and oversight, establish reliable and timely systems for student assessment, and build capacity of districts.

Social Protection

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

Currently, about 16 million South Africans benefit from social grants and pensions. However, the role of social protection programmes in poverty reduction has been significant. Estimates show that child poverty would have been about 9% higher in 2007 without the Child Support Grant (CSG).²⁹ The CSG has also been observed to impact positively and significantly on school attainment, access to health care and adolescent risk reduction. Nevertheless the high levels of poverty in the country point to the need to further consolidate social protection programs in the country. Reforms should aim at addressing three issues: (a) establishing a (minimum) floor of social protection, under which no citizen or family should fall; (b) having in place a common/targeted approach that ensures that the poor have access to essential services at the same time; (c) strengthen outreach and delivery capacities of government agencies to reach all excluded but eligible families.

D) Governance and Participation

Institutions

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

Safety and Security

The NDP describes safety as a core Human Right and a precursor to sustainable human development.

²⁹ UNICEF and Financial and Fiscal Commission, 2010

The National Planning Commission's Diagnostic Report 2011 noted the reality of high levels of violence in South Africa which affect the "objectives of economic growth and transformation, employment creation, improved education and health outcomes, and strengthened social cohesion."

Many challenges, such as high crime rates and low levels of youth development, remain. Although there has been a decline in reported crime in recent years, with a 2.4 % overall decrease in 2011, South Africa still has high levels of crime in general and violent crime, in particular.

The national murder rate of 31.9 per 100 000 is still 4.5 times greater than the international average. Violence against women and children, including people with disabilities, remains high.

The Commission for Gender Equality's Report entitled "*MDG+10 Gendered Review in South Africa*", indicates that Gender-based Violence (GBV) remains a critical challenge in South Africa, yet the true extent of sexual violence is not known. The report cites evidence from Stats SA that one in two rape survivors reported being raped to the police, while research by the Medical Research Council (MRC) found that one in nine women reported being raped.³⁰

In order to address violence against women and children, the Government of South Africa has introduced policy, legislation and intervention programmes, e.g. the Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences Acts; the creation of the Sexual Offences and Community Affairs (SOCA) unit within the National Prosecution Authority; the introduction of Thuthuzela Care Centres (TCCs) and Sexual Offences Courts; the development of a Victim Empowerment Plan and the introduction of the Victims' Charter, and the country is also awaiting the adoption of Trafficking in Persons legislation.

The NDP draws attention to corruption as a major obstacle to the vision that it espouses, noting that the costs of corruption fall most heavily on the poor through poor-quality public services. The Plan states: 'Overcoming the twin challenges of corruption and lack of accountability in our society requires a resilient system consisting of political will, sound institutions, a solid legal foundation, and an active citizenry that is empowered to hold public officials accountable.'³¹

High and rapid rates of urbanization also pose challenges to effective service delivery. The NDP states that South Africa is slightly more urban than the global average: about 60% of the population lives in urban areas. This is projected to reach 70% by 2030. Informal settlements are a manifestation of weak governance and service-delivery systems. Increasing inward migration has also necessitated a more comprehensive management of migration involving the control and protection of immigration, asylum seekers and refugee rights and the promotion of safe and dignified migration process is of paramount importance.

Substance abuse remains one of the key challenges facing South Africa.³² Substance abusers particularly from poor backgrounds tend to be marginalized when it comes to access to prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services.

³⁰ Lisa Vetten. 'Addressing domestic violence in South Africa: Reflections on strategy and practice', cited in A Gender Review of South Africa's Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, Commission on Gender Equality, 2010.

³¹ National Planning Commission. *National Development Plan Vision 2030*, p. 413.

³² Central Drug Authority. Substance use and abuse in South Africa. Presentation 2011 <http://www.pmg.org.za/report/20110907-presentation-central-drug-authority>

The Government is moving to adopt an integrated strategy for supply reduction, demand reduction and harm reduction and to make its services more comprehensive and accessible to the poorest communities.³³ This was also attested to by the President during the 2nd Biennial Summit on Substance Abuse held in March 2011 when he indicated that the fight against substance abuse is a key aspect to promote social cohesion and stable communities.³⁴

Cross-cutting Priorities

The development of South Africa's youth (15-34 years), constituting 42 % of the population³⁵ and 70 % of the unemployed,³⁶ is being threatened by health risks. This situation calls for a multi-sectoral response across government policies and programmes. According to the Department for Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities (DWCPD), since 1994, South Africa has made significant progress in putting in place legislation and policy frameworks for advancing equality and empowerment for women. While progress has been made on a number of fronts and several gains and many milestones have been achieved in this process, challenges nevertheless remain in terms of the creation of an environment that contributes to the removal of constraints to the advancement and empowerment of women, children and people with disabilities.

South Africa has a generalised HIV epidemic. The 2009 HIV prevalence in the adult population (aged 15–49) was estimated to be 17.8%³⁷ with the TB incidence estimated at 981/100 000.³⁸ The epidemic has stabilized at these very high levels. On average, annually around 250,000-300,000 new-borns are exposed to HIV. An estimated 2 million children have been orphaned due to AIDS. The HIV pandemic disproportionately affects women. HIV prevalence among female youth is almost four times higher than prevalence among males. Data show, however, that the country is finally making progress against a number of indicators. HIV prevalence among children 2-14 years old decreased from 5.6 % in 2002 to 2.5 % in 2008 and HIV prevalence among youth aged 15-24 years decreased from 10.3 % in 2005 to 8.6 % in 2008.³⁹ In addressing HIV/AIDS, access to sexual and reproductive health services remains critical especially for young women and key populations. While 83% of women utilize contraception services,⁴⁰ the promotion of family planning among young people requires further attention to reduce teenage pregnancy and unsafe abortions.

The HIV epidemic and TB, thus pose one of the greatest challenges and threats to the development agenda facing post-apartheid South Africa. Without acting quickly to protect the country's most valued resources: children, young people, women and the workforce, South Africa will not achieve most of its Millennium Development Goals.

The United Nations Country Team therefore has placed HIV and TB within its development support to South Africa. A comprehensive, sustainable development response across every sector of society: government, private sector, labour and civil society is required and is articulated in the National Strategic Plan for HIV STI's and TB (NSP) for 2012–2016.

³³ Anti-Substance Abuse Programme of Action 2011-2016

³⁴ <http://www.presidency.gov.za/pebble.asp?relid=3668>

³⁵ Statistics South Africa Labour Force Surveys 2011

³⁶ The South African Youth Context: The Young Generation, National Youth Development Agency, 2011

³⁷ DoH, 2010.

³⁸ WHO, 2010.

³⁹ Data from the KwaZulu-Natal impact study shows this is directly related to age difference between partners.

⁴⁰ South African Health Demographic Survey

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

In 2008 the Government of South Africa (National Treasury, International Development Cooperation) and the United Nations jointly commissioned a ‘Joint Evaluation of the Role and contribution of the United Nations System in South Africa’.⁴¹

The Joint Evaluation, conducted by an independent team of national and international experts, found that, although the UN System, through its various agencies and funds provided useful support to a number of government departments, the partnership between the two fell short of its potential. The evaluation recommended, amongst other things, that:

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

The experience of past UNDAFs, the Joint Evaluation as well as other relevant analyses,⁴² several key principles and lessons learned guide this SCF. First, the UN must organise itself to contribute more effectively and efficiently to improve people’s lives – specifically to help South Africa achieve the MDGs and the vision of the Millennium Declaration, the NGP, the Government’s 12 National Development Outcomes, the vision outlined in the NDP, and other national development priorities.

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

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

In order to help ensure the greatest relevance of this SCF, the UN system identified its comparative advantages in the South African context, relative to other development partners (including bilaterals, other multilaterals, and civil society). These include:

- The UN has a recognised and *strong ability and expertise around international normative standards* enshrined in international law and other instruments, including human rights and gender equality; as such, the UN is the international ‘custodian’ of the UN MDGs and other international normative instruments and standards;
- The UN is seen as a *neutral, impartial convenor* of various actors around current key issues (e.g. climate change human rights and international commitments);

⁴¹ [Joint Evaluation of the Role and Contribution of the UN System in the Republic of South Africa 2009](#)

⁴² This includes the annual SCF reviews, Repositioning UN in South Africa discussion paper (2010), the UN report on “United Nations Contribution to National Outcomes 2007-2010” and a paper on the UN’s role in Middle-Income Countries (2012).

- The UN is a *repository of strong technical knowledge and expertise* in specific areas of relevance to South Africa's development trajectory (e.g. social protection, employment, crime prevention, HIV, health surveillance systems, monitoring and data systems, youth, children, gender equality, environmental issues and sustainability) and is able to draw upon this expertise at the global, regional and national levels through its various agencies and offices;
- The UN *works inter-sectorally and inter-departmentally*, thereby supporting opportunities for dialogue and collaboration across departments ;
- The UN engages with Government structures at *national and sub-national levels*, thereby developing an understanding of how to achieve results in South Africa across the three spheres of government (national, provincial, municipal). Under the human rights based approach, the UN focuses its efforts on ensuring that the most disadvantaged groups and areas in South Africa are given full attention and priority, while at the same time working to support national-level policy and systems-building to benefit all South Africans.

The UN is able to engage at *all stages of the policy cycle*. It can provide technical support including data analysis, evidence generation and sharing of global best practices for the development of policies and programmes, support for moving from policy to implementation, and monitoring and evaluating the impact of policies on the ground. This *concurrent 'upstream-downstream' engagement* helps it to be an effective partner to support Government at all levels.

In brief, the strength of *the UN's contribution to South Africa* is best measured not in monetary terms, but in terms of its technical know-how and ability, its support to South Africa in the implementation of its international commitments, and through high-end value-adding activities that generate knowledge and information for policies and programmes and activities where it has a relative strength and comparative advantage.

3. PLANNED RESULTS FROM UN COOPERATION

The overall goal of the SCF is: eradicating poverty and reducing inequality. South Africa is committed to achieving the MDGs and the UN avails itself to support South Africa to accelerate its progress towards the achievement thereof, including where it is lagging behind (e.g. health MDGs, HIV, etc.), the consolidation and further expansion of those MDGs which have been achieved (e.g. education), as well as the achievement of the vision enshrined in the Millennium Declaration. The Millennium Declaration, MDGs and the global development agenda post-MDGs (i.e. post-2015) will also form the overall framework for the UN's work in SA, as in every country in which the UN works.

The UN will employ many strategies including focused policy advice and demand driven technical support, research and knowledge generation, and capacity building in the areas noted below. Facilitating South-South cooperation is a strategy that will be used across most of the outcomes described below. This is a unique kind of support that the UN can offer as a multilateral institution with physical presence in a large number of countries. All strategies and approaches will be discussed and agreed with the Government of South Africa to ensure their maximum relevance to the national context.

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

The UN, responding to the relevant Government Departments, avails itself to provide support, as per the principles of aid and development effectiveness and as per the Paris Declaration, Accra Agenda for Action and Busan Partnership document. In all areas, the UN support to South Africa will be demand-driven, and in support of national priorities as articulated by the Government. It will harmonise with other development partners in order to ensure synergy and reduced transactions cost to the Government .

The UN will also seek synergies amongst its agencies in each Focus Area, with a view to maximising the impact of its resources and contributions.

As indicated earlier, three cross-cutting areas have been identified as priority areas where the UN system has a comparative advantage. These three areas are: HIV, gender equality and rights and youth development.

The UN avails its support to South Africa in four Focus Areas: inclusive growth and decent work; sustainable development; human capabilities; and governance and participation. Each of these is explained in detail below.

A) Inclusive Growth and Decent Work :

Contribution to Government Priorities and Development Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Government outcomes:</u> Decent employment through inclusive economic growth (4) ; a skilled capable workforce to support an inclusive growth (5); an efficient, competitive and responsive economic infrastructure growth (6); Vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities with food security for all (7) • <u>MTSF priorities:</u> Speeding up economic growth and transforming the economy to create decent work and sustainable livelihoods; massive programme to build economic and social infrastructure; a comprehensive rural development strategy linked to land and agrarian reform and food security; build a developmental state including improvement of public services and strengthening democratic institutions; pursuing African advancement and enhanced international cooperation • <u>NDP programme:</u> Economy and Employment; economic infrastructure; inclusive rural economy; social protection; transforming society and uniting the country • <u>MDGs:</u> 1, 3, 6, Millennium Declaration

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

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

How results will be achieved, and with whom: UN Agencies together, with other development partners, will provide technical support to the Government of South Africa and other partners in the area of integrated strategic planning. Capacity strengthening in support Government’s development strategy of fostering inclusive economic growth through the promotion of growth oriented sustainable and competitive enterprises includes strengthening national capacity to mainstream decent work in all its employment initiatives.

This may also include the provision of guidance and capacity support towards the enhanced adoption and application of normative standards that uphold the rights of citizens, and migrants (both regular and irregular) to access decent work and employment, and to ensure that participants in the labour market work under conditions of freedom, security, equity and human dignity, and which will also include developing capacity to provide equal access to people with disabilities to decent work.

UN support will also be provided to enhance the capacity of Government and other partners to implement employment intensive infrastructure programmes that integrate rights, social protection, entrepreneurship and social dialogue aspects of the decent work agenda, and which subscribes to universal access and design principles.

Key Result Area2: Increased employability of vulnerable groups through skills building and SMME development.⁴³

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

How results will be achieved: The UN will work in close partnership with the Department of Higher Education and Training and other relevant departments, national skills development institutions, employers, workers and other key social partners. The UN agencies will provide support towards strengthening the capacity of skills development and tripartite institutions to link skills supply and demand as well as to linking skills to development strategies. In addition, technical support will be directed towards supporting strategies for simplifying the regulatory framework and National Qualifications Framework; evaluating and developing strategies for improving the effectiveness and relevance of training in FET colleges; and supporting programmes towards worker education and training; sharing of international best practices on partnerships between the private sector and educational institutions in affording young people critical work experience and skills acquisition.

⁴³ Within the context of the Strategic Cooperation Framework, the term 'vulnerable groups' refers to the following: children, youth, women, people with disabilities, migrants, and the poor. There is no standard South African or UN definition of 'vulnerable groups' that is applicable in all contexts; different departments/sectors define the term differently for their purposes. For example, in the labour sector, youth and informal sector workers are often defined as 'vulnerable', while in the health sector, the National Health Act defines 'vulnerable groups' to include women, children, older people, people with disabilities, and the Patient Rights Charter adds infants, pregnant women, and people living with HIV..

It also includes technical support directed towards the strengthening of sectoral skills strategies for increased growth and employment creation; strengthening public employment services; strengthening public private partnerships in skills development and in improving workplace learning. The UN will also share comparative best practices from countries that have a range of post school education and training programmes to assist the quest by Government to identify alternative post school education and training institutional forms that can adequately cater for the unique training needs of severely disadvantaged out-of-school youth and rural communities.

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

B) Sustainable Development

Contribution to Government Priorities and Development Outcomes

- ***Government outcomes:*** Vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities with security for all (7); environmental assets and natural resources that are well protected and continually enhanced (10); create a better South Africa and contribute to a better and safer Africa (11)
- ***MTSF priorities:*** Speeding up economic growth and transforming the economy to create decent work and sustainable livelihoods; massive programme to build economic and social infrastructure; sustainable resource management and use; a comprehensive rural development strategy linked to land and agrarian reform and food security; pursuing African advancement and enhanced international cooperation
- ***NDP programme:*** Economy and Employment; economic infrastructure; transitioning to low carbon economy; transforming society and uniting the country
- ***MDGs:*** 1, 6, 7, 8, Millennium Declaration

Key Result Area 1: The transition to a ‘green economy’ is accelerated through policies that promote the creation of green jobs, increased energy production from renewable sources, greater energy efficiency and increased reliance on low carbon development.

Rationale: UN support responds to the government priorities to promote the transition to a green economy (in green jobs, increase energy access and lower carbon development) in South Africa. Green jobs are expected to contribute to South Africa’s challenges of alleviating poverty and reducing inequality. In order to ensure secure and sustainable provision of energy and transition to a low carbon economy there is an urgent need to diversify South Africa’s energy mix.

Policies and measures are being put in place to ensure smooth transition. Government has committed to 10 000 GWh of renewable energy contribution to final energy by 2014 and installation of one million solar water heaters by 2013.

Energy efficiency is widely recognised as one of the most fundamental short-term imperative for rapid, ambitious and cost-effective climate change mitigation measure.

How results will be achieved: Particular areas of focus include development of national capacities for climate change adaptation and its mitigation through renewable energy and energy efficiency, transitioning into a green economy and ensuring sustainable energy access for all. This will be done by providing technical support for awareness campaigns on the subjects of low carbon economy focusing on green jobs, sustainable energy, mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

The government departments involved will include: the Department of Trade and Industry (Dti), Department of Science and Technology (DST), the Department of Minerals, Department of Energy, Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Department of Health (DOH), etc.

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

Rationale: Sustainable management of environmental assets, protection and enhancement of natural resources are key priorities of Government. The environment is intertwined with socio-economic development as it provides resources for habitation, production and consumption.

Sustainable management of environmental assets, protection and enhancement of natural resources are key priorities of Government. The South African Environment Management Act advocates for integration of social, economic and environmental factors into planning and implementation in order to ensure that economic and social development is reconciled with environmental protection. Poor communities continue to suffer negative environmental health effect due to poor housing, sanitation, waste disposal and access to bare necessities such as clean water. Climate change is expected to magnify the existing inequalities and exacerbates existing vulnerabilities. Women and rural residents continue to be more vulnerable to environmental hazards such as air and water pollution which can cause various illnesses. This is a relatively new area of work and thus there may be a need to provide support to bring the awareness of environment, green economy, and poverty reduction to special targeted groups such as young people, women and children.

South Africa has a high rate of vulnerability to food insecurity and this is exacerbated by the overarching lack of market access by prospective small-scale farmers. The Zero Hunger Programme (ZHP) of Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), seeks to address these anomalies in partnership with other Social Cluster Departments, as guided by the Integrated Food Security Strategy (IFSS). The UN avails itself to support national Government in its efforts towards a skilled workforce; to support the monitoring of food security and regional water issues in line with scarcity of available water.

How results will be achieved: The UN agencies and partners together with government departments will support the review of policies, plans and strategies in relation to poverty reduction and need of young people, women and children. This will be done by providing technical support to review policies and develop implementation plans, and build capacity in order to monitor implementation. This may include the promotion of the integration of nutrition, food-safety and food security programmes at all levels and their incorporation into national development policies. The UN agencies will provide technical support in capacity building at all levels of government and support review and development of policies and legal regulations to be developed for South Africa.

The government departments involved include Department of Science and Technology (DST), the Department of Trade and Industry (Dti), the Department of Mineral Resources, Department of Energy, Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Water Affairs (DWA), Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), Department of Social Development and Department of Rural Development and Land Reform etc.

C) Human Capabilities

Contribution to Government Priorities and Development Outcomes

- **Government outcomes:** A Long and Health Life for All South Africans (2); Improved Quality Basic Education (1); A skilled and capable workforce to support inclusive Growth (5)
- **MTSF Priorities:** build cohesive, caring and sustainable communities; strengthen the skills and human resource base; improve the health profile of all South Africans; build a developmental state including improvement of public services and strengthening democratic institutions
- **NDP programme area:** Education, training and innovation; health care for all; social protection; transforming society and uniting the country
- **Millennium Development Goals:** All

For the purposes of the SCF, the scope of the issues under the ‘human capabilities’ Focus Area is derived from the NDP:

“It [the Plan] seeks to develop people’s capabilities to be able to improve their lives through education and skills development, health care, better access to public transport, jobs, social protection, rising incomes, housing and basic services, and safe communities. ...The Commission has drawn strongly from definitions of development that focus on creating the conditions, opportunities and capabilities that enable people to lead the lives that they desire. Development is the process of raising continuously the capabilities of all citizens, particularly those who were previously disadvantaged.”⁴⁴

As indicated earlier, skills development, jobs, rising incomes, basic services including housing, safe communities and HIV are covered in the Focus Areas on Decent Work and Inclusive Growth, as well as Governance and Participation. This Focus Area stresses the UN contribution to education, health care, as well as social protection, which essentially affects all Focus Areas but perhaps most explicitly the sectors included under Human Capabilities.

Key Result Area 1: Improved access to equitable quality basic education for children in South Africa⁴⁵

Rationale: Having achieved near universal access to basic education and gender parity at this level of education, South Africa needs to urgently improve the quality of teaching and learning experienced in the classroom. The UN has made strong contributions to the education sector in the past UNDAF in the areas of improving access to education at all levels, promoting gender parity in education, and supporting curriculum revision/development including in the areas of Early Childhood Development (ECD) and life skills.

⁴⁴ *National Development Plan: Vision for 2030*, 2012, p. 5

⁴⁵ The access in this context is related to accessing quality teaching/learning as opposed to access to schooling.

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

UN agencies will support the priorities of the Departments of Basic Education, Social Development, Sport and Recreation, and Health, amongst others.

Key Result Area 2: Accelerated progress towards the sustainable achievement of the health MDGs

Rationale: The MDGs on health are the ones where South Africa is most lagging behind in terms of progress. More fundamental are the health inequalities which are still evident along the lines of race, gender, income bracket and region/province. The UN avails itself to support addressing health policy gaps at all levels, including strengthening the capacity of Government and key stakeholders, as appropriate, in the processes of achieving the health MDGs, as well as national health goals and targets, and ensuring this achievement is sustained beyond 2015.

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

Key Result Area 3: Increased access by vulnerable populations to Social Protection Services

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

How results will be achieved: In line with its comparative advantages, the UN will continue to avail support to Government in its efforts towards specific policy reform areas, including: (i) how to reach groups with low uptake (very young children and adolescents), (ii) how to remove serious policy design bottlenecks that prevent early uptake of programmes, (iii) how to reach vulnerable families in a comprehensive way.

In particular, and as required by Vision 2030, the UN will support governments' efforts in the establishment of a "Social Floor" for all vulnerable groups. In this context, the UN will support Government efforts towards a comprehensive approach to poverty reduction, including policies that link beneficiaries of the social assistance programmes to other ('social wage' type) state support services for deprived children and their families, and care-givers to emerging livelihood opportunities. This may include supporting Government's efforts towards policy reforms in order to build stronger institutions to deliver results for vulnerable population groups.

The UN avails itself to SASSA, National Treasury, Department of Social Development, amongst others, towards this end.

C) Governance and Participation

Contribution to Government Priorities and Development Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Government Outcomes:</u> An efficient, effective and development-oriented public service and empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship (12); responsive and accountable effective and efficient local government system (9); create a better South Africa and contribute to a better and safer Africa (11) ; all people in South Africa are and feel safe(3) • <u>MTSF priorities:</u> Pursue regional development, African advancement and enhanced international cooperation; build a developmental state including improvement of public services and strengthening democratic institutions; build cohesive, caring and sustainable communities. Intensify the fight against crime and corruption; a responsive, accountable effective and efficient local government system; • <u>NDP programme:</u> Transforming society and uniting the country; South Africa in the region and the world; building safer communities; building a capable state; fighting corruption and enhancing accountability • <u>MDGs:</u> All + Millennium Declaration

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

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

Social cohesion and peace based on mutual understanding and cooperation among government, communities, civil society is essential to eradicating poverty and promoting a more inclusive society.

Civil and political rights are a fundamental area of rights enshrined in the South African Constitution, and the UN has a comparative advantage in supporting government and other duty-bearers to help fulfil these rights. While South Africa has a strong tradition of promoting social dialogue among workers, employers and government, in recent years, the Government has stated the need for some reforms.

How results will be achieved: The UN in South Africa avails itself to provide strategic upstream support by generating knowledge and information for policy and technical assistance for public sector reforms.

Various UN agencies will work closely with relevant Government departments for improved service delivery and strengthened participatory democracy. This may include support in facilitating social cohesion among relevant stakeholders. Using its normative mandate, the United Nations is well placed to support the Government in mainstreaming human rights and gender into existing governance structures. UN support to South Africa will also focus on supporting governance structures and systems at national, provincial and local levels to enable the participation of the most vulnerable. Sharing of international best practices, drawing on the UN's global network of practitioners, will form part of the strategy to achieve this Key Result Area. The UN will support The Presidency, Department of Women, Children and Disabilities and other line departments, South African National AIDS Council on HIV, TB and STIs (SANAC), National Youth Development Agency, Human Rights Commission, Parliament, DPSA and other stakeholders.

Key Result Area 2: Strengthened capacity of state institutions to provide access to services and support systems that enhance social protection, safety and security in communities, and justice for all

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

How results will be achieved: Building on its record of support so far, the UN may provide support to the relevant state agencies [e.g. South African Police Service (SAPS), Department of Justice (DoJ), Department of Social Development (DSD), Department of Public Works (DPW) and the *Department* of Home Affairs etc.] in their objectives to achieve the immediate, as well as medium-to-long term, solutions to crime and enhancement of human security in South Africa and in the region. Among other things, this will include the sharing of global experiences in addressing organized crime, access to justice and social welfare services for vulnerable groups, and focus on the youth and children. This may include the UN working with South Africa in identifying and addressing the risk factors for urban crime and vulnerabilities.

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

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

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

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

Key Result Area 4: Strengthened national institutions and systems to support South Africa's contributions for a Better Africa and a Better World.

Rationale: Contribution to Government Priorities and Development Outcomes: Create a better South Africa, a better Africa and a better world (11). What happens in South Africa is of much more than a domestic policy concern. The country has a significant focus on promoting peace and development in Africa, in advancing Africa's development agenda in global fora, and in championing South-South cooperation amongst other foreign policy objectives.

How this will be achieved: The UN system is well positioned to work with relevant departments to provide support to the broader set of international priorities articulated by the Government of South Africa. In addition, the UN can support sharing of relevant best practices as well as knowledge and experiences from South Africa through South-South Cooperation, both on the continent and beyond.

4. MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The activities under the specified areas of focus of the SCF will be reviewed annually in a meeting that will be convened by DIRCO with relevant stakeholders. Reviews will assess SCF outcomes in the context of government priorities, changing needs and developments.

Relevant Government departments and the UN will determine together the best modality for ensuring cooperation at the technical level. UN agencies will develop joint annual work plans and hold joint reviews and monitoring activities, in the interests of alignment and harmonization, and to reduce transaction costs for the Government of South Africa. Joint programming will become an increasingly important approach in areas common to several agencies.

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

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