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## I. UNDP within the Cooperation Framework

- 1. Uzbekistan has made steady progress over the past decades, but inequalities persist.** With Central Asia's largest population<sup>1</sup> and a relatively high 0.710 HDI value,<sup>2</sup> Uzbekistan is a lower-middle-income<sup>3</sup> country, and one of two double landlocked countries in the world. In recent years, the country experienced steady GDP growth, gradually diversified its economy, and reduced its poverty rate from 24 percent in 2000 to 11 percent in 2019,<sup>4</sup> thereby lifting 2.2 million people out of poverty. However, regional inequalities are increasing, while the urban-rural poverty gap remains wide at nearly 6 percent in 2018.<sup>5</sup>
- 2. Uzbekistan today faces a unique opportunity to build on growing development momentum, having embarked on ambitious reforms since early 2017.** The Government's vision to transform Uzbekistan into an industrialized, upper-middle-income country by 2030<sup>6</sup> enjoys popular support.<sup>7</sup> Difficult reforms on price liberalization, land ownership and agriculture have required government determination and readiness to innovate. Looking ahead, the Government is committed to continuing reforms. Uzbekistan can reap a demographic dividend from its large young population (57 percent of whom are below 30 years) but has to offer them productive employment opportunities, encourage their economic initiative and innovation, and strengthen their future work capabilities and digital skills. Job creation has not kept pace with GDP and population growth - over 600,000 job seekers enter the labor market every year. Coupled with serious deficiencies in education quality at all levels, this results in high unemployment, especially among the young.<sup>8</sup>
- 3. Accountable, transparent, modern, and inclusive governance and rule of law institutions are preconditions for achieving Uzbekistan's development vision.** Significant investments have been made to bring public services closer to the population.<sup>9</sup> Still, more investment is needed to increase their efficiency, scope and quality, while addressing challenges exposed by COVID-19, including non-interoperability of platforms, poor data connectivity, and low digital literacy. Uzbekistan recently took important steps towards gender equality by adopting laws on equal rights/opportunities for women and men, and on gender-based violence. A woman chairs the Senate, while women's representation in Parliament doubled from 16 to 32 percent in the 2019 elections (Central Asia's highest percentage, and above the global 24 percent average<sup>10</sup>). However, challenges persist, with gender-based violence, segregation of women in the labor market, property ownership disparities, and gender roles directed by traditional values still remaining.<sup>11</sup> While the Government seeks to prevent and fight corruption, Uzbekistan still ranks poorly in the latest Corruption Perception and Rule of Law indexes.<sup>12</sup> Legal improvements brought Uzbekistan's 2019 elections 'closer to international standards'<sup>13</sup> and incremental steps have been taken to enhance freedom of speech, promote human rights, and build citizen engagement and participation in national and regional legislative oversight processes. Diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and its neighbors have improved, positively impacting interethnic relations in border areas, although disputes

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<sup>1</sup> <https://unstats.un.org/home/>

<sup>2</sup> UNDP, Human Development Report, 2019

<sup>3</sup> \$2,020 gross national income per capita in 2018 - <https://databank.worldbank.org/reports.aspx?source=world-development-indicators>

<sup>4</sup> Goskomstat, <http://nsdg.stat.uz/>

<sup>5</sup> *ibid*

<sup>6</sup> <https://regulation.gov.uz/ru/document/8839- concept of comprehensive socio-economic development in the Republic of Uzbekistan before 2030>

<sup>7</sup> WB, Listening to Uzbekistan. 2020

<sup>8</sup> Youth (18-30 years) not in employment, education or training (NEET) is 42%, for women 66%. <http://nsdg.stat.uz/goal/11>

<sup>9</sup> <https://medium.com/usaaid-2030/e-justice-system-in-uzbekistan-proves-its-worth-amid-covid-19-d0ffb2928765>

<sup>10</sup> <https://data.ipu.org/women-ranking?month=5&year=2020>

<sup>11</sup> FAO, Gender, Agriculture, and Rural Development in Uzbekistan.2019

<sup>12</sup> Uzbekistan ranks 153<sup>rd</sup> /180 in the 2019 Corruption Perception Index, and 92<sup>nd</sup>/128 in the 2020 Rule of Law Index

<sup>13</sup> OSCE/ODIHR report 2020

across border communities in the Fergana Valley, particularly emanating from the sharing of natural resources, has caused sporadic cross-border tensions.

4. **Uzbekistan’s increasing population and urbanization requires the sustainable use of nature and limiting climate impacts that de-couple growth from carbon emissions, and unsustainable consumption and production patterns.** Uzbekistan’s energy intensity is among the world’s 10 highest,<sup>14</sup> and inefficient energy use costs at least 4.5 percent of GDP annually.<sup>15</sup> While Uzbekistan’s urbanization rate<sup>16</sup> rises, risk-informed investments for clean, efficient, inclusive and resilient cities need to be pursued. 80 percent of Uzbekistan’s water comes from outside the country, creating water shortage vulnerabilities worsened by climate change.<sup>17</sup> Land degradation, soil salinization, reduced water quality, wind and water erosion, and decreased productivity of arable land are Uzbekistan’s major environmental concerns. The poorest population lives in arid regions and depends on subsistence agriculture. Therefore, they are vulnerable to climate change and natural resource availability, exacerbated by high risks of natural and man-made disasters. The Aral Sea’s disappearance is a reminder of the importance of water management and sustainable resource use.
5. **The COVID-19 outbreak, the largest disruptor of the century, threatens to derail Uzbekistan’s ambitious transformation** and reverse two decades of poverty reduction. Between 1.3 and 2.6 percent of the population, around 0.45-0.88 million people, may have fallen into poverty due to COVID-19<sup>18</sup>, with the most vulnerable (including youth, women, informal workers and migrants, people with disabilities, and the elderly) experiencing significant hardship.<sup>19</sup> The pandemic especially impacted women, causing reduced livelihood opportunities, and higher exposure to poverty, inequalities, and gender-based violence.<sup>20</sup> About 85 percent of small businesses have been closed since March 2020. The pandemic highlighted the country’s underlying structural problems, including an inefficient social protection system, poor health governance systems, a large unprotected informal sector, and insufficient digitalization particularly in the public sector. The need for a green, gender-equal, good governance framework as a basis for recovery, has become even greater.
6. **Even before the COVID-19 crisis, Uzbekistan’s transformation required innovative approaches and strong coherence in policymaking, backed with diversified funding.** The crisis has reinforced the need to avoid proliferation of insufficiently integrated (cross)-sectoral reforms, and instead to establish an integrated national financing framework for development, enabling appropriate financing from all sectors, reinforced with high-quality data for evidence-based policymaking.<sup>21</sup>
7. **Overall, the outcome of the reform agenda will be determined by success in generating tangible improvements in people’s daily lives, including those of the most vulnerable groups,** and thus addressing the overarching development challenge identified by the UN Common Country Assessment - the threat of growing exclusion and inequalities. Achieving a ‘just, equal and resilient society’ and long-term high, sustained and inclusive economic growth is feasible if structural economic reforms are backed by public administration investments, advancement of rule of law, human rights and gender equality, and sustainable natural resource use and environmental management. This is the

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<sup>14</sup> Uzbekistan records 0.45 kg of CO2 emissions per US\$ of GDP (compared to world average of 0.27 kg). <http://hdr.undp.org/en/data>

<sup>15</sup> <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/810761468318884305/pdf/ACS41460WP0Box0Issues0Note00PUBLIC0.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> Currently at 50%, expected to reach 60% by 2030, CCA

<sup>17</sup> UNDP, 2020, Mainstreaming Water and Transboundary Issues

<sup>18</sup> WB, Listening to Citizens of Uzbekistan, 2020

<sup>19</sup> Ibid

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/policy-brief-theimpact-of-covid-19-on-women-en.pdf?la=en&vs=1406>

<sup>21</sup> Development Finance Assessment, UNDP, 2020

overarching vision of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), and these are precisely the areas in which UNDP will assist Uzbekistan.

8. **UNDP is well positioned to support Uzbekistan in capitalizing on its unique development momentum and accelerating its transformation.** The Integrated Country Programme Evaluation (ICPE) and other recent reviews<sup>22</sup> have highlighted that UNDP, as a trusted partner, has strategically supported Uzbekistan's transformation, played a catalytic role in promoting sustainable economic growth, supported Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) nationalization, and established a multi-sector approach to mitigate human security risks for affected communities in the Aral Sea region. UNDP has promoted women's rights and contributed to improving access to justice and public services, encouraging more transparency and participation in policy-making. UNDP's presence at local and national levels has led to connecting policies to solutions of scale, bringing coherence of reforms beyond Tashkent-based reformers (horizontally across government ministries/agencies, and vertically across national, provincial and local government). Regional offices in Nukus (in the Aral Sea region), and in Namangan (the Fergana Valley), give UNDP a capacity unique among development partners. UNDP will continue building on these strengths, while addressing key ICPE recommendations and lessons learnt from evaluations to overcome portfolio fragmentation, enhance programme coherence, and develop more systematic use of data.
  
9. **UNDP's unique role as the UN development system's integrator,<sup>23</sup> and its innovative methodology, bring additional comparative advantages in identifying and facilitating integrated cross-sectoral solutions to Uzbekistan's complex development challenges.** UNDP will play its dual 'integrator' and 'innovator' roles while contributing to the three strategic priority areas of the UNSDCF 2021-2025 across four intended outcome areas (see Section II below). UNDP's approach will include a combination of:
  - a. *Provision of integrated policies and solutions based on UNDP's technical leadership in specific areas*, such as UNDP's lead in preparing and upgrading the multilateral COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Offer, which includes specific accelerators for better recovery (green recovery and digitalization). By supporting the preparation of the national Poverty Reduction Strategy, UNDP will help assure that it reflects the perspectives of the broader UN, IFI and development community with integrated policy solutions. Similarly, UNDP will leverage its technical leadership in several governance areas (rule of law and human rights, anticorruption, parliamentary and electoral development) and mobilize, through joint programmes and advocacy initiatives, the capacities of other UN agencies (UNODC, OHCHR) and development partners (OSCE), to accelerate comprehensive reforms.
  - b. *Use of a systemic, portfolio approach to deal with interdependent social, economic and environmental issues*. This approach will be applied by the SDG Integration initiative in addressing long-standing challenges of the Aral Sea region and supporting its transformation into a Zone of Ecological Innovation and New Technologies, among other initiatives.
  - c. *Platforms to catalyze partnerships, knowledge and resources*. UNDP will lead the UN effort (with UNICEF, WHO, etc.) to support the establishment of an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF), and the alignment of the COVID-19 response with SDGs. This platform of key national and international actors (including UNCT), along with the private sector.

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<sup>22</sup> ICPE Uzbekistan, 2020; UNDAF 2016-2020 Final Evaluation; Mid-Term Review UN Joint Programme on Aral Sea Region, 2018; Final Evaluation of E-Government Promotion for Improved Public Service Delivery, 2017; Mid-term Review Sustainable Water management in Rural Areas, 2018

<sup>23</sup> UNGA Resolution 72/279, paragraph 32

- d. *Innovation*, accelerated feedback, experimentation and applying integrated solutions to complex issues across programme interventions, are possible through the Accelerator Lab’s unique ability to innovate at scale and leverage digitalization in public administration, health systems and community support, while helping Uzbekistan recover and move forward better from the COVID-19 pandemic.
10. **The new programme will be strongly anchored in the national SDGs framework.**<sup>24</sup> UNDP will place more emphasis on enhanced policy coherence, through supporting the bicameral Parliamentary Commission on SDGs, and the elaboration and implementation of a long-term national Poverty Reduction Strategy and its financing framework. Given the extreme uncertainty caused by COVID-19, investing in data at scale is essential.<sup>25</sup>

## II. Programme Priorities and Partnerships

11. **UNDP will support Uzbekistan to achieve a modern democratic society driven by responsive governance systems, future-ready human capital and an inclusive green economy.** Guided by the UNDP Strategic Plan, the Decade of Action, the UNSDCF and extensive multi-stakeholder consultations over its elaboration at national and sub-national levels,<sup>26</sup> UNDP will support Uzbekistan to harness systems innovation, advancing and financing economic and social transformation, creating new and better opportunities for its people, and helping revive, improve and sustain environment over time. In the next 12-18 months, UNDP will help Uzbekistan overcome the COVID-19 crisis, while over the whole programme period UNDP’s offer will center on four outcome or ‘flagship’ areas, consistent with the UNSDCF,<sup>27</sup> each backed by signature solutions of the UNDP Strategic Plan.
12. **Flagship Area 1: In the UNSDCF strategic priority area of ‘Effective governance and justice for all’, UNDP will support the Government in developing accountable, transparent and inclusive policies, gender responsive institutions, and expanded civic participation aimed towards ensuring the provision of public services that meet the needs of all people of Uzbekistan. UNDP will work through three lines of business:**
  - a. *Support for strong and inclusive institutions.* UNDP will support partners in making choices that build social capital, and open civic spaces, to lay the foundations for a new social contract, based on rule of law, governance, and human rights.<sup>28</sup> UNDP will support the Government’s *anticorruption efforts and advanced rule of law*, including modernization of the court system in line with international human rights standards and democratic principles, as preconditions for the success of economic reforms. Partnering with UNODC and OECD, UNDP will closely cooperate with the Inter-Agency Commission, the General Prosecutor’s Office, the Ministry of Justice, and the newly established Anti-Corruption Agency.
  - b. *Enhanced effectiveness and inclusiveness of public services, with a strong focus on digital transformation* to benefit all members of society. Jointly with the EU and the Agency for Public Service Delivery, UNDP will support reviewing local governance systems, reengineering business processes and introducing new digital governance systems<sup>29</sup> to disrupt traditional forms of bureaucratic gatekeeping, closing the gap in public service access, and also delivering critical government services remotely,

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<sup>24</sup> With 6 national SDGs and 127 targets, SDGs nationalization report <https://lex.uz/ru/docs/4013358>

<sup>25</sup> UNDP, *Beyond Recovery. A leap into the future*, 2020

<sup>26</sup> Culminating with the joint presentation of the three CPDs by EXCOM agencies

<sup>27</sup> UNSDCF Outcomes 1,2,3,5, while contributing to Outcome 4

<sup>28</sup> Aligned with the National Human Rights Strategy

<sup>29</sup> Decree on Digital Transformation, Strategy for Innovative Development

including healthcare. UNDP will lead UN efforts (with UNODC, UNESCO and the Peacebuilding Fund) to pilot integrated solutions for inclusive service delivery, expanded engagement of youth and women in local decision-making, and advanced social cohesion to protect and fulfil human rights in regions with pockets of vulnerability and possible risks of cross-border tensions (including in the Fergana Valley). Targeted measures will be developed to support victims of domestic violence and enhance the quality of services for people with disabilities and people living with HIV.<sup>30</sup> Jointly with UNODC, UNOTC and RC, UNDP will help prevent violent extremism in Central, South/ South-East Asia, within the EU-funded STRIVE Asia Programme.

- c. *Stronger electoral and parliamentary development with enhanced roles and accountability* will be fostered, together with the Central Electoral Commission, Parliament, and UNDPA and other development agencies (OSCE). UNDP will focus on lifting the key pillars of democracy, participation, voice and freedom of expression – elections and Parliament - to international standards, strengthening checks and balances, and elevating the legislative and oversight roles of core democratic institutions, including on attaining SDGs. UNDP’s engagement with Parliament will serve as a platform for inputs of the broader UNCT.

**13. Flagship Area 2: Within the same UNSDCF strategic priority area, UNDP will also promote new ways of understanding and addressing poverty and inequalities, as well as policy coherence and financing for development aligned with the national SDGs.**

- a. *Poverty reduction*: Jointly with the WB and other development actors, UNDP will support the Government’s efforts to reduce poverty by creating a long-term plan built on a whole-of-society approach that integrates interrelated areas of development and includes job creation, strengthening social protection, enhancing human capital capabilities, and developing social resilience. UNDP will also help assess how reforms affect the poor and vulnerable, and recommend actions to assure they benefit from the reforms, and are protected from potential negative impacts.
- b. *Policy coherence and INFF*: UNDP will lead the support for establishing an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF), in close cooperation with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and UN agencies. Among numerous tasks, this will enhance the policy coherence and alignment of public and private sources of funding. Based on the experience of other countries (particularly Indonesia), new, innovative funding sources (Islamic finance/green sukuk, social bonds, crowdfunding and risk financing) will be explored when piloting social and green initiatives to benefit vulnerable populations in rural areas and in the Aral Sea region.

**14. Flagship Area 3: In the UNSDCF strategic priority area ‘Inclusive human capital development leading to health, well-being and resilient prosperity’, UNDP will promote policies for resilient and inclusive growth as well as enhanced capabilities and better opportunities, with the goal of improved access to livelihoods, decent work and enabling opportunities, through two lines of business:**

- a. *Innovative policies for resilient and inclusive growth* will be explored to address regional income and public service disparities, while advancing an enabling environment for green job creation and entrepreneurship development. Together with ILO, UNDP will work on models for expanded digitalization for women, innovative start-up ideas and inclusive business initiatives in rural areas, including better access

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<sup>30</sup> Including through UN system-wide Youth & Disability Inclusion Strategies

to finance. Focus will be given to women/youth-run small and medium enterprises, and to regions with the highest poverty rates and multiple vulnerabilities (including environmental degradation, disaster risk, and social risks). Support will be provided for climate-resilient development in the Fergana Valley by improving knowledge of climate-fragility risks among sub-national and national-level stakeholders, thereby reducing potential tensions over limited natural resources and fostering more peaceful relations among communities at the Uzbek-Kyrgyz border.<sup>31</sup>

- b. *Enhanced capabilities and better opportunities for women, youth and people from rural areas.* UNDP will focus on NEET youth and women in the informal economy, building on the COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Offer,<sup>32</sup> by supporting the Government to address skill-mismatches, promote digital economy and future-proof jobs through technologies and innovation, as well as ensuring improved links between social protection schemes and employment measures. In this context, UNDP will aim to expand its partnership with the Russia-UNDP Trust Fund, the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, IT Park and ILO.

**15. Flagship Area 4: In the UNSDCF strategic priority area ‘Sustainable, climate-responsible and resilient developments’, UNDP will support Uzbekistan to step-up its agenda on climate change and nature-based solutions, pursuing structural transformations towards green growth, through three lines of business:**

- a. *Climate change adaptation and mitigation.* UNDP will support Uzbekistan in expanding its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). In addition, UNDP will help mobilize partners, including from the UN, Multilateral Development Banks and the private sector, to source and catalyze the finance needed for Uzbekistan to implement NDC priorities and move towards carbon neutrality. With Green Climate Fund support, UNDP will facilitate the development of specific gender-sensitive climate change adaptation plans for health, agriculture, water, emergencies and housing sectors, and the three most environmentally-degraded regions, also ensuring adaptation and mitigation responses, in order to address poverty. UNDP will direct its support to the specific targets of Uzbekistan’s Strategy on Transition to Green Economy by 2030 - reducing emissions by increasing energy efficiency, enhancing use of renewable energy, improving resource efficiency and crop yields, and avoiding land degradation.<sup>33</sup> UNDP will support the development of new energy efficiency solutions, including investing in low-cost energy-efficient rural housing through blended financing opportunities with Islamic and Asian Development Banks, and enhancing access to clean and affordable energy.
- b. *Effective and sustainable management of natural resources promoted through conservation policies.* In line with the 2019-2028 National Strategy on Biodiversity Conservation, UNDP will further advocate for sustainable ecosystem management, as well as the preservation and regeneration of mountain ecosystems, wetlands and desert ecosystems in the Aral Sea region. Jointly with the EU, UNDP will help the Ministry of Agriculture address inefficient agricultural practices (including the application of harmful pesticides) that pose serious threats to rural livelihood sustainability, factoring in water’s economic value in national policies, exploring market-based incentives, and ultimately contributing to an inclusive transition to a ‘green’ economy in the agri-food

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<sup>31</sup> <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/b/7/355471.pdf>

<sup>32</sup> Consolidated Multilateral COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response & Recovery Offer, April 2020

<sup>33</sup> <https://regulation.gov.uz/ru/document/3997>

sector by implementing a 'climate-smart' Uzbek Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation System.

- c. *Strengthened gender-responsive climate and disaster risk governance systems through enhanced multi-hazard early warning.* UNDP, together with UNDRR, will support partners (the Ministry of Emergency Situations, Uzhydromet and regional khokimiyats or administrations) in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction through gender-sensitive early-warning systems for climate-induced hazards, and sharing Uzbekistan's experience in this area at sub-regional and global levels. With the Stockholm Convention ratified by Uzbekistan, UNDP will also help formulate a National Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Action Plan to identify priority actions for hazardous waste.
  - d. *Systems innovations for integrated solutions in the Aral Sea region.* UNDP will help establish a multifaceted approach to addressing the Aral Sea region's long-standing challenges. It will support efforts by the Karakalpakstan Council of Ministers, and by the Ministries of Investments and Foreign Trade, Innovation, Environment, and others, to transform the Aral Sea region into a Zone of Ecological Innovation and Technology. This engagement by UNDP will set the basis for broader UN contribution, introducing an approach that looks into systems design, data and analytics, alternative financing, innovation and integrated policies.
16. **UNDP will advance gender equality and women's empowerment across all the above-mentioned areas**, by supporting implementation of the National Gender Equality Strategy. Ongoing partnerships with the Ministry of Mahalla and Family Affairs, the Senate's Gender Commission, and civil society organizations will be further expanded to support initiatives to promote women's economic empowerment, women's participation in public leadership, women's rights, and to end harmful practices and gender-based violence. Close cooperation with civil society, and building youth and women's agency for greater responsibility, voice and accountability, will be key to delivering the programme.

### **III. Programme and Risk Management**

17. **This country programme document outlines UNDP's contributions to national results** and serves as a primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at a country level. Country, regional and headquarter managers' accountability vis-à-vis country programmes has been prescribed in the organization's Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures and Internal Control Framework.
18. **The programme will be nationally executed.** If necessary, national execution may be replaced by direct execution of all or part of the programme to enable a response to force majeure. Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) will be used in coordination with other UN agencies. Cost definitions and classifications for programme and development effectiveness will be charged to concerned projects. UNDP will leverage expertise more effectively, connecting to its Global Policy Network, and facilitating regional dialogues and south-south cooperation to share the experiences of Uzbekistan. UNDP will apply a portfolio-based approach while delivering its programme, and ensure appropriate business processes and office structure are in place.
19. **UNDP will exercise joint ownership for the programme with the Minister of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction and the National Coordinating Authority.** The Government of Uzbekistan and UNDP have agreed that the provision of

support services by UNDP for national implementation, as required, would not need a separate letter of agreement.

20. **Nurturing partnerships and mobilizing resources will remain a key priority for UNDP**, at the core of its offer. Reflective of Uzbekistan’s middle-income status and changing donor landscape, UNDP will prioritize government financing and further deepen partnership with development banks, including the World Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Investment Bank and others, towards accelerated reforms and innovative public and private financing for SDGs. UNDP will continue expanding its engagement with vertical funds (the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environmental Facility, the Adaptation Fund), the EU, Japan, South Korea, the Russia Trust Fund and others, as well as joint resource mobilization with UN Agencies through UN pooled funds.
21. **The programme’s successful implementation may be affected by risks.** (i) With the changing donor landscape, the biggest risk to UNDP’s delivery of results at speed and scale is its ability to mobilize resources. UNDP will manage this risk by diversifying its strategic partnerships, blending its work with the IFIs, business and non-government sectors, targeting new development financing, and applying innovative programming instruments. If funding does not fully materialize, UNDP and the Government will revise programme targets and interventions to meet resource availability. (ii) With Uzbekistan’s ambitious transformative agenda there is a risk that reforms will prioritize industrialization and economic growth only, without considering impacts on vulnerable groups and the sustainable development agenda. There is also the potential that the risks and opportunities emanating from the reforms will impact the population unequally, exacerbating existing inequalities and eroding social cohesion. To manage these factors, UNDP will apply risk-informed development assessments and horizon-scanning across all areas, and maintain project-specific and portfolio-level risk logs and contingency plans, systematically applying UNDP’s social and environmental safeguards (SES) and accountability mechanisms. (iii) Weakened policy coherence, lack of an integrated approach to development financing, stalling of reforms and insufficient data for evidence-based policymaking, may all pose impediments to UNDP’s work. Much of these will therefore be supported by the proposed programme.

#### **IV. Monitoring and Evaluation**

22. Outcome and output indicators are derived from the national SDG framework and global UNDP IRRF, carefully selected for efficient monitoring. UNDP will actively track progress towards planned results, and identify emerging opportunities and risks through continuous adjustment, including through the UN Results Groups. UNDP will continue relying on evaluations for programming decisions, focusing on outcome-level evaluations to further strengthen the application of an integrated, issues-based approach. UNDP will invest adequate resources and enhance quality assurance and M&E capacity.
23. Systematic data collection, through periodic UN Common Country Analysis and government-commissioned data generation will be further promoted. UNDP will continue strengthening national capacities for enhanced SDG monitoring and data collection with the State Statistics Committee, streamlining it throughout programme implementation.

## ANNEX A: RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK

NATIONAL PRIORITY: Action Strategy 2017-2021 (pillars 1 and 2) Improving system of state and public construction, ensuring rule of law and further reforming the judicial system				
CF OUTCOME: By 2025, all people and groups in Uzbekistan demand and benefit from enhanced accountable, transparent, inclusive and gender responsive governance systems and rule of law institutions for a life free from discrimination and violence				
SP OUTCOME: Accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development				
COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME INDICATOR(S), BASELINES, TARGET(S)	DATA SOURCE AND FREQUENCY OF DATA COLLECTION, AND RESPONSIBILITIES	INDICATIVE COUNTRY PROGRAMME OUTPUTS (including indicators, baselines, targets)	MAJOR PARTNERS / PARTNERSHIPS FRAMEWORKS	ESTIMATED COST BY OUTCOME (US\$)
Corruption Perception Index value (NSDG16.5.1.3) Baseline (2019): 153/180 Target (2025): TBC	Transparency International, annually/programme	<b>Output 1.1: Institutions equipped with effective anti-corruption tools, enabled to expand access to justice and enhance social cohesion</b>	Ministry of Justice, General Prosecutor's Office, Presidential Administration, Supreme Court	<b>Regular: 2,700,000</b>
Order and Security Index (NSDG 16.1.4.2) Baseline (2019): 94/126 Target (2025): TBC	World Justice Project, annually/programme	Indicator 1.1.1: Level of implementation of OECD anticorruption network's recommendations Baseline (2020): 0% Target (2025): 80% Source, frequency: OECD reports/bi-annually	Public Services Agency, Local governments	<b>Other: 54,776,949</b>
Women's representation in national parliament (NSDG5.5.1) Baseline (2018): 16 Target (2025): TBC	State Statistics Committee (SSC), annually/programme	Indicator 1.1.2: Proportion of the population accessing e-justice services, sex-disaggregated Baseline (2020): 20% (including 38% women) Target (2025): 30% (including 48% women) Source, frequency: Supreme Court Reports/annually	Ministry of Health, Ministry of Mahalla and Family Affairs, Youth Union	
		<b>Output 1.2: Digitalized and inclusive people-centered public service delivery models promoted</b>	Central Electoral Commission, Parliament, Civil Society Organizations	
		Indicator 1.2.1: Number of services provided through my.gov.uz and Public Service Centers Baseline (2019): 2.84 million/6.39 million Target (2025): 15 million/60 million Source, frequency: my.gov.uz and Public Services Agency/annually	USAID, SDC, EU, Peacebuilding Fund, SDG Fund, Government of Japan, UNICEF, UNODC, UNESCO, OHCHR, OSCE, UNDP	
		Indicator 1.2.2: Number of people accessing basic services, disaggregated by target groups (poor, women, people with disabilities, youth, other marginalized groups) Baseline (2019): 11,314K public services have been provided during 2019 (including through my.gov.uz). Target (2025): 20% increase Source, frequency: Public Services Agency/annually		
		Indicator 1.2.3: Number of HIV-infected people with access to ARV treatment, sex-disaggregated (IRRF 1.1.2.1)		

Baseline (2020): 33,000 (M:50%/F:50%)  
Target (31/12/2024): 49,000 (M:50%/F:50%)  
Source, frequency: Global Fund

Indicator 1.2.4: Number of legal acts and policies adopted to establish or strengthen national infrastructures for peace and social cohesion  
Baseline (2020): 0  
Target (2025): 2  
Source, frequency: Government reports/annually

***Output 1.3: Electoral and parliamentary processes and institutions strengthened to promote inclusion, transparency and accountability (modified IRRF 2.2.2.2)***

Indicator 1.3.1: Share of parliamentarians with enhanced capabilities in law-making, oversight and policy analysis (disaggregated by age and gender)  
Baseline (2020): 0  
Target (2025): 50%  
Source, frequency: Parliament reports/annually

Indicator 1.3.2: Share of policy initiatives addressing needs of under-represented and marginalized groups, consulted by Parliament with interested groups  
Baseline (2020): 0; Target (2025): 30%  
Source, Frequency: Parliament reports/annually

Indicator 1.3.3: Extent to which Central Electoral Commission has capacity to conduct inclusive and credible elections (IRRF 2.2.2.1)  
Baseline (2020): 2  
Target (2025): 3  
Source, frequency: Election observer assessments (2022/2025)

**NATIONAL PRIORITY: State Policy on Economic Development and poverty Reduction**

CF OUTCOME: By 2025, the population of Uzbekistan benefits from more harmonized and integrated implementation of the reform agenda due to strengthened policy coherence, evidence-based and inclusive decision-making and financing for development mainstreamed in line with national SDGs				
SP OUTCOME: Accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development				
COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME INDICATOR(S), BASELINES, TARGET(S)	DATA SOURCE AND FREQUENCY OF DATA COLLECTION, AND RESPONSIBILITIES	INDICATIVE COUNTRY PROGRAMME OUTPUTS <i>(including indicators, baselines, targets)</i>	MAJOR PARTNERS / PARTNERSHIPS FRAMEWORKS	ESTIMATED COST BY OUTCOME (US\$)
Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (NSDG16.6.1) Baseline (2018): 128% Target (2025): TBD	MoF State Statistics Committee/WB	<b>Output 2.1: Effective SDG financing framework developed and promoted through coherent gender-responsive evidence-based policy implementation, innovative financing and coordination platform</b>	Ministry of Finance/MoF, Ministry of Economy Development and Poverty Reduction/MEDPR, State Statistics Committee, Capital Market Development Agency	<b>Regular 1,000,000</b>
National statistical legislation consistent with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (NSDG17.18.2) Baseline (2018): No Target (2025): Yes		Indicator 2.1.1: Existence of Integrated National Financing Framework aligning 2030 Agenda with financing streams Baseline (2020): No Target (2025): Yes Source, frequency: Government reports/annually	SDG Fund, Russian Trust Fund, UN Agencies, WB, IMF, IsDB,	<b>Other: 8,912,656</b>
Statistical Capacity Indicators Baseline (2018): 54.4/100 Target (2025): TBD		Indicator 2.1.2: Number of innovative financing solutions and practices designed and institutionalized Baseline (2020): 0 Target (2025): 3 Source, frequency: Government reports/annually		
		<b>Output 2.2: Cross-cutting and comprehensive reform agenda developed through the lenses of poverty and inequality reduction with integrated monitoring framework in line with SDGs</b>		
		Indicator 2.2.1: Official measurement of monetary and multidimensional poverty is available Baseline (2020): No Target (2025): Yes Source, frequency: SSC/annually		
		Indicator 2.2.2: Poverty Reduction Strategy in line with the national SDG framework developed and adopted Baseline (2020): No Target (2025): Yes Source, frequency: Government reports/annually		
<b>NATIONAL PRIORITY: Action Strategy 2017-2021, Priority Area 3/4: Economic Development and Liberalization of Social Areas</b>				

CF OUTCOME: By 2025, youth, women and vulnerable groups benefit from improved access to livelihoods, decent work and expanded opportunities generated by inclusive and equitable economic growth				
SP OUTCOME: Advance poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions				
COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME INDICATOR(S), BASELINES, TARGET(S)	DATA SOURCE AND FREQUENCY OF DATA COLLECTION, AND RESPONSIBILITIES	INDICATIVE COUNTRY PROGRAMME OUTPUTS (including indicators, baselines, targets)	MAJOR PARTNERS / PARTNERSHIPS FRAMEWORKS	ESTIMATED COST BY OUTCOME (US\$)
Proportion of youth (aged 16–24 years) not in training or employment (NSDG8.6.1) Baseline (2018): 21.8% Target: TBD	SSC	<b>Output 3.1: Women, youth and people from remote rural areas benefit from better skills, sustainable jobs and strengthened livelihoods</b>	Minister of Employment and Labor Relations, Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), Youth Union, Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade, MEDPR, Business Associations, IT Park  Russian Trust Fund, ILO, Koica	<b>Regular: 730,000</b>
Unemployment rate, sex-disaggregated (NSDG8.5.2) Baseline (2019): 9% (12.8% female, 6.1% male) Target (2025): 7.5% (10% female, 5.5% male) Poverty level (urban/rural)/NSDG1.2.1 Baseline (2018): 11.4% (Urban/8.4%, Rural/14.3%) Target: TBD		Indicator 3.1.1: Number of decent jobs created with UNDP support, including share of those occupied by women and youth Baseline (2020): Total – 160 (40% women, 50% youth) Target (2025): Total – 5,000 (50% women, 50% youth) Source, frequency: UNDP/annually		
Percentage difference between average monthly earnings of female and male employees, to the average monthly earnings of male employees (NSDG8.5.1) Baseline (2018): 38.6% Target: TBD		Indicator 3.1.2: Number of people who gained 21 <sup>st</sup> century skills due to UNDP support (women, youth) Baseline (2020): 400 (30% women, 80% youth) Target (2025): 20,000 (40% women, 80% youth) Source, frequency: UNDP/annually		
Growth rates of household expenditures and income per capita among the bottom 40 percent of the population and the total population (NSDG10.1.1) Baseline (2018): 118.5%, 127.1% Target: TBD		<b>Output 3.2. Public institutions and private entities have improved capacities to design and implement innovative policies for inclusive, resilient economic growth and reduced regional inequalities</b>		
		Indicator 3.2.1: Number of companies benefiting from improved business advisory support (including led by women, youth) Baseline (2020): 750 Target: 1000 (30% women-led, 25% youth-led) Source, frequency: UNDP/CCI reports		
	Indicator 3.2.2: Number of public servants with improved capacities in developing and applying policies prioritizing circular and green economy Baseline (2020): 0 Target (2025): 200 Source, frequency: UNDP reports/annually			
	Indicator 3.2.3: Number of gender-responsive policy, legal, regulatory and institutional measures adopted with UNDP support to improve enabling environment for MSMEs Baseline (2020): 3/year		<b>Other: 9,703,351</b>	

		Target (2025): 6/year Source, frequency: UNDP/annually		
<b>NATIONAL PRIORITY OR GOAL: Action Strategy 2017-2021, Strategy for transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to a green economy for 2019-2030, the Government of Uzbekistan's concept on environmental protection until 2030</b>				
<b>CF OUTCOME: By 2025, most at risk regions and communities of Uzbekistan are more resilient to climate change and disasters, and benefit from increasingly sustainable and gender-sensitive efficient management of natural resources and infrastructure, robust climate action, inclusive environmental governance and protection</b>				
<b>SP OUTCOME: Accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development</b>				
<b>COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME INDICATOR(S), BASELINES, TARGET(S)</b>	<b>DATA SOURCE AND FREQUENCY OF DATA COLLECTION, AND RESPONSIBILITIES</b>	<b>INDICATIVE COUNTRY PROGRAMME OUTPUTS (including indicators, baselines, targets)</b>	<b>MAJOR PARTNERS / PARTNERSHIPS FRAMEWORKS</b>	<b>ESTIMATED COST BY OUTCOME (US\$)</b>
Proportion of electricity generated from renewable energy sources within total electricity generation (NSDG7.2.1) Baseline (2018): 9.4% Target (2025): 20%	SSC/annually	<b>Output 4.1: Innovative and sustainable climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives designed and implemented</b>  Indicator 4.1.1: Number of sectoral/regional/national gender-sensitive climate change initiatives implemented Baseline (2020): 3 Target (2025): 5 Source, frequency: Sectoral, national and regional reporting/annually	Cabinet of Ministers, The State Committee for Ecology and Environment Protection (SCEEP)	<b>Regular: 1,800,000</b> <b>Other: 36,098,270</b>
Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP (NSDG7.3.1) Baseline (2018): 0.164 Target (2025): 0.105	Ibid	Indicator 4.1.2: Number of people who have invested in low-carbon housing (gender and location disaggregated) Baseline (2020): 1,329 (50% female, % rural)  Target (2025): 2,000 (55% female, % rural) Source, frequency: National mortgage banks/annually	Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES), MEDPR, Ministry of Water Resources (MWR), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)	
Proportion of agricultural land with water-saving technologies Baseline (2018): 1.7% Target (2025): 20%	Ibid	Indicator 4.1.3: Number of passengers per day using green urban transport corridor with electric public buses Baseline (2020): 0 Target (2025): 3,000 (50% female) in Tashkent City Source, frequency: Tashkent City Municipality/annually	Ministry of Innovation Development  Council of Ministers of Karakalpakstan, Uzhydromet	
Proportion of protected mountain ecosystems within their total area (NSDG15.4.1) Baseline (2018): 1.8% Target (2025): TBD	MWR		Vertical funds	
Proportion of land with high salinity Baseline (2018): 45% Target (2025): 41%	SCEEP	<b>Output 4.2. Enhanced capacities for sustainable use of terrestrial and water ecosystems promoted through conservation policies</b>	FAO, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNEP, BIOFIN,	
Number of deaths, missing persons and injuries caused directly as a result of natural disasters, per 100,000 population (NSDG1.5.1) Baseline (2018): 0.03% Target (2025): 0.01%	MoA	Indicator 4.2.1: Number of national/regional initiatives to strengthen government capacities to fulfil international obligations Baseline (2020): 2 Target (2025): 5 Source, frequency: Sectoral reporting/annually	IFIs, Russia Trust Fund, Government of Japan	
	MES			

<p>Direct economic losses due to natural disasters as a percentage of GDP (NSDG 1.5.2)          Baseline (2018): 0.002%          Target (2025): 0.01%</p>	<p>Indicator 4.2.2: Montreal Protocol on HCFCs/Kigali amendment on HFCs implemented          Baseline (2020): No          Target (2025): Yes          Source, frequency: Goscomecology/annually</p>	
	<p>Indicator 4.2.3 Proportion of the protected areas within the total land area of country          Baseline (2020): 4.64%          Target (2025): 12%          Source, frequency: Goscomecology/annually</p>	
	<p>Indicator 4.2.4: Smart patrol system introduced and operational in all protected areas          Baseline (2020): No          Target (2025): Yes          Source, frequency: UNDP reports/annually</p>	
	<p><b><i>Output 4.3. Integrated gender-responsive climate and disaster risk governance systems strengthened through enhanced multi-hazard early warning (MHEWS) and rapid recovery</i></b></p>	
	<p>Indicator 4.3.1: Number of national/regional initiatives to strengthen government capacities to meet international commitments          Baseline (2020): 7          Target (2025): 22          Source, frequency: Ministry of Emergency Situations/annually</p>	
	<p>Indicator 4.3.2: Number of people with increased resilience due to access to MHEWS information, gender-disaggregated          Baseline (2020): n/a          Target (2025): 3 million people (50% women)          Source, frequency: UNDP reports/annually</p>	
	<p><b><i>Output 4.4. Systems innovations advanced for integrated solutions in the Aral Sea region</i></b></p>	
	<p>Indicator 4.4.1: Number of innovative and scalable solutions applied through systems integration          Baseline (2020): 3          Target (2025): 8          Source, frequency: UNDP reports/annually</p>	
	<p>Indicator 4.4.2: Number of new project proposals improving access to water and food          Baseline (2020): 2          Target (2023): 4          Source, frequency: UNDP reports/annually</p>	