



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Strategic Partnership Framework
between
The Australian Government
and
The United Nations Development Program
2016-2020

DFAT Arrangement: 72409

This Strategic Partnership Framework is entered into:

Between: the Government of Australia as represented by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, hereinafter referred to as “DFAT”.

And: the United Nations Development Program hereinafter referred to as “UNDP”.

Are hereinafter together referred to as “the Partners”.

Intend to continue their cooperation in a strategic and comprehensive manner based on the principles and objectives set forth in this Strategic Partnership Framework (hereinafter referred to as the “**Framework**”).

SHARED OBJECTIVES

I

1. DFAT supports UNDP’s overarching approach, goals and objectives as outlined in UNDP’s Strategic Plan 2014-2017. UNDP takes note of the focus of Australia’s aid program and its investment priorities as outlined in the Australian aid policy, *Australian aid: promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability*. Further, UNDP also takes note of the performance framework for the Australian aid program, *Making Performance Count: enhancing the accountability and effectiveness of Australian aid*, according to which Australian funding allocations are expected to take into account UNDP performance against a range of criteria relating to: results and impact; relevance/alignment with Australia’s priorities; value for money; partnership behaviour and contributions to the wider multilateral system; organisational capacity; and organisational governance. The partnership will be guided by, and support efforts to implement the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
2. The Partners have the following shared objectives:
 - a. Performance, including:
 - i. Delivering timely, effective and needs-based development responses that represent good value for money, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region (and in line with Annex A);
 - ii. Coordinating assistance with other UN agencies to avoid duplication and increase impact;
 - iii. Taking a strong risk management approach, including to fiduciary, staff welfare and security-related matters;
 - iv. Ensuring the visibility of Australia’s contributions;
 - v. Prioritising results-based management supported by robust monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems that demonstrate impact, disaggregated by sex, age and disability.
 - b. Strengthening the UN Development System, including:
 - i. Implementing the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (including the Sustainable Development Goals and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development), including through supporting the renewed Global Partnership for

- Sustainable Development, among Member States, the private sector, other UN and non-UN agencies and non-government organisations;
 - ii. Delivering greater 'One UN' coherence on the ground, through strong global, regional and country-level leadership; and
 - iii. Advancing the UN Development System's institutional reform, including with respect to the needs of Pacific Island Countries.
- c. Building resilience of households, communities, institutions and systems, including:
 - i. Investing in a safer, resilient future by supporting development partners in Asia and the Pacific to reduce conflict and disaster risk and to adapt to the impacts of climate change as a platform for building resilience to a range of shocks;
 - ii. In line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, Australia and UNDP working together to (i) identify and communicate risks and hazards; (ii) strengthen disaster risk governance; (iii) encourage investment in disaster risk reduction initiatives as both standalone activities and as embedded activities within other sectoral programs; (iv) enhance disaster preparedness of communities and (v) 'build back better' in the aftermath of a disaster;
 - iii. In the context of Early Recovery, prioritising efforts to resuscitate basic services, markets and livelihoods after a disaster or crisis, taking into account the differential needs of women, men, boys and girls and vulnerable groups, including their need for protection; and
 - iv. Implementing recommendations of the Peacebuilding Architecture Review, to ensure a broad and comprehensive approach to sustaining peace.
- d. Gender Equality and Disability Inclusive Development, including:
 - i. Adopting gender equality and disability sensitive programming practices, including actively including gender equality and disability considerations in design and evaluation cycles, conducting analysis to inform program design and collating data and evidence;
 - ii. Ensuring full implementation of existing gender equality system-wide targets and pursuing opportunities for stronger targets as they arise, including through the 2016 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review;
 - iii. Collaborating actively with UN Women and other UN partners in pursuit of gender equality development outcomes;
 - iv. Exploring new statistical methodologies, including to increase the availability of sex-disaggregated data and the evidence and data for disability inclusion, including supporting the uptake of the Washington Group questions by development partners; and
 - v. Promoting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in line with the *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.
- e. Private Sector and Innovation, including:
 - i. Deepening the strategic partnership with UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) to leverage more private sector financing, especially in the Indo-Pacific;

- ii. In line with the 2015 Strategy for Australia's Aid Investments in Private Sector Development, build better business and investment environments and support economic growth;
- iii. Engaging with the private sector to leverage technical expertise, resources and innovation in support of better development outcomes;
- iv. Collaborating with DFAT's innovationXchange to share lessons learned in mainstreaming innovation and to identify new approaches to the delivery of assistance and development programs, especially in the Pacific; and
- v. Fostering a culture of innovation in development, and developing and using new tools and processes that deliver better results.

PARTNERSHIP IMPLEMENTATION II

3. DFAT and UNDP will pursue this partnership through a variety of mechanisms including:
 - a. Annual High Level Consultations to:
 - i. Review the implementation and objectives of this Strategic Partnership Framework;
 - ii. Communicate strategic priorities;
 - iii. Discuss UNDP's organisational performance, capacity and presence, particularly in the Pacific, and improvements in monitoring, evaluation and reporting;
 - iv. Identify opportunities to increase private sector engagement, and how DFAT can support this; and
 - v. Discuss means to strengthen visibility of UNDP's work and of Australia's contributions.
 - b. Australia's continued commitment to and constructive participation on the UNDP and UNCDF Executive Board and associated coordination and governance processes.
 - c. Regular interaction with UNDP and UNCDF Headquarters via Australia's Permanent Mission in New York.
 - d. Ongoing country-level engagement between UNDP and Australian Embassy and High Commission staff where we undertake or plan to undertake joint activities.
 - e. Pursuing opportunities for joint field visits.
 - f. Enhance links between Australia's Humanitarian Coordinator and the UN Humanitarian Coordinator network, with a focus on the Asia Pacific.
 - g. Placement of DFAT officials and Australian Civilian Corps specialists to UNDP's operations and offices.

- h. The secondment of DFAT staff or the placement of Australians in UNDP offices, and the secondment of UNDP staff to DFAT in accordance with the respective regulations and rules of UNDP and DFAT.

DURATION

III

4. This Framework will take effect on the date of signature ("**Effective Date**") and will continue in effect until 30 June 2020, unless amended or terminated by one of the Partners in accordance with Section VIII, below.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

IV

5. In line with Australian Government aid policy and subject to annual budgetary appropriations by the Australian Government, DFAT will provide regular funding to UNDP for the duration of this Framework. Such contributions will be administered and used in accordance with UNDP's Financial Regulations and Rules, as well as other regulations, rules, administrative issuances, policies and procedures of UNDP ("**UNDP Regulations and Rules**").
6. DFAT will make annual contributions in the amounts specified in the table in Paragraph 7, below, by September each year to be used to contribute to **UNDP's core resources** to be used to deliver UNDP's Strategic Plan.
7. Annual contributions are summarised in the table below:

Annual Funding (AUD)	2016 (million)	2017 (million)	2018 (million)	2019 (million)	Total (million)
UNDP Core Contribution	12.725	12.725	12.725	12.725	50.9

8. DFAT may, from time to time, make additional contributions to UNDP and UNCDF in accordance with available resources, policy priorities and satisfactory achievement of the partnership commitments made under the Framework.
9. DFAT and UNDP will make specific arrangements for additional earmarked contributions. To this end, DFAT and UNDP will enter into a Third Party Cost Sharing Arrangement in accordance with the template attached to this Framework at Annex B for each program and/or project, or groups of programs and/or projects, that DFAT may decide to finance, including for contributions that exceed the amounts specified in Section IV, Paragraph 7, above (each, a "**Subsidiary Arrangement**"). Earmarked contributions to UNCDF will be subject to the same template.
10. Any Subsidiary Arrangement entered into between the Partners from the Effective Date, as defined in Section III, above, will be governed by this Framework. Further, the Partners confirm that the following will apply to all pre-existing subsidiary arrangements and/or contribution arrangements (the "**Pre-existing Arrangements**") whose duration extends beyond the Effective Date:

- a. Pre-existing Arrangements will continue in effect and will be governed by this Framework from its Effective Date.
- b. In the event of any inconsistency between the provisions of the Pre-existing Arrangement and this Framework, the provisions of this Framework will prevail.
- c. Pre-existing Arrangements may be terminated by the Partners in writing in accordance with Section VIII of this Framework.

The Partners understand and confirm that termination of this Framework will not terminate any Subsidiary Arrangement entered into pursuant to the provisions of this Framework, unless otherwise mutually determined in writing by the Partners.

11. DFAT will deposit contributions into the following bank account:

UNDP Contributions Account (AU\$)
Account #816601
Reserve Bank of Australia
65 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000
SWIFT: RSBKAU25

ENGAGEMENT PRINCIPLES V

Prevention of Proscribed Practices

12. Both DFAT and UNDP are firmly committed to preventing and detecting fraudulent, collusive, coercive, obstructive, unethical and corrupt practices ("Proscribed Practices"). Consistent with the UN Charter, the Standards of Conduct for the International Civil Service, the United Nations Staff Regulations and Rules, UNDP's Financial Regulations and Rules and UNDP Procurement Manual, UNDP will use reasonable efforts to ensure that the utilization of the Contribution conforms to the highest standard of ethical conduct and that every part of the organization, as well as all individuals acting on behalf of UNDP, observe the highest standard of ethics and integrity.
13. UNDP, in accordance with its regulations, rules and directives, will make best efforts to ensure that any allegations of Proscribed Practices in connection with the implementation of the Project are reported to the Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) in a timely and accurate manner. Credible allegations will be investigated by OAI in accordance with its regulations, rules, policies and procedures. OAI will give prompt notification on a confidential basis to DFAT of any investigations that it is undertaking or proposes to undertake in relation to allegations of fraud and corruption involving any activities funded in whole or in part with a Contribution made under this Framework, to the extent that such notification is consistent with OAI's regulations, rules, policies and procedures, protecting the probity and confidentiality of investigations and the due process rights of those under investigation.

14. Following the conclusion of any investigation which identifies Proscribed Practices involving any activities funded in whole or in part with a Contribution made under this Framework, UNDP will:
 - a. Be responsible for taking reasonable measures to recover any part of the Contribution, which OAI has established as being diverted through fraud or corruption;
 - b. In connection with (a) above, in consultation with the UN Office of Legal Affairs, will where appropriate refer the matter to the appropriate Member State authorities, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 62/63; and
 - c. As requested by DFAT, and following consultations between the Partners, reimburse to DFAT any part of the Contribution which UNDP has recovered further to sub-section (a) above, or credit it to a mutually determined activity.
15. Any information provided to DFAT in relation to any matters arising under this Paragraph will be treated by DFAT as strictly confidential.
16. Any action further to this Paragraph will be consistent with UNDP regulations, rules and directives.

Child Protection

17. Programming activities funded pursuant to the Contribution made under this Framework will be subject to the United Nations, including UNDP's regulations, rules, policies and procedures relating to child protection and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. DFAT and UNDP will make all reasonable efforts not to engage in any practice inconsistent with the rights set forth in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolutions

18. Consistent with United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions relating to terrorism, including UNSC resolutions 1373 (2001), 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) and related resolutions, UNDP and DFAT are firmly committed to the international fight against terrorism, and in particular, against the financing of terrorism. Similarly, UNDP and DFAT recognize their obligation to comply with any applicable sanctions imposed by the UNSC. Consistent with applicable Australian laws, DFAT seeks to take reasonable precautions, and to exercise due diligence, to ensure that none of its funds are provided, directly or indirectly, to individuals or entities associated with terrorism designated by any UNSC sanctions regime. To this end, UNDP will use all reasonable efforts to ensure that the funds transferred to it in accordance with this Framework are not used to provide support or assistance to individuals or entities associated with terrorism as designated by any UNSC sanctions regime, and UNDP will inform DFAT immediately if, during the course of this Framework, UNDP determines that any such funds have been so used.

Transparency

19. DFAT and UNDP are committed, respectively, to principles of transparency consistent with DFAT's Transparency Charter and UNDP Disclosure Policy, and relevant decisions of UNDP's Executive Board. DFAT and UNDP will apply these principles of transparency to information relating to DFAT funding of UNDP's programmes of cooperation. DFAT will periodically publish detailed information about work under this Framework on its website. This will include information about UNDP's policies, plans, processes, the results of UNDP's programmes of cooperation and DFAT's evaluations of UNDP's performance. DFAT and UNDP will consult prior to publication or release of information regarded as sensitive (for example, fraud or corruption matters).

Visibility

20. Achieving visibility and recognition for DFAT contributions to UNDP's work is important to the Australian Government. Wherever appropriate and feasible, attempts will be made to achieve this.
21. UNDP will take all appropriate measures to publicise the fact that the programme/project has received funding from DFAT provided that such actions do not jeopardize the United Nations privileges and immunities provided under the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations and the safety and security of United Nations staff. In line with the above, recognition of Donor's support to the programme/project should be included in documents, publications and signage, both hard copy and electronic, media releases, speeches, formal correspondence and other announcements.

PERFORMANCE AND REPORTING V

22. In respect to measuring the performance of UNDP and its programs, DFAT will rely principally on UNDP's own reporting, monitoring and evaluation systems, which include performance and operational assessments carried out by UNDP in accordance with UNDP Regulations and Rules. In particular DFAT will draw upon the UNDP Administrator's Annual Report to the Executive Board and the UNDP Annual Reports, which will include reporting on core performance indicators in the Integrated Results Reporting Framework, as well as UNDP's own evaluation activities, including strategic, country-level and single-program evaluations. In the event of any divergence between the results of UNDP's assessments and the goals of the UNDP Strategic Plan 2014-17 or this Framework, DFAT may request UNDP set up a joint consultation to address the issue.
23. DFAT and UNDP will conduct a joint final review of the Strategic Partnership during 2019, prior to the end of this Framework to determine its value, effectiveness and impact, as well as achievements and progress against shared objectives, as outlined in Section I. Reviews may also be conducted at any other time as mutually determined by both organisations.

24. DFAT notes the importance of the Office of Evaluation's biennial program of work for informing future evaluation planning, and will participate in and draw on multi-donor assessments of UNDP performance via membership of the Multilateral Organisations Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) and other means, as appropriate. Under the terms of this Framework UNDP will cooperate with such multi-donor assessment exercises as are mutually determined with partners. DFAT will also maintain efforts to harmonise and streamline UNDP's donor-reporting requirements.
25. UNDP will maintain appropriate accounting records in accordance with UNDP Regulations and Rules in respect of the receipt and utilisation of each DFAT contribution.
26. DFAT and UNDP will monitor implementation of the program of work from the headquarters level via the Australia's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York and through dialogue and partnership at the regional and country level. Information from these different sources will inform performance discussions as part of regular high level, bilateral consultations and Australia's participation in the Executive Board. To directly assess the impact of UNDP activities, including operations funded by Australia's annual multilateral contribution, DFAT may participate in joint field visits with UNDP, and Board visits where possible in accordance with UNDP Regulations and Rules.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

VII

27. Any disputes arising over the interpretation or application of this Framework will be resolved through mutual discussion and conciliation.
28. This Framework is not an international treaty. It is an administrative arrangement between the Government of Australia and the United Nations Development Program, called a Strategic Partnership Framework.

AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION

VIII

29. This Framework, including any of its annexes, may be amended at any time as mutually determined between the Partners in writing by means of an amendment to this Framework.
30. This Framework will be terminated: (i) at any time by either Partner subject to three (3) months written advance notice to the other partner; or (ii) by mutual consent of the Partners. In the event of early termination by DFAT, UNDP will not repay any funds already committed before the date of effective termination of this Framework and the commitments of the Partners under this Framework will survive its termination to the extent necessary to enable the orderly conclusion of UNDP's activities, the withdrawal of personnel and property, and the settlement of any contractual liability in connection with personnel, contractors, subcontractors, cooperation partners and/or suppliers. Unless otherwise mutually determined by the Partners in writing, any Subsidiary Arrangement in effect at the

date of termination of this Framework will continue in effect until its termination.

PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES IX

31. Nothing in or relating to this Framework or any subsidiary arrangement will be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, including its subsidiary organs, nor customary international law, other relevant international or national agreements, or under domestic law.

ATTACHMENTS X

32. The following attachments form part of this Framework:

Annex A – Pacific Engagement Strategy

Annex B – Third Party Cost Sharing Arrangement Template

Annex C – Funding Window Contribution Template (with Funding Window terms of reference)

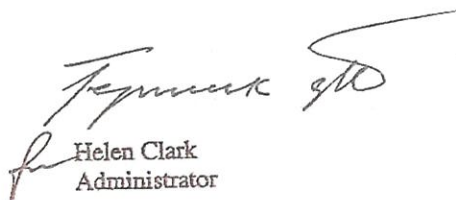
Signed in duplicate by authorised officials of the Partners at

on the day of 2016

For the Government of Australia

For the United Nations Development
Programme


The Hon Julie Bishop MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs


Helen Clark
Administrator

27/4/16

3/5/16