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# **Regional programme document for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (2022-2025)**

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# I. Programme rationale

### A. Regional context

1. The regional programme for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, 2022-2025 is informed by and aligned with the directions of change outlined in the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025. Guided by the UNDP regionality principles<sup>1</sup> and focused on regional public goods and common development challenges that are best addressed regionally or subregionally, the regional programme also takes into account the development consequences of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic since 2020.

2. While each national context is distinct, the countries and territories of the region share important common characteristics. These include inter alia institutional and post-conflict legacies associated with the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; challenges of aligning sometimes competing European and Eurasian regional integration projects with national needs; the opportunities and challenges posed by moving away from fossil fuels and other unsustainable resource management systems; growing rates of communicable and non-communicable diseases; and the need to transform adverse gender social norms,<sup>2</sup> counter gender-backlash trends<sup>3</sup> and strengthen social contracts. These commonalities highlight the importance of tailored multi-country, subregional and regional programming to identify and address challenges of common concern, while maintaining the primacy of national solutions reflecting national specifics.

3. Development prospects for the middle-income countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia during 2022-2025 hinge on the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. The socioeconomic impact assessments led by UNDP show significant though varying impacts of the pandemic, depending on pre-existing vulnerabilities, economic structures, gender segregation in the labour market, levels of informality and robustness of public services, including social protection systems. Macroeconomic vulnerabilities have been driven by falling remittances and trade flows combined with lockdowns and mobility restrictions. At the household level, the assessments revealed: (a) that women are often disproportionately affected by the pandemic, particularly in terms of reduced access to social services, increased domestic violence and greater care burdens; (b) rising vulnerabilities among migrants and other informal workers; (c) reduced access to quality education due to ineffective distance learning, as well as geographic and gender-based digital divides; and (d) structural weaknesses in social protection systems. The high prevalence of informal work and precarious employment has limited the ability of Governments to respond effectively to the pandemic. These challenges interact in much of the region with demographic changes associated with declining, ageing populations, human mobility and extensive labour migration. Outward migration flows remain among the highest globally, with many countries in the region experiencing extensive brain drain and depletion of human capital. Ratios of remittance flows to gross domestic product in some countries in the region remain among the highest in the world.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The UNDP regionality principles are: (a) promotion of regional public goods based on strengthened regional cooperation and integration; (b) management of cross-border externalities and spillovers that are best addressed collaboratively on an intercountry basis; (c) advancement of awareness, dialogue and action on sensitive and/or emerging development issues that benefit strongly from multi-country experiences and perspectives; (d) promotion of experimentation and innovation that overcome institutional, financial and/or informational barriers that may be too high for an individual country to surmount; and (e) generation and sharing of development knowledge, experience and expertise, so that countries can connect to, and benefit from, relevant experiences from across the region and beyond.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> UNDP, 2020 Human Development Perspectives: Tackling social norms: a game changer for gender inequalities, UNDP 2020 http://hdr.undp.org/en/gsni

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Backlash in gender equality and women's and girls' rights, European Parliament June 2018

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2018/604955/IPOL\_STU(2018)604955\_EN.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Dilip Ratha et al, 2020. "Migration and Development Brief 33: Phase II: COVID-19 Crisis through a Migration Lens." KNOMAD-World Bank, Washington, DC.

4. In many countries in the region, women continue to face high and persistent barriers in terms of economic opportunities and access to decision-making. The responses to and consequences of the pandemic have further exacerbated gender inequalities. Already in 2020-2021, endemic violence against women and girls escalated to higher levels. The sharp rise recorded in women's high burden of unpaid work led to further loss of their income and economic security. While many Governments have prioritized policies to combat violence against women and girls, measures to address women's economic insecurity and the increased burden of unpaid care work have been less common.<sup>5</sup>

5. According to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), approximately 1.6 million people in the region are living with HIV. The annual number of new HIV infections increased by an estimated 43 per cent from 2010 to 2020, making Europe and Central Asia the region with the fastest growth of HIV infections globally. HIV-related deaths in the region rose by 32 per cent between 2010 and 2020. Antiretroviral treatment coverage is improving but is still low with only 53 per cent of all people living with HIV receiving treatment.<sup>6</sup> The region is also experiencing high rates of co-infection, with tuberculosis and hepatitis C increasingly linked to HIV infection. Nine of the world's 30 countries with a high burden of multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis are in the region.<sup>7</sup> Non-communicable diseases are the leading cause of death, disease and disability in the World Health Organization (WHO) European Region. The four major such diseases (cardiovascular disease, cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases and diabetes) account for nearly 86 per cent of deaths and 77 per cent of the disease burden.<sup>8</sup>

6. The region continues to be shaped by complex governance and peace challenges. Fragile social contracts, weak rule of law, increasing frequency of human rights violations, structural discrimination and stigma towards marginalized populations, violent political and electoral cycles and the continued shrinking of civic space are all prevalent challenges. These challenges are exacerbated by the impact of protracted conflicts and political crises in the region, as well as spillover from Afghanistan. Rising economic, social and gender inequalities deepen the risks of violent extremism, online radicalization and inter-ethnic tensions. These developments underscore the importance not only of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in the region, but also of strengthening cross-border, subregional and/or regional cooperation mechanisms that are regionally led, promote mutual accountability and support joint risk monitoring.

7. These challenges are playing out against the backdrop of growing anthropogenic pressures on the region's ecosystems.<sup>9</sup> Climate risks are increasingly likely to drive the complex emergencies and crises in which growing numbers of countries in the region already find themselves. Sustainable management of water, land, forestry and energy resources often presents particular challenges for vulnerable households reliant on income generation tied to nature-based ecosystem services.<sup>10</sup> Poor air quality in many urban areas reduces health and well-being of urban households.

8. The region has begun to embrace digital transformation and the use of technology, new business models and new industries. Societies and institutions in the region show interest in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> UNDP and UNICEF, Progress at risk: gender equality in COVID-19 response in Europe and Central Asia, February 2021 https://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/library/gender-equality/gender-equality-covid-19-response-in-europe-and-centralasia.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> UNAIDS Factsheet, 2021 https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media\_asset/UNAIDS\_FactSheet\_en.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Stop TB Partnership, High Burden Countries for Tuberculosis, https://www.stoptb.org/securing-quality-tb-care-all/high-burden-countries-tuberculosis

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/Health-systems/health-systems-response-to-ncds

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> UNDP, Human Development Report 2020, The next frontier: Human development and the Anthropocene,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> UNDP, Tackling air pollution in Europe and Central Asia for improved health and a greener future, 2021; and World Bank, Central Asia: Towards Water-Secure Sustainable Economies, 2020

deeper adoption of digital tools to improve public service delivery. Yet, access to the Internet and technology continues to be uneven. Geographical but also social and gender-based digital divides are likely to persist and deepen as jobs transform, demand for new and digital skills increases and access to quality services becomes increasingly linked to digital access and literacy. Beyond access and skills, the COVID-19 pandemic revealed important gaps in the extent and scale of public-sector digitalization, including weak interoperability, absence of data and poor data quality, outdated legacy systems and weak digital skills.

9. Responding to these complexities in the region requires integrated, systemic and riskinformed programmatic approaches, bringing together the environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainable development and enabling just transitions to sustainability. It equally requires a strong focus on inclusive and innovative governance models to accelerate COVID-19 vaccination campaigns; repair social contracts; achieve gender equality; harness the capacities of the private sector and civil society to co-deliver essential public services; accelerate the transition to a people-centred green economy; combat climate change; enhance risk governance; and align and broaden access to digital solutions, public finance and investments with the sustainability aspirations of the countries of the region.

10. The regional programme for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, 2022–2025 is based on: (a) an analysis of the main development pathways identified in the UNDP country programme documents of the region; (b) a synopsis of the main findings and recommendations of independent country programme evaluations;<sup>11</sup> (c) lessons learned and recommendations from evaluations of the previous regional programmes; (d) an analysis of the main programmatic directions of regional partners; (e) continuous consultations with UNDP country offices and regional partners; and (f) the programmatic gains made in previous regional programme recognizes that accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals in the region requires: accelerated structural transformations towards greener, more inclusive economies with a strong focus on gender equality and on leaving no one behind; and risk-informed development pathways to build socioeconomic resilience and prevent shocks and crises. Partnerships, strategic innovation and new ways of working, digitalization and scaled-up development finance should lie at the heart of efforts to address these challenges.

# **B.** Results and lessons learned

11. In the past four years, UNDP focused its regional support to programme countries in the Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States region on three main outcome areas: (a) helping countries eradicate poverty in all its forms; (b) accelerating structural transformation for sustainable development; and (c) building resilience to crises and shocks by strengthening development pathways.

12. An independent midterm review of the regional programme, 2018-2021<sup>12</sup> concluded that it has been highly relevant to the region and its cooperation needs, and as an instrument for the resolution of a range of common challenges facing countries in the region. The evaluation notes that due to the unique nature of the regional development challenges, the regional programme plays an important role that cannot be fulfilled by country programmes. It finds that UNDP has emerged as one of the most important promoters of regional cooperation in the region. The evaluation assesses the level of programme relevance as high and points out its strong track record in mobilizing resources from third parties, its inherent flexibility and the high demand from many country offices for regional services. It further

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> UNDP Independent Evaluation Office, Synthesis of lessons from independent country programme evaluations of UNDP in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, July 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Mid-Term Evaluation of UNDP Regional Programme for Europe and the [Commonwealth of Independent States] CIS 2018-2021, September 2021.

notes that the regionality principles which underpin the regional programme present an intrinsic value added to the relevance of UNDP work in the region. The midterm review concluded that more than 85 per cent (18 of 21 outputs) had been achieved or exceeded at the time of the review; and that less than 15 per cent (3 t of 21 outputs) were unlikely to be achieved by the end of the programming cycle.

13. The midterm review noted the critical role of the regional programme's flexible resources in UNDP response to the pandemic, particularly in terms of supporting country offices in immediate crisis response through additional capacity, tools, methodologies and analytics for timely and quality support to national counterparts as well as in mobilizing new partnerships and resources for strategic, forward-looking and innovative initiatives.<sup>13</sup>

14. As highlighted in the midterm review,<sup>14</sup> the regional programme has helped cement the position of UNDP in the region as a multilateral partner of choice for South-South and triangular cooperation for development assistance providers in the region. Together with support from key bilateral partners that are members of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, (OECD-DAC) vertical funds and programme country Governments, contributions to the regional programme from several new and emerging partners helped to catalyse aid and leverage development finance; engage the private sector in development; and implement innovative solutions while fostering regional knowledge exchanges to promote development effectiveness.

15. The independent, combined evaluation of the previous UNDP Strategic Plan and its associated regional programmes<sup>15</sup> highlighted lessons for regional programmes going forward, particularly concerning: (a) the diversity of the region and its development challenges, which often preclude the application of "one-size-fits-all" cooperation paradigms and require tailored subregional approaches to common problems that do not recognize national borders; (b) the need to function increasingly in funding environments based on other (non-core) resources; and (c) the value added by effective UNDP regional programming in:

- (i) identifying, codifying and disseminating lessons learned within and beyond the region, in accordance with programme country needs;
- (ii) helping programme countries to more effectively manage transnational risks and benefit from global and regional public goods;
- (iii) increasing development effectiveness while minimizing transaction costs to partners pursuing regional or multi-country programming opportunities; and
- (iv) providing a framework for conducting advocacy, communicating results and mobilizing stakeholders.

# II. Programme priorities and partnerships

# A. Programme priorities

16. In its programmatic scope, focus, delivery approaches and results reporting, the regional programme adapts the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 and its integrated results and resources framework to the demands and common challenges of programme countries in the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> UNDP' Regional Programme for Europe and Central Asia, Highlights of 2020: A Year Like No Other and the mid-term evaluation, September 2021

https://sway.office.com/PlPpT7U7mxU3sUGH

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Mid-Term Evaluation, September 2021

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> UNDP Independent Evaluation Office, Evaluation of the UNDP Strategic Plan and global and regional programmes, August 2017 http://web.undp.org/evaluation/evaluations/thematic/sgrp.shtml

region. The UNDP vision, as outlined in the Strategic Plan, is to support programme countries in three directions of change: (a) structural transformation, including green, inclusive and digital transitions; (b) leaving no one behind; and (c) building resilience. These three directions of change are deeply intertwined and find strong reflection – in their interlinkages – in the development challenges and agendas of the middle-income countries in the region and invariably also dominate the UNDP country programmes in the region.

17. With the overall objective of building forward better in recovering from the pandemic and accelerating the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, the regional programme adopts the directions of change outlined in the Strategic Plan 2022-2025 and captures them in the following closely interconnected and interdependent programmatic priorities:

- (a) Accelerating structural transformations for green, inclusive and just transitions to sustainability;
- (b) Leaving no one behind in addressing both persistent and new forms of poverty and inequalities;
- (c) Building resilience to shocks and crises through more risk-informed development.

18. Under each of its programmatic priorities, the regional programme applies, tailors and combines the UNDP global offer of signature solutions, as outlined in the Strategic Plan 2022-2025: poverty and inequality; governance; resilience; environment; energy; and gender equality. Under each programmatic priority, the regional programme also applies and prioritizes the cross-cutting enablers referenced in the Strategic Plan, i.e., strategic innovation, development financing and digitalization.

19. Under each of its programmatic priorities, the regional programme seeks to support programme countries in addressing systemic development challenges by: (a) adopting new ways of working such as portfolio approaches in addressing challenges like urban transformation, the future of work and digital transformation; (b) building capabilities for systems approaches and dynamic management; and (c) continuing to mainstream innovation across the region. The programme will expand its focus on integrated, systemic development solutions by exploring alternative financial mechanisms such as outcome-based financing, impact investment and other financial instruments in partnership with international financial institutions (IFIs) to help finance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

# Priority 1. Accelerating structural transformations to enable green, inclusive and just transitions to sustainability

20. The regional programme will continue to support rights-based sustainable development pathways which integrate the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Sendai Global Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and other international and regional agreements; and support the aspirations of programme countries, including in particular countries in post-conflict situations, to build forward better in recovering from the pandemic, focusing on the application of digital solutions in particular. To that end, it will:

- (a) Support green programming to increase investments in the region's natural capital by promoting more sustainable use of water, energy, land and other natural resources and supporting green jobs and livelihoods. The emphasis will be on programming to increase energy and water efficiency, reduce land degradation, accelerate transitions away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy technologies and strengthen waste management and other circular economy aspects;
- (b) In partnership with IFIs and others, accelerate financing for transitioning to the green economy and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by: advancing integrated national financing frameworks; budgeting for the Goals; aligning tax

policies, debt management and fiscal frameworks to the Goals; costing of the Goals to more closely link sustainable development planning and programming to national fiscal frameworks; and preventing the diversion of resources through anti-corruption initiatives;

- (c) Support more inclusive and integrated governance processes and risk management that improve institutional responsiveness and decentralization, foster transparency and accountability and are based on the rule of law, access to justice, gender equality and human rights, including through participatory e-governance approaches;
- (d) In alignment with the UNDP Digital Strategy,<sup>16</sup> support the digital and knowledge economy ambitions of the programme countries in the region to: (i) reduce the scale and significance of urban/rural, gender, age, digital and other divides; (ii) connect e-governance, green economy transitions, social protection and access to essential services; (iii) support transitions to new business models and innovative entrepreneurship, including green jobs; (iv) strengthen rights-based approaches as well as data protection and data security; and (v) promote lifelong learning activities; and (vi) apply and promote smart farming management;
- (e) In partnership with the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the World Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, the European Union and other partners, including the private sector, civil society and academia, continue to support implementation of the Paris Agreement in the region, inter alia through improved access to and governance of climate finance; enhanced, more ambitious and gender-responsive nationally determined contributions for climate change mitigation and adaptation; increased transparency in monitoring, reporting and verification of climate action; support for legal and institutional frameworks which can bring clean and renewable energy and zero-carbon growth solutions to scale; and closing gaps in access to efficient, affordable and sustainable energy across all sectors, by de-risking energy investments;
- (f) Mobilize partnerships and financing to sustain and expand regional and subregional support to: (i) strengthen multi-country platforms for the co-management of shared resources such as lakes and river basin commissions, transboundary world heritage sites and biosphere reserves; (ii) manage synergies between ecosystem-related conventions, policy instruments and programmes;<sup>17</sup> (iii) integrate environmental sustainability and resilience into sectoral and cross-cutting policies reflecting the transboundary dimensions of natural resources in the region; (iv) effectively apply and de-risk land-use planning to help resolve transboundary water, land and forest rights issues; (v) improve food, air and water security as well as biodiversity and ecosystem management; and (vi) support sustainable livelihoods, with particular attention to women's rights and gender equality.
- (g) Expand the use of digital tools in provision of public services, ensure transition to datadriven government and proactively organize and improve public services through application of innovative approaches.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Future Forward: UNDP Digital Strategy, 2019. https://digitalstrategy.undp.org/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> These include the Convention of Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, the Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. https://unece.org/environment-policy/conventions-and-protocols

# **Priority 2. Leaving no one behind in addressing persistent and new forms of poverty and inequalities**

21. The regional programme will support programme countries and regional partners in the socioeconomic recovery from the pandemic and in addressing new, persistent or pre-existing multidimensional poverty, inequalities and all forms of exclusion. To that end, it will:

- (a) Help programme countries to integrate their commitment to leave no one behind into national strategies, policies, plans and budgets by strengthening national capacities to gather, analyse and apply disaggregated data (including the multidimensional poverty indices) to ensure sustainable, people-centred and gender-sensitive development pathways;
- (b) In partnership with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and regional partners such as the Regional Cooperation Council, advance gender equality by strengthening women's economic empowerment in leadership and decision-making; creating economic opportunities and strengthening skills of women living in remote and rural areas; and addressing structural, gender and other forms of discrimination, inequality and adverse social gender norms, especially in the gendered division of labour and unpaid domestic and care work;<sup>18</sup>
- (c) In partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UN-Women, in addition to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, other regional partners and the World Bank, promote inclusive labour markets and more effective social protection and social care policies, in particular in countries in postconflict situations, with a particular focus on gender equality and economic empowerment and business support for informal workers and other marginalized populations, such as persons with disabilities, minorities, refugees, migrants, displaced populations and returnees;
- (d) In collaboration with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, UNAIDS, WHO and other regional partners, address the social, economic and environmental determinants of health outcomes, especially for vulnerable and key populations and with a particular focus on the interlinkages between public health, governance and climate change;
- (e) Build productive capacities and green value chains which produce high value-added and competitive products, create decent jobs and promote sustainable and circular production patterns for cross-border trade in goods and services, in partnership with the International Trade Centre; and provide regional support to national and subnational institutions to design and implement sustainable local development solutions and to deliver innovative, gender-responsive public services.

# Priority 3. Building resilience to shocks and crises through more risk-informed development.

22. The regional programme will contribute to enhanced environmental, social and economic resilience to shocks and crises through more risk-informed development at regional, subregional and national levels, paying close attention to the interface between disasters and conflicts. To that end, it will help to:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Harnessing ICTs [information and communication technologies] for gender equality in Europe and Central Asia, UNDP Development Futures Series, June 2021

https://www.undp.org/publications/harnessing-information-and-communications-technologies-gender-equality-europe-and

- (a) Position development needs prominently in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in the region and strengthen conflict prevention capacities in: (i) cross-border peacebuilding, conflict sensitivity, confidence-building and recovery to prevent violence and human rights violations, address the drivers of conflict, radicalization, violent extremism and gender-backlash trends and increase social cohesion; and (ii) security sector and justice reform, including continued strong engagement in reducing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in partnership with the Regional Cooperation Council and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC);
- (b) Reducing disaster risks by focusing on the priority areas of the Sendai Framework; expanding the use of innovative technologies and partnerships for disaster risk reduction and improving the use of financial instruments to strengthen the disaster resilience of public-sector infrastructure, key productive sectors and vulnerable populations, working with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and other partners.

23. The regional programme will deliver on its priorities through: (a) targeted and integrated co-funded initiatives at regional and subregional levels that are co-designed with regional partners and programme countries; (b) dedicated, integrated programme and policy advisory services; and (c) providing a regional platform and impartial space for countries to address regional, subregional and transboundary development issues, as well as common and emerging regional challenges, that benefit from multi-country perspectives and the sharing of experiences and solutions. To this end, the programme will focus on:

- (i) Providing integrated programme and policy advisory support and cross-country information exchanges to UNDP country programmes;
- (ii) Spearheading thought leadership, innovation, new ways of working and the scaling-up of innovative, integrated and sustainable development solutions, and transformative regional partnerships that help programme countries capture the benefits of innovation, access new sources of development finance and expertise, and bring impact to scale;
- (iii) Supporting and connecting programme countries in capturing, codifying and sharing lessons learned, good practices and success stories, and accessing regional and global expertise and cutting-edge research, including through South-South and triangular cooperation.

# **B.** Partnerships

24. The complex challenges and uncertainties associated with recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and achieving the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals require bilateral, multilateral, private sector and civil society partners to bring development solutions to scale, expand the resource base and utilize limited resources efficiently. Working in partnership to address systemic challenges and achieve transformative scalable results is central to the UNDP regional programme for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. The regional programme will build on and leverage UNDP global, regional and national partnerships and the integrative UNDP mandate.

25. The programme will support continued cooperation with partner countries in the region, including with the Russian Federation and Turkey, as well as with OECD-DAC partner countries and the European Union. It builds on a strong partnership with the European Union around transition, pre-accession and integration processes and increasingly new and innovative ways of working, leveraging the impartiality, presence and expertise of UNDP and the United Nations development system to advance the 2030 Agenda in the region.

26. UNDP will further deepen its partnership with other strategic partners in order to deploy innovative solutions to development challenges in the region. As a central tool for South-

South and triangular cooperation, the programme will further strengthen the UNDP role as a key multilateral development partner for new and emerging donors, helping to build capacity for development effectiveness and fostering knowledge exchange, mobilizing expertise and resources to help advance sustainable development in the region.

27. UNDP partnerships with regional organizations such the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Eurasian Economic Commission, the OECD, the Regional Cooperation Council and other regional organizations, will continue to be deepened and expanded within the framework of the programme, including through joint regional/subregional approaches and improved coordination.

28. Drawing on the UNDP system-wide integrator function, including its technical leadership in the United Nations socioeconomic response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the regional programme will continue to work in partnership with United Nations entities based on mandates, expertise, comparative advantages and technical capacities (including with the Regional Development Coordination Office in its capacity as a member of the Regional Collaborative Platform secretariat) to ensure integrated and coherent United Nations responses to the development challenges and recovery efforts of programme countries. The programme brings a regional perspective to UNDP global partnerships with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, ILO, UNDRR, UNEP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO, as well as other UNDP global centres such as the Istanbul Center for Private Sector in Development, mirroring the strong alignment of UNDP to the objectives of United Nations development system reform at the regional level.

29. The programme will draw on the new regional United Nations architecture, i.e., the Regional Collaborative Platform for Europe and Central Asia and its associated inter-agency cooperation mechanisms such as the issue-based coalitions and other thematic groups. The programme will continue to benefit from the political guidance of the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs on matters related to peace and security, under the overall umbrella of the Regional Collaborative Platform. The programme will also make use of the resources under the prospective regional system-wide knowledge management hub.

30. In the context of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development and considering the specific needs of middle-income countries, the programme will continue to help countries to mobilize and leverage development finance from public and private sources to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Over the last five years, the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States made great progress in strengthening and expanding critical partnerships with IFIs. In addition to well-established partnerships with multilateral development banks and financial institutions such as the World Bank, the Regional Bureau pioneered new partnerships with the European Investment Bank, the Council of Europe Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Eurasian Development Bank and expanded its partnerships with the Asian Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank and others. The Bureau will continue to play a critical role in helping Governments and IFIs better target investment priorities, "crowd in" private sector finance for public goals and roll out state-of-the-art impact measurement to advance sustainable development in the region. Importantly, the regional programme will deepen support to countries seeking to strengthen partnerships with civil society organizations, social movements and coalitions, philanthropic foundations, academia and the private sector, as envisaged in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

# III. Programme and risk management

31. This regional programme document outlines UNDP contributions to regional results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels with respect to regional programme are prescribed in UNDP programme and operations policies and procedures and internal control framework.

32. The programme will be implemented through the direct implementation modality under the oversight of the Regional Director. The Regional Hub in Istanbul will be responsible for the effective management, monitoring and quality assurance of regional projects. The Regional Advisory Board, chaired by the Regional Director, will provide overall guidance and quality assurance to the programme and help to validate its relevance vis-à-vis country and global activities.

33. The programme will be implemented through regional and subregional activities and will aim to strengthen country-level coordination by working with UNDP country offices and policy and programme advisory teams. Regional project design will be guided by consultations with country offices and relevant regional partners and will evolve in accordance with the development landscape at regional and subregional levels. UNDP programming and social and environmental standards will be applied to expand regional and subregional cooperation through existing and new stakeholder networks to strengthen capacities, outreach to targeted groups scaling-up and sustainability.

34. The regional programme will build on its track record in mobilizing and integrating other (non-core) resources to augment its modest regular resources base. For the previous programme (2018-2021), financial resource targets totalled \$62.6 million, including \$4 million in regular resources and \$58.6 million in other resources. A total of \$110 million in other resources was mobilized and \$78 million was delivered. The financial resources needed to implement the regional programme for 2022-2025 are estimated at \$94.85 million, with an expected allocation of regular resources of \$4.85 million. Other resources estimated in the range of \$90 million are expected to be mobilized from bilateral and multilateral institutions, trust funds and other partners, with a view to diversifying potential sources of funding for operational activities for development, in alignment with General Assembly resolution 75/233 of 21 December 2020 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

35. Risks associated with new partnerships have been mitigated, to the extent possible, through formal, long-term strategic partnership agreements and through regular interactions and consultative processes. Five per cent of regular resources will be invested in monitoring and evaluating the programme. Its cost effectiveness will be enhanced by full cost recovery, strategic use of technical expertise and partnerships and matching regional and country-level resources. In accordance with Executive Board decisions, all direct costs associated with project implementation will be charged to the concerned projects.

36. Guided by the UNDP enterprise risk management policy, the programme will apply an integrated approach to risk management with harmonized integration across all types of risks, including from social and environmental sources, and vertical integration from projects to corporate levels. The programme's theory of change establishes the context required to understand factors and risks relevant to the realization of the programme objectives.

### **IV.** Monitoring and evaluation

37. The management, monitoring and evaluation of the regional programme is grounded in the arrangements set out in the UNDP programme and operations policies and procedures,

including aspects related to programme and project monitoring and evaluation, the regionality principles, the objectives of the social and environmental standards and the quality assurance system.

38. The scope and frequency of monitoring activities will be commensurate with the programme results frameworks, risks and envisioned impacts. The programme has selected outcomes, outputs and indicators that: (a) are directly relevant to its focus areas and priorities in the next four years; (b) are aligned with the integrated results and resources framework of the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025; (c) are aligned with the regionality principles and are consistent with the complementary and leveraging role of regional programmes vis-à-vis country programmes; and (d) can be efficiently measured and monitored. Careful consideration has been given to ensuring that the outputs and output indicators demonstrate unique regional contributions and value using international, regional and country-level data.

39. Progress against planned results and resources will be monitored through quarterly and annual planning, budgeting and monitoring exercises. The programme will publish reports, including financial information and results, consistent with the UNDP commitment to the International Aid Transparency Initiative. At the end of each year, it will be subject to results analysis and reporting, through the results-oriented annual report, to measure progress achieved against annual milestones.

40. Data collection will consider quality aspects such as credibility, timeliness, national ownership and relevance. Data disaggregation will inform the design of targeted interventions. Data originated through programme interventions will be a primary source. Partnerships with regional organizations working on data and statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals will facilitate data and knowledge exchange to support effective monitoring and evaluation of the regional programme and related projects.

41. The evaluation of the former regional programme and key projects, as well as of country programmes in the region, inform the design and implementation of the regional programme, 2022-2025. Programme reviews and evaluations will provide an opportunity to review progress against the planned milestones of the Strategic Plan and the regional programme. The quality assurance team of the Regional Bureau will ensure effective monitoring and assurance of the programme in coordination with relevant programme and operations teams and partners.

42. Programme implementation, monitoring and tracking performance, analysing evidence and reporting will apply integrated approaches, grounded in the programme's theory of change, to support accountability, ensure comprehensive, issues-based perspectives and mobilize the multidisciplinary expertise and experience of UNDP in the region. Multi-year workplans will be used to outline and prioritize activities and resources required to achieve the outputs in a timely fashion.

43. The planned evaluations included in the evaluation plan are identified on the basis of ensuring accountability and continuous learning and improvements. The evaluations cover the programme's priority areas and are selected based on UNDP requirements for mandatory evaluations. A semi-annual review of the evaluation plan will be carried out to identify new evaluations when new projects are developed. The programme evaluations, along with other project evaluations, will provide objective assessments of the programme's development contributions, and will contribute to the validation and the refinement of the programme's theory of change.

44. Quality standards for programming will be applied to strengthen and enable the achievement of the programme objectives. Programme markers including the gender marker will be integrated into the programme and project quality assurance measures and inform programme and project planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and

reporting. The programme will ensure that at least 15 per cent of programme and project budgets at the regional level are used for targeted interventions promoting gender equality.

45. The regional programme commits to reduce transaction costs, in line with General Assembly resolution 75/233, by, inter alia, streamlining and harmonizing requirements related to reporting, monitoring and evaluation, and to give priority to pooled, thematic and joint funding mechanisms applied at all levels, where appropriate, in order to enable the United Nations development system to work in a coherent, coordinated, efficient and, where appropriate, integrated manner, reducing duplication and increasing impact.

# Annex. Results and resources framework

# Related SDG: 1, 5, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17

### **REGIONAL PROGRAMME OUTCOME #1: Structural transformation accelerated, particularly green, inclusive and digital transitions.**

**RELATED STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME: 1. Structural transformation accelerated, particularly green, inclusive and digital transitions.** 

Outcome indicator(s), baselines, target(s)	Data source and frequency of data- collection, and responsibilities	Indicative regional programme outputs (including indicators, baselines targets)	Major partners / partnerships frameworks	Indicative resources by outcome (\$)
International financial flows to developing countries in support of	1.1 SDG 7.a.1 Data source: Global SDG Indicators Database https://unstats.un.org	<b>Output 1.1:</b> The 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement and other intergovernmentally- agreed frameworks integrated in national and local development plans, measures to accelerate progress put in place and budgets and progress assessed using data- driven solutions. ( <i>SP Output 1.1</i> )	Austrian Development Agency, European Union, Global Environment Facility, Global Fund to fight AIDS,	Regular: \$2,450,000
clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems (SP Outcome Indicator 1.1)	/sdgs/indicators/data base	Output indicator 1.1.1: Number of countries that have development plans and budgets that integrate intergovernmentally-agreed frameworks across the whole- of-Government: (SP Output Indictor 1.1.1): Baseline: 10 Target: 5 Data source, frequency: Annual	Tuberculosis and Malaria Global Water Partnership Organization, Government f Turkey, Government of Czech Republic,	Other: 40,000,000
Indicator 1.2: Proportion of gender- sensitive policy measures in total policy measures enacted in response to COVID-19, which address: a) Women's economic security b) Unpaid care work c) Violence against women (SP Outcome Indicator 1.7)	1.2 Data source: COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker https://data.undp.or g/gendertracker/	Data source, frequency: Annual <u>Output indicator 1.1.2:</u> Number of countries with data collection or analysis         mechanisms providing disaggregated data to monitor progress towards the SDGs:         • Conventional data-collection methods (e.g., surveys)         • Administrative reporting systems         • Innovative data sources (e.g., big data)         (SP Output Indictor 1.1.2)         Baseline: 0         Target: 4         Data source, frequency: Annual	Government of Poland, Government of Russian Federation, Government of Slovak Republic, Health Care Without Harm, Islamic Development Bank, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, World Bank, UNDRR,	
	1.3 SDG 5.1.1 Data source: Global SDG Indicators Database https://unstats.un.or g/sdgs/indicators/da tabase	Output 1.2: Responsive governance systems and local governance strengthened for socioeconomic opportunity, inclusive basic service delivery, community security and peacebuilding (SP Output 2.3)         Output indicator 1.2.1: Number of national institutions with strengthened public administration and core government functions for: <ul> <li>improved service delivery</li> <li>community security</li> <li>prevention</li> </ul>	UNEP, UNESCO, United States Department of State, UNODC, UNOPS, WHO	

Indicator 1.3: Percentage of achievement of legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non- discrimination on the basis of sex in relation to: a) Violence against women b) Overarching legal frameworks and public life c) Employment and economic benefits, marriage and family (SP Outcome Indicator 1.9)	(SP Output Indicator 2.3.1)         Baseline: 0         Target: 8         Data source, frequency: Annual         Output indicator 1.2.2; Number of new measures that improved agility and responsiveness of local governance institutions for: <ul> <li>Basic service delivery</li> <li>Government-community engagement platforms</li> <li>Prevention</li> <li>(SP Output Indicator 2.3.2)</li> <li>Baseline: 0</li> <li>Target: 8</li> <li>Data source, frequency</li> </ul> <li>Output 1.3: Transition to renewable energy accelerated capitalizing on technological gains, clean energy innovations and new financing mechanisms to support green recovery (SP Output 5.2)</li> <li>Output indicator 1.3.1; Number of countries benefiting from policy advisory, digital transformation, integrated approaches, thought leadership or innovative business models for the energy transition.</li> <li>(New regional programme Indicator)</li> <li>Baseline: 0</li> <li>Target: 14</li> <li>Data source: projects reports</li> <li>Frequency: Annual</li> <li>Output 1.4: County-led measures implemented to achieve inclusive economies and to advance economic empowerment of women in all their diversity, including in crisis contexts (SP Output 6.1)</li> <li>Output Indicator 6.1.2)</li> <li>Baseline: 0</li> <li>Target: 6</li> <li>Data source, frequency: Annual</li> <li>Output 1.5: People and institutions equipped with strengthened digital capabilities and opportunities to contribute to and benefit from inclusive digital societies (SP Output E.1)</li>	

Output indicator 1.5.1: Number of public and private institutions that leverage digital technologies in ways that improves people's lives at regional level <i>(SP Output Indicator E.1.2)</i> Baseline: 0 Target: 3 Data source, frequency: Annual	
<b>Output 1.6:</b> Innovation capabilities built, and approaches adopted to expand policy options at regional levels ( <i>SP Output E.2</i> )	
Output indicator 1.6.1: Number of government and other partners' initiatives, which increased policy and development options by applying portfolio design at regional level. (SP Output Indicator E.2.1) Baseline: 13 Target: 8 Data source, frequency: Annual	
<b>Output 1.7:</b> Public and private financing for the achievement of the SDGs expanded at regional levels ( <i>SP Output E.3</i> )	
Output indicator 1.7.1: Amount (in United States dollars) of public and private finance leveraged for the SDGs at regional level. (SP Output Indicator E.3.1) Baseline: 35 million Target: 17 million Data source, frequency: Annual	
Output indicator 1.7.2: Number of policies and regulatory and institutional frameworks developed and adopted by public and private actors to align public and private finance with the SDGs: <ul> <li>Policies</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Regulatory frameworks</li> <li>Institutional frameworks</li> <li>(SP Output Indicator E.3.2)</li> <li>Baseline: 0</li> <li>Target: 3</li> <li>Data source, frequency: Annual</li> </ul>	

# Related SDG: 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 16 and 17

# **REGIONAL PROGRAMME OUTCOME #2:** No one left behind, centring on equitable access to opportunities and a rights-based approach to human agency and human development.

**RELATED STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME: 2.** No one left behind, centring on equitable access to opportunities and a rights-based approach to human agency and human development.

F	1		1	
Indicator 2.1: Proportion of population covered by at least one social	<b>2.1.</b> SDG 1.3.1 Data source: Global SDG Indicators Database https://unstats.un.org/sdg	Output 2.1: Social protection services and systems strengthened across sectors with increased investment (SP Output 1.2)         Output indicator 2.1.1: Number of countries with policy measures and the sector of	Eurasian Women's Network on AIDS, European Heart Rhythm Association,	Regular: \$1,400,000
protection benefit, disaggregated by sex (SP Outcome Indicator 2.2) Indicator 2.2: Percentage of achievement of legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non- discrimination on the basis of sex in relation to: a) Violence against women b) Overarching legal frameworks and public life Employment and economic benefits, marriage and family (SP Outcome	s/indicators/database 2.2. SDG 5.1.1 Data source: Global SDG Indicators Database https://unstats.un.org/sdg s/indicators/database	<ul> <li>institutional capacities in place to increase access to social protection schemes targeting: <ul> <li>Women</li> <li>Urban poor</li> <li>Rural poor</li> <li>Person with disabilities and other excluded minorities</li> <li>Migrants and migrant returnees</li> <li>Informal sector workers</li> </ul> </li> <li>(SP Output Indicator 1.2.1) <ul> <li>Baseline: 0</li> <li>Target: 6</li> <li>Data source, frequency: Annual</li> </ul> </li> <li>Output indicator 2.1.2: Number of countries that have increased types and quality of social protection services: <ul> <li>Type of services</li> <li>Quality of services</li> <li>Coverage</li> <li>Adequacy</li> <li>Access</li> </ul> </li> <li>(SP Output Indicator 1.2.2)</li> <li>Baseline: 0</li> <li>Target: 6</li> <li>Data source, frequency: Annual</li> </ul>	European Union, Government of Finland, Government of Turkey, ILO, WHO	Other: \$28,000,00 0
Indicator 2.2) Indicator 2.3: Proportion of women	<b>2.3.</b> SDG 5.5.2 Data source: Global SDG Indicators Database	<b>Output 2.2:</b> Access to basic services and financial and non-financial assets and services improved to support productive capacities for sustainable livelihoods and jobs to achieve prosperity ( <i>SP Output 1.3</i> )		
in managerial positions	https://unstats.un.org/sdg s/indicators/database	Output indicator 2.2.1: Number of countries that have increased types and quality of jobs and livelihoods measures.		

<ul><li>a) Managerial positions</li><li>b) Senior and middle</li></ul>	(New regional programme indicator) Baseline: 0 Target: 9 Data source: Regional projects reports.	
management	Frequency: Annual	
(SP Outcome Indicator 1.5)	<b>Output 2.3:</b> Civic space and access to justice expanded, racism and discrimination addressed and rule of law, human rights and equity strengthened ( <i>SP Output 2.2</i> )	
	<u>Output indicator 2.3.1:</u> Number of countries with institutions, systems, or stakeholders with capacities to support fulfilment of nationally and internationally ratified human rights obligations: • Rule of law and justice	
	<ul> <li>Human rights</li> <li>Private sector, including publicly owned companies</li> <li>(SP Output Indicator 2.2.1)</li> <li>Baseline: 11</li> <li>Target: 16</li> </ul>	
	Data source, frequency: Annual <u>Output indicator 2.3.2:</u> Number of countries that have targeted systems with strengthened capacities to: • address discrimination • address racism • expand civic space (SP Output Indicator 2.2.2) Baseline: 0 Target: 6	
	Data source, frequency: Annual         Output 2.4: Women's leadership and participation advanced through implementing affirmative measures, strengthening institutions and civil society and addressing structural barriers, in order to advance gender equality, including in crisis contexts (SP Output 6.2)	
	Output indicator 2.4.1: Number of countries with measures to advance women's leadership and equal participation in decision-making in:         • public institutions         • elected positions, including parliaments         • judiciary	
	<ul> <li>private sector</li> <li>mediation, reconciliation, and peacebuilding mechanisms</li> </ul>	

	DI/RID/RI
• natural resource management (SP Output Indicator 6.2.1) Baseline: 0 Target: 5 Data source, frequency: Annual	
Output indicator 2.4.2: Number of partnerships with women-led civil society organizations and other bodies and networks to advance women's leadership and participation and gender equality ( <i>SP Output Indicator 6.2.2</i> ) Baseline: 0 Target: 4 Data source, frequency: Annual	
Output Indicator 2.4.3: Number of engagements with women-led CSOs and networks to combat gender stereotypes and anti-gender discourse ( <i>New regional programme indicator</i> ) Baseline: 0 Target: 4 Data source: Projects reports, reports for the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, gender equality strategy progress reports. Frequency: Annual	
<b>Output 2.5:</b> National capacities to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and address harmful gender social norms strengthened, including in crisis contexts ( <i>SP Output 6.3</i> )	
Output indicator 2.5.1: Number of entities with strengthened capacities to implement legislation, policies, action plans and initiatives to prevent gender- based violence: <ul> <li>National entities</li> <li>Subnational entities</li> <li>CSOs</li> <li>Private sector</li> </ul> <li>(SP Output Indicator 6.3.3) Baseline: 0 Target: 6 Data source, frequency: Annual</li>	
<u>Output indicator 2.5.2:</u> Number of initiatives to prevent gender-based violence by addressing harmful social norms and gender discriminatory roles and practices	

REGIONAL PROG		(SP Output Indicator 6.3.2) Baseline: 0 Target: 2 Data source, frequency: Annual Resilience built to respond to systemic uncertainty and risk 3. Resilience built to respond to systemic uncertainty and risk		
Indicator 3.1: Number of countries whose vulnerability to crisis and disaster risk has improved (SP Outcome Indicator 3.2)	3.1. Data source: INFORM Risk Index European Commission https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa .eu/inform- index/INFORM-Risk	Output 3.1: Institutional systems to manage multidimensional risks and shocks strengthened at regional levels (SP Output 3.1)         Output Indicator 3.1.1: Number of risk-informed development strategies and plans in place at regional level.         (SP Output Indicator 3.1.1)         Baseline: 0         Target: 4         Data source, frequency: Annual	European Union, Global Environment Facility, Government of Turkey, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, UNDPPA, UNDRR UNEP,	Regular: \$1,000,000 Other: \$22,000,00 0
Indicator 3.2: Number of vulnerable people covered by disaster and climate risk insurance ( <i>SP Outcome</i> <i>Indicator 3.4</i> )	<b>3.2.</b> Data source: InsuResilience https://annualreport.insure silience.org/insuresilience- at-a-glance/	Output indicator 3.1.2: Number of countries with early warning and preparedness measures in place to manage impact of conflicts, disasters, pandemics and other shocks ( <i>SP Output Indicator 3.1.2</i> ) Baseline: 0 Target: 5 Data source, frequency: Annual		
		Output 3.2: Capacities for conflict prevention and peacebuilding strengthened at regional levels and across borders (SP Output 3.2)         Output indicator 3.2.1: Number of institutions with gender-responsive resilient recovery strategies or plans in crisis and post-crisis settings, including stabilization and mine action, informed by joint assessments:         • Cross-border institutions         • Regional institutions         • National Governments         • Subnational governments         • Private sector         • CSO/NGOs         (SP Output Indicator 3.3.3)         Baseline: 0         Target: 4		

Data source, frequency: Annual	
<b>Output 3.3:</b> Risk-informed and gender-responsive recovery solutions, including stabilization efforts and mine action, implemented at regional levels ( <i>SP Output 3.3</i> )	
<ul> <li><u>Output indicator 3.3.1:</u> Number of cross-border, regional, national and subnational policies, strategies, and action plans for conflict prevention and peacebuilding:         <ul> <li>Prevention of violent extremism</li> <li>Conflict sensitive and peace-positive climate adaptation and mitigation (<i>SP Output Indicator 3.2.1</i>) Baseline: 0 Target: 6</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Data source, frequency: Annual</li> <li><u>Output indicator 3.3.2:</u> Number of gender-responsive conflict sensitive development policies, cross-border initiatives, plans, or institutions in place: <ul> <li>to address conflict drivers</li> <li>to strengthen social cohesion</li> <li>to prevent risk of conflict, including climate security</li> </ul> </li> <li>(SP Output Indicator 3.1.3) <ul> <li>Baseline: 0</li> <li>Target: 5</li> <li>Data source, frequency: Annual</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Output 3.4: Natural resources protected and managed to enhance sustainable productivity and livelihoods ( <i>SP Output 4.1</i> ) Output indicator 3.4.1: Natural resources that are managed under a sustainable use, conservation, access, and benefit-sharing regime:	
<ul> <li>Number of additional shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management</li> <li>Number of additional countries benefiting from integrated development solutions addressing nexus of health, environmental degradation and climate change</li> <li>(SP Output Indicator 4.1.2)</li> <li>Baseline: 0</li> <li>Target: 11</li> <li>Data source, frequency: Annual</li> </ul>	