

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2023-2027 was developed jointly between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations System to reflect and support the national development goals and strategies. Starting in 2021, the United Nations Country Team in Iran engaged in consultations internally and with a wide range of national partners that identified the evidence base to prioritize development needs and opportunities for the UNSDCF.

These consultations resulted in the vision for United Nations support to Iran's development that is based on equitable, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable growth and development. Five strategic priorities that guide the work of the United Nations System in Iran in the coming years were identified: (a) socio-economic resilience; (b) public health; (c) environment; (d) disaster risk reduction and management; and (e) impacts of drug use and drug trafficking.

The **socio-economic resilience** pillar of the UNSDCF is based on policies to support a full-employment economy and to help the country realize the "demographic dividend" by focusing on education and skills development. Under the UNSDCF, United Nations agencies would help foster inclusive growth by supporting strengthening of the country's development plans and programmes. This would include promoting human and social capital development and increasing institutional capacities and access to integrated social protection services.

The **public health management** pillar will work towards improved public health management systems promoting health for all through a health system that is resilient and that addresses a wide range of vulnerabilities in diverse settings and emergencies and works to see that all partners contribute to addressing health determinants and risk factors and to promoting healthy lifestyles and settings. This would include supporting service delivery and health information systems, capacity development of the health workforce, and enhancing the availability and affordability of medicines and health-care services.

The third pillar is devoted to **environmental conservation, sustainable use of natural resources, and the capacity to address climate challenges**. The environment pillar would promote the integration of environment-friendly policies into all sectors, promote improved management of natural resources and biodiversity conservation, and would work to increase national capacities to address climate action, including through international advocacy for climate finance.

In the area of **disaster risk reduction and management**, the Cooperation Framework would support programmes that integrate disaster risk reduction into development plans and programmes and strengthen institutional capacities for effective disaster preparedness, response and recovery while enhancing the capacities of people working in the area of disaster resilience, risk reduction and preparedness. The pillar would help integrate disaster risk reduction into development plans and programmes among a wide variety of stakeholders and would work to increase institutional capacities for managing disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery.

In terms of **drug control**, the Cooperation Framework would support improved access to evidence-based drug prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and drug-related services and would help to strengthen national capacity for effective border management and drug trafficking control, including drug-related crime, by providing effective international financial and technological assistance. The United Nations partners would work to increase and improve the available services and would work with the Government to address the issues of border management, illicit trafficking of drugs, and drug-related crime.

In all of these thematic areas, the contribution of the United Nations towards the achievement of the Government's national development goals will take several forms as laid out in the UNSDCF. These include but are not limited to support for capacity development of institutions and entities, providing technical support for results-based programming, helping to build an evidence base through improved data collection, analysis and reporting, promoting and strengthening multisectoral approaches to solve problems, identifying and delivering global best practices including through South-South and Triangular Cooperation, facilitating knowledge transfer and technological support, and providing baselines for development outcomes and carrying out impact evaluation.

The collaboration envisioned in the UNSDCF is based on the fundamental principle of national ownership and leadership to ensure full alignment of joint development operational activities carried out under the UNSDCF with the Government's development policies and priorities.

In order to resource the Cooperation Framework, the United Nations System agencies will provide financial and other support to the development and implementation of activities under the UNSDCF and will develop a strategy for financing the UNSDCF through donor support.