

## **Terms of Reference**

### **United Nations Task Force on Leveraging Partnerships towards the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda**

#### **Background**

The Secretary-General has called for a comprehensive rescue plan for both people and the planet, emphasizing the urgency of accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Leveraging global, regional and country-led initiatives to maximize synergies between these initiatives and the Sustainable Development Goals will be critical to scale and accelerate progress within the next seven years.

The UN Task Force on Leveraging Partnerships towards the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda (the “Task Force”) is being established with the goal of establishing synergies between existing global, regional and country-led initiatives and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Task Force will collaborate proactively with interested Member States and regional organizations to fostering cohesive and concerted efforts towards achieving the SDGs, ensuring that these efforts do not duplicate or overlap with existing UN inter-agency mechanisms.

A scoping of global, regional and country-level initiatives relevant to the Task Force will be performed against clearly defined criteria as part of the workplan process. Examples of initiatives that may be most relevant include amongst others the Bridgetown Initiative, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), ‘One Future Alliance’ (OFA) initiative, the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGI), the Human Security approach, the African Union Agenda 2063, and the European Union’s Global Gateway. The Task Force further recognizes the critical importance of delivering on the SDGs in developing countries, in particular countries in special situations, namely LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs, to secure the overall breakthroughs needed to accelerate the SDGs implementation.

#### **Objectives**

The overarching objective of the Task Force is to contribute to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development by promoting synergies and leveraging the available resources of relevant global, regional and country-led initiatives.

The Task Force will provide a platform for dialogue to drive greater alignment and coherence, in UN action and facilitate engagement with those global, regional and country-led initiatives, in support of the SDGs.

The Task Force will adhere to the principle of national ownership, align with countries’ UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, and will be demand-driven at the request of Member States.

The Task Force will play a complementary role in supporting the momentum of existing UN mechanisms or UN-led initiatives on SDG partnership building, such as the 12 High Impact Initiatives (HIIs) selected by the 2023 SDG Summit on crucial dimensions of SDG acceleration, and in the lead up to the Summit of the Future and beyond.

## **Functions**

The UN Task Force will perform the following functions:

1. Promoting synergies and complementarities in UN action and identifying areas for future cooperation, aligned with countries' Cooperation Frameworks.
2. Facilitating strategic policy support for global, regional and country-led initiatives by fostering dialogue between the UN, these initiatives, and among the initiatives themselves.
  - a. Serve as a forum for strategic discussions and solution finding to overcome challenges faced by Member States.
  - b. Promote coherence in the UN's engagement with these initiatives and facilitate cooperation with non-UN partners.
  - c. Foster information sharing, best practices, and progress tracking among development initiatives, working with relevant entities of the UN system.
3. Promoting partnerships for SDG acceleration, prioritizing SDG transitions, namely energy, food systems, digital, the triple planetary crisis – climate, biodiversity and pollution – jobs and social protection, as well as finance;
  - a. Identify national, regional and global capacity gaps and immediate actions required across the UN system, to promote partnerships to increase the impact of the global, region and country-led initiatives in accelerating SDGs.
  - b. Propose solutions to address institutional and operational constraints to bring the SDGs to scale by coordinating and leveraging country-global, region and country-led initiatives and promoting their alignment with the SDGs.
4. Promoting the pooling of existing investments and catalytic resources and expertise of the UN system in support of the SDGs as appropriate and in accordance with the mandates, missions and responsibilities of UN agencies and entities.

## **Expected Result**

The Task Force will provide a platform for dialogue to drive greater alignment and coherence in UN action and facilitate aligned engagement with global, regional and country-led initiatives, in support of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, SDG acceleration and the key transitions.

A scoping of regional and country-level initiatives relevant to the Task Force will be performed against clearly defined criteria as part of the workplan process. The Task Force will identify policy entry-points to leverage country and regional-led initiatives to accelerate SDGs

implementation in accordance with the mandates, missions and responsibilities of UN entities and agencies.

Drawing upon the comparative advantages, roles, responsibilities, and coordination experience of its members, the Task Force will develop guidance to promote a One UN approach in ensuring coherent and coordinated UN response to these global, regional and country-led initiatives that is coherent and consistent with the 2030 Agenda acceleration, informed by scientific analysis and insights from the SG Progress Report on the Sustainable Development Goals, the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) and other relevant UN reports.

### **Monitoring**

To monitor progress and results, the Task Force will be guided by the principles and regulatory frameworks of planning, monitoring and evaluation as promulgated by the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG), while taking into consideration the existing evaluation policies and practices in the Task Force members, as appropriate.

### **Modalities**

The Task Force will convene as and when needed and receive support from a technical team comprising development experts and professionals. The Task Force may establish working groups dedicated to specific thematic issues. The chair/co-chairs of the working groups will provide summary notes of each working group and periodic meetings for circulation to Task Force members.

### **Membership**

The Task Force membership is open-ended and will remain open to all relevant UN entities and agencies interested in participating in the Task Force. The Task Force currently includes the following UN entities and agencies, each with a designated focal point/representative at Director/Deputy Director level:

DESA, OSAA, OHRLLS, RCNYO representing Regional Commissions, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNIDO, FAO, ILO, ITU, OSSC, and the UN Global Compact Office.

### **Review**

The terms of reference for the Task Force shall be subject to review one year after their adoption, if deemed necessary.

### **Confidentiality**

Members of the Panel, as well as the UN entities or organizations that they represent, will treat as confidential the Panel's deliberations and any information, document or data that is so designated by one of the members of the Panel or UN official.

### **Use of Name, Emblem and Logo**

Members of the Task Force, as well as the UN entities or organizations that they represent, will not use the name(s), or any abbreviations(s) thereof, emblem(s) or logo(s) of other entities or organizations, unless expressly authorized in advance by the entity or organization concerned. Under no circumstances shall authorization be granted to use the United Nations name, acronym or emblem for commercial purposes.

**Press Statements**

Issuance of any press statements concerning the Task Force, including the work, findings and recommendations of the Task Force, will be subject to the UN's prior written approval.

**Performance of Functions**

The UN, including its Funds and Programmes, and UN Specialized Agencies will exercise their role in relation to the Task Force in accordance with their respective governing instruments, including their respective regulations, rules, procedures, and policies.

The UN Secretariat will bear the administrative costs and expenses related to the participation of the UN, UN Funds and Programmes and Specialized Agencies in the Task Force.