



UNDAF 2016 - 2020

UNITED NATIONS

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK

FOR THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA



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DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
FRAMEWORK FOR THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
2016-2020**



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Foreword

The Government of China and the United Nations (UN) System in China are pleased to present the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the People's Republic of China 2016-2020, which provides the basis for partnership between the UN and China over the course of the next five years.

This renewed commitment to continue the strong partnership between China and the UN System comes at a unique moment in history, both for the people of China and the world. The year of 2016 is the first year of China's 13th Five-Year Plan which envisions deepening reforms towards a more harmonious, ecological and equitable development path. 2016 also marks the beginning of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by world leaders at the 70th UN General Assembly in September 2015.

With a simplified and more agile format, the new UNDAF provides a clear strategic direction, taking into consideration the rapidly evolving development context in China. The UNDAF recognizes that, following over three decades of rapid economic growth, China has now entered a new development stage which focuses on the quality and sustainability of its socio-economic development. As a result of consultations involving the Government of China, the UN System and other stakeholders, three priority areas were selected: 1) Poverty Reduction and Equitable Development 2) Improved and Sustainable Environment and 3) Enhanced Global Engagement.

The new UNDAF, starting in 2016, serves as a strategic document designed to enable the UN System to provide an integrated response to assist in addressing national development priorities and challenges in China. It is well aligned with the 13th Five-Year Plan cycle and reflects the aspirations therein, as well as the anticipated global vision of a more prosperous, sustainable and equitable world.

On behalf of the Government of China and the UN System in China, we express our gratitude to all national counterparts, UN staff and other stakeholders who contributed to this UNDAF.

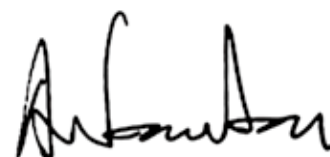
We look forward to ensuring through our strong partnership that the implementation of the 2016-2020 UNDAF has a positive contribution to China's 13th Five-Year Plan and to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the benefit of the people of China.

Government of China



Mr. Wang Shouwen
Vice Minister, Ministry of Commerce

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Mr. Alain Noudéhou
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Mr. Alain Noudéhou
UN Resident Coordinator
on behalf of **UNWTO, UNCTAD** and **WMO**



Executive Summary

Following 35 years of rapid and unprecedented economic growth, China has now entered a new and more complex stage of development. This stage is focused on improving the quality and depth of socio-economic growth and more even distribution of national prosperity to create a sustainable and harmonious society. The Chinese Dream, as articulated by President Xi Jinping, is the goal of becoming a moderately prosperous society by 2021 and a fully developed nation by 2049, marking the 100th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

In November 2013, the Third Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China laid out China's development agenda for the next five to ten years, outlining a comprehensive deepening of the reform process, suggesting a transformation of government and the way it relates to the economy, to the private sector and to society at large. Combined with the concrete targets set out in the 13th Five-Year Plan, this will be the path China will follow to achieve the Chinese Dream.

Despite China's remarkable achievement in poverty alleviation and extensive gains in development, the country is facing multiple challenges. Today, China is simultaneously straddling sev-

eral development stages, facing growing inequity, environmental challenges, climate and disaster risks, and an unprecedented societal shift characterized by a rapidly aging population and shrinking workforce, mass urbanization, and a mobile but structurally disadvantaged migrant population. There is also growing pressure to find the appropriate balance between domestic reforms while assuming an increasingly active role in global collaboration. China announced its GDP growth target of 7% for 2015 and indicated that slower growth rate would be the "new normal" for the world's second largest economy.

The vision is clear and the goals are set, but the challenges to comprehensively deepening reform to achieve the Chinese Dream will be many and complex and will require fundamentally new and innovative ways of thinking.

The UN has been a strong and trusted development partner of China for over 35 years, and is well positioned to continue its support to China throughout this critically transformative period by providing high-level policy input, and crucial innovations to address specific challenges, supporting normative work, and by promoting global exchange. To this end, the UN will draw upon its comparative advantages: an extensive repository of expertise, strength in

working with all levels of government, access to global networks, and utilization of its capacity as an impartial convener for dialogue.

The purpose of the UNDAF is to articulate the high level priorities of the UN system in China between 2016 and 2020 in support of China's development goals. Following a consultative process to align national development priorities with areas where the UN holds a comparative advantage, and in anticipation of the emerging post-2015 international development agenda three priority areas were selected. These are: 1) Poverty Reduction and Equitable Development 2) Improved and Sustainable Environment and 3) Enhanced Global Engagement. The implementation of the UNDAF will be informed by the priorities of the 13th Five-Year Plan and framed by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda (See Annex 1). It will also be signifi-

cantly influenced by the substantial social and demographic shifts taking place in China; an aging population, rapid urbanization and related mass migration. These shifts will impact all three areas and will fundamentally affect the way China implements reform.

Outcomes for each priority are laid out in this Framework and describe the intended changes over five years to which the UN aims to contribute substantively. Activities will be implemented through individual agency programmes developed with their national counterparts. Joint programming will also be pursued by multiple agencies in areas of common interest. All programmes will be framed by the overall strategic direction and focus outlined in the UNDAF. The primary methods through which the UN intends to deliver its support, systems for coordination as well as plans for monitoring and evaluation are also described.



Introduction

Over the last 35 years, China has experienced profound economic and social transformation, achieving extraordinary success in human development and poverty reduction. The economy has grown at an average of over 9% since economic reforms began in 1978, per capita incomes have increased fifty-fold over the same period and 600 million people have been lifted out of poverty. The Human Development Index (HDI) increased from 0.423 in 1980 to 0.719 in 2013, a change of 70%, placing China in the high human development category at 91 out of 187 countries and territories. By 2013, China had achieved several Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) ahead of schedule and was on target for several more and made great efforts to meet the targets of universal access to reproductive health and full and productive employment and decent work for all: however the reduction of biodiversity loss was progressing slowly. This extraordinary socioeconomic development has also resulted in China becoming the second largest economy in the world in 2010, increasing China's profile and influence globally.

However, unprecedented economic growth and tremendous achievements at the national level have been accompanied by serious environmental impact and large domestic disparities, including uneven access to social services and opportunities for development, between the industrialized eastern seaboard and the interior and far west, between urban and rural populations as well as within urban settings, between

the residents and migrant workers, between women and men, and between the young and the elderly.

The Chinese Government is well aware of the challenges borne of "unbalanced, uncoordinated and unsustainable development"³, and has set out a path to deepen critical aspects of reform to address these challenges.

National Development Priorities and Challenges

The overarching vision for reform and development in China is generally laid out through the Third Plenary Sessions of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. Specific development priorities and targets are laid out through Five-Year Plans. The 12th Five-Year Plan covers the time period 2011-2015 and the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020) is currently under development.

The Third Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party in November 2013, laid out a vision for a comprehensive deepening of reforms in the areas: of 1) Economy, 2) Governance and law, 3) Social systems, 4) Ecological civilization, and 5) Cultural systems.

In particular, the goals articulated in this Third Plenary Session placed an emphasis on

1. The Human Development Report, UNDP, 2014.

2. China's Progress towards the Millennium development Goals 2013 Report, UNDP, 2013.

3. Explanatory Notes for the 'Decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Some Major Issues Concerning Comprehensively Deepening the Reform', Xi Jinping, 2014.



addressing rising inequality and creating an environment for more sustainable and balanced growth. The economic vision put forth an increased role for the market, fiscal and tax reforms to improve bureaucratic efficiency and governance, as well the need to promote innovation and industrial transformation, and to continue to rebalance the economy towards domestic consumption as a key driver of growth.

The vision for society emphasized the development, improvement and expansion of social protection floors; pension and health insurance; income distribution and higher employment quality; integrated development of urban and rural areas, including *hukou*⁴ reform and land title. In the area of governance and legal systems, there is a call to promote institutionalized consultative democracy and reform

the judicial system. In addition, the approach to the environment is holistic, aiming to improve China's natural resource management, through better regulation and accountability, strengthening ecological protection and restoration, promoting green low-carbon technology, reducing pollutants and controlling greenhouse gas emissions.

Review of the UNDAF 2011-2015, repositioning the UN in China and aligning priorities

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2011-2015, signed by the Government of China and 24 UN Agencies, set out the UN's collective goals for the period covered by the 12th Five-Year Plan and focused work on

4. The *hukou* system is a household registration system used in China which records information such as name, parents, spouse, and date of birth, and determines where individuals are entitled to services such as compulsory education and health care reimbursements.

three areas based on overarching national priorities of 1) ensuring sustainability, 2) reducing disparities, and 3) participating in the global community. It also took into consideration three important UN cross-cutting approaches: gender equality, the role of civil society, and the human-rights based approach.

A review of the UNDAF indicated that while the three focus areas have remained highly relevant, the extensive monitoring framework has seen less practical application, as detailed programme planning and evaluation continued to be undertaken at agency level. This led to a broad consensus within the UN Country Team (UNCT) and the Chinese Government for the development of a more strategic framework with greater flexibility and practical application.

Given the changes in China's development assistance needs as a Middle-Income Country (MIC) and against the background of decreased development assistance from bilateral agencies to China and the UN, a repositioning process was undertaken by the UNCT in 2011-2012 to determine how to maximize UN impact in China. At the same time, the Government of China also held an internal consultation on the future of the UN in the country. The result was recognition of the long and fruitful collaboration between the UN and China where the Government reaffirmed its continued support for UN presence in the country.

An interagency Task Team was established to review, among others, the UNCT comparative advantages in China, the reform priorities laid out by the Third Plenary Session of the 18th



Central Committee of the Communist Party, and the country's 12th Five-Year Plan. Building on this, a UN strategic prioritization retreat was held during which the broad areas of cooperation as well as the means of engagements of the UN in China were outlined. These were further refined following close consultations with the Government.

Based on this exercise to align national development priorities to areas in which the UN holds a comparative advantage, and taking into consideration the repositioning process and the experience implementing the previous UNDAFs, while keeping the post-2015 agenda in mind, the following three priority areas for the Framework were conceived:

The first two priority areas: Poverty Reduction and Equitable Development and Improved

and Sustainable Environment are prioritized on the domestic reform agenda. The third priority area: Enhanced Global Engagement, is an important area of interest for the Government of China, with the aims of working with countries in international affairs, promoting global and regional dialogue and expanding South-South Cooperation to assist other developing countries. The UN holds expertise and capacity in the three priority areas.

The priority areas are discussed in the context of the important demographic shifts that are taking place in China. A shrinking labour force, an aging population with specific public health needs and a rapidly growing urban population will place significant pressures on social services systems, infrastructure and the environment.



The UN Approach

In addition to technical expertise and capacity that the UN brings to support China in these three priority areas, the UN also holds unique strength in its distinct approach to development.

The UN, in providing support as part of the UNDAF, will apply key programming principles such as ensuring national ownership and development of national capacity, a human rights based approach, gender equality, environmental sustainability, transparency and accountability. These principles provide the basis for development cooperation that is relevant, effective and sustainable.

Gender equality is a core development objective of the UN and a condition for equitable development. Structural barriers to women's education and economic opportunities slow national productivity and create higher eco-

nomical costs.⁵ The UN will promote gender equality throughout its development programming and will support China's development and implementation of policies and practices that promote gender equality, including with sex and age disaggregated data where appropriate.

While the UN system in China works for the benefit of all people living in this country, a special emphasis is placed on those who are disadvantaged and vulnerable. These are people who are subject to discrimination or disadvantage because of their gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, employment or household registration status, physical or mental impairment, disease, poor socio-economic status or the location in which they live.

The UN encourages the participation of beneficiaries of development, particularly the vulnerable and disadvantaged, in the development process.

Societal shift fundamentally affecting priority areas

Demographics in China are shifting at a rate never before seen in human history. The fertility rate has dropped sharply (1.66)⁶ in the context of economic development, transformation of traditional Chinese views on family growth and the state policies of maintaining a low birth rate, and is far below the 2.1 needed to sustain a growing population.⁷ There is a persistent unbalanced sex ratio at birth, reaching 117.60 by 2013. Life expectancy is rising (74.8)⁸, as result of improved economic growth, better access to health care, and a reduction in child mortality. Rapid urbanization of society will have two-thirds of the population living in cities by 2030, and an estimated 268.9 million people are classified as internal migrants (2013).⁹

5. World Development Report, World Bank, 2012.

6. The value of 1.66 is taken from the medium variant projection for the period 2010-2015 by World Population Prospects; the 2012 Version, UN Population Division. The 2010 China national census data reports a TFR of 1.18, which is affected by underreporting. Most scholars estimate the real TRF to be at 1.5 or below.

7. In November 2013, following the Third Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, China announced the decision to relax the one-child policy. Under the new policy, families can have two children if one parent is an only child.

8. 2013 China Statistical Yearbook, National Bureau of Statistics of China.

9. 2013 National Report on Monitoring and Investigation of Migrant Workers, National Bureau of Statistics, Published 12 May 2014.

The population of people age 60 and over will increase from almost 15%¹⁰ in 2013 to 23.4% in 2030.¹¹ Aging and urbanization will accelerate the epidemiological shift from communicable to noncommunicable diseases already representing 82%¹² of the total disease burden in the country. This will have enormous implications with regard to delivery of health services and will increase demand on both preventative, curative and long-term care. The age shift will also put increasing pressure on pension systems and family structures. An unbalanced population sex structure with a surplus of men and scarcity of women may have an important impact on social structures and stability.

The number of working-age adults (15-64) for every pensioner will drop from 7.9 in 2008 to 1.9 by 2060¹³, with the working age population dropping from 1 billion in 2015 to 688 million in 2060.¹⁴ This leaves a shrinking working-age population to pay for increasing health and pension benefits for a growing elderly society. Higher dependency will have to be paid for by higher incomes. The 12th Five-Year Plan aims for income per capita to rise by at least seven percent in real terms per year. Wage increases, however, need to be offset by higher productivity, which requires investment in human capital and education systems servicing higher-level industries and services that constitute a transformed economy.

Currently, 52% of China's population live in cities, projected to reach 70% by 2030.¹⁵ Urbanization will increase demands on the environment, on services such as education and health care, and on infrastructure such as housing and mass public transit. It will also have implications for labour market development. Not only will more jobs need to be created in cities, but also better jobs to meet the growing expectations of a burgeoning middle-class.

The increasing rate of urbanization could also affect agricultural production. In order to offset any potential effects, there is a need to support sustainable agriculture practices as well as ensuring food security and safety through measures such as retooling of farmers. The youth of China are driving urbanization and make up a substantial portion of the migrant population nationwide.¹⁶ This young population, away from the family network, is also more vulnerable particularly in the area of sexual and reproductive and mental health. *Hukou* reform and the equalization of entitlements for migrants will be extremely important for sustained urbanization.

Smart urban development and adaptation of social systems to accommodate the population shift will be complex to plan, but critically important to economic growth and social stability.

10. Statistical Report of the People's Republic of China on the Development of Social Services in 2013, National Bureau of Statistics, 2014.

11. China 2030: Building a Modern, Harmonious and Creative Society, The World Bank and Development Research Center of the State Council, 2013.

12. World Health Report, World Health Organization, 2013.

13. Pensions at a Glance 2013: OECD and G20 Indicators, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2013.

14. Probabilistic Population Projections based on the World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, 2015.

15. Investment Blue Paper, China Academy of Social Science, 2013.

16. According to the 2012 National Report of Monitoring and Investigation on Migrant Workers, 4.9% of Migrant Workers are aged 16-20 and 31.9% are aged 21-30, (Source – National Statistical Bureau, May 2013).

Priority Areas

1. Poverty Reduction and Equitable Development

The Third Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party: “We will uphold the direction of reform towards the socialist market economy, put the promotion of social fairness, justice and improvement of people’s lives as the starting point and ultimate goal.”

Providing robust social protection floors, developing a strong human capital base, creating equal opportunities, respecting cultural diversity, underpinned by a fair and effective judicial system is the basis for a stable, dynamic and resilient society. Advancing equitable development is fundamental to lifting the remaining Chinese citizens out of poverty and transforming the economy.

Rationale

China has lifted over 600 million people out of poverty over 35 years through economic development and job creation. This is a remarkable success, yet statistics from the World Bank show that there are still 84.10 million people,

or 6.3%¹⁷, of the population living in extreme poverty (below the US\$ 1.25-a-day threshold). According to China’s rural poverty line of RMB 2300 (2010 constant price), the total number of rural poor population in 2014 was 70.17 million and the incidence of poverty in rural areas stood at 7.2%. There are millions more living just above this threshold and at risk of slipping back, the majority of whom are located in rural and ethnic minority regions.

Inequality in income distribution, household wealth and human capital is growing in China, with a Gini coefficient of 0.473 in 2013 indicating that the gap in income distribution is large, and characterized by interprovincial inequalities, and an important urban-rural divide, with people in urban households on average earning 2.8 times as much as those in rural households. There are also earning gaps between men and women and between different age groups. Unequal development is a result of a complex set of socio-economic factors including unequal access to decent employment and quality social services and support, such as education, health care and housing.

17. World Bank 2011 figures indicate 6.3% of the population living with less than US\$1.25 per day.

Equitable Development in China

Category	Figure	Year	Source
Population living with less than US\$1.25 a day	84.10 million people (6.3% of the population)	2011	Word Bank
Rural population living under the poverty line of RMB 2300 (2010 constant price)	70.17 million (The incidence of poverty in rural areas was 7.2 %.)	2014	National Bureau of Statistics
GINI coefficient for income distribution	0.473	2013	National Bureau of Statistics
National HDI	0.719	2013	Human Development Report, 2013
HDI Ranking	91 (out of 187 countries)	2014	Human Development Report, 2014
Enrollment rates of primary school age children	99.72% (F), 99.70% (M)	2013	2013 National Educational Development Statistics Bulletin, Ministry of Education
Gross enrollment ratio in pre-school education	67.5%	2013	2013, National Education Development Statistical Statement
Share of rural population with access to clean water	94%	2014	Ministry of Water Resources
Population with access to sanitation	74% (rural)	2013	National Health and Family Planning Commission
Gender pay gap between men and women.	Women in urban and rural households earn respectively 67.3% and 56% of men's wages.	2010	Third Survey on Chinese Women's Social Status (ACWF and National Bureau of Statistics)
Women labour force participation rate (aged 15 and above)	63.8%	2012	Human Development Report, 2013

Share of women employed in the non-agricultural sector	39%	2013	World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap report, 2013
Share of women employed in informal employment	36%	2013	World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap report, 2013
Sex ratio at birth	117.60	2013	National Bureau of Statistics
Violence against women (Percentage estimate) ¹⁸	24.7%	2010	Third Survey on Chinese Women's Social Status (ACWF and National Bureau of Statistics)
Unemployment	4.08% (urban) ¹⁹	2014	Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security
Percentage increase in health expenditure as % GDP over 10 years	0.6% (4.8%-5.4%)	2002-2012	World Bank
Population coverage of health insurance	95%	2012	Ministry of Health
Chinese adult population who are current smokers	52.9% of men, 2.4% of women, and 28.1% overall	2010	Global Adult Tobacco Survey (conducted by China Centres for Disease Control on behalf of the Ministry of Health, now National Health and Family Planning Commission)
Percentage of out of pocket expenditure of total health expenditure	34.3%	2012	National Bureau of Statistics
Percentage of low-income households experiencing catastrophic health expenditure	8.9%	2008	National Health Service Survey Data
Pension coverage	79.7% ²⁰	2013	Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security

18. The figure refers to 24.7% of women (between the age of 18 to 64) during their marriages have been subject to different forms of violence including verbal and physical abuse.

19. These data reflect registered urban unemployment.

20. According to reports of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security the pension insurance system has achieved full institutional coverage, with 322 million workers and 498 million urban and rural residents involved respectively. The overall rate of participation in the pension insurance system is 79.7% with around 20% of rural and urban residents not included.

Increasing human development and reducing poverty is predicated on the existence of well-functioning systems and social institutions that protect and empower people. Ensuring that these systems and institutions are equitable requires expanding accessibility, increasing transparency and accountability, so that they benefit the entire population including the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people. Over the last ten years the country has gradually introduced a basic social protection system. Some of the programmes under this system, such as basic health insurance and pension, have now expanded to universal institutional coverage, however services and financing methods are often fragmented, benefits are low, especially in rural areas, and often not portable, meaning that migrants do not benefit from full access. Importantly, the quality of education and health care, particularly in hard to reach areas, is uneven.

Enrollment in the nine-year compulsory education system is nearly 100%, but drop-out rates in rural areas are likely to be higher than in urban areas. The quality of education varies to some extent and so does access to and affordability of other levels of education, such as pre-school and upper secondary and higher education.

There has been progress in legislation on women in the workplace, but implementation is irregular and there are many areas that still must be addressed: widening pay gaps, prohibited occupations for women, and an unequal retirement age.²¹ There remains a persistent skewed sex ratio at birth (117.60)²²,

women are particularly underrepresented in the highest public offices, and 24.7% of married women are estimated to have been subject to different forms of violence including verbal and physical abuse during their marriages²³, indicating that there is a long way to go before gender equality is achieved.²⁴

Basic health insurance has been expanded to cover 95% of the population and the level of insurance has been raised since nationwide health-care reforms were launched in 2009. Since the launch of the Reimbursement for Major Disease Programme for urban and rural residents in 2012, the problem of excessive medical bills has been partially alleviated, but catastrophic medical expenditure is still an issue.²⁵ In addition, noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) place a particularly severe burden on the national health system and on human and economic development. In China, approximately 4.6 million men and 4.0 million women die every year due to NCDs, mainly from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases.²⁶



21. Report of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and practice (Mission to China), (A/HRC/26/39/Add.2), 12 June, 2014.

22. Population and Housing Census, National Bureau of Statistics, 2010.

23. According to the Third Survey on Chinese Women's Social Status by the ACWF and National Bureau of Statistics.

24. Report of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, A/HRC/26/39/Add.2.

25. Medical expenditure can be considered catastrophic if out of pocket payments account for an excessively high share of household resources. Spending a large proportion of the household budget on healthcare payments deprives the household of spending on other goods and services and can push some households into poverty.

26. Global Status Report on Noncommunicable Diseases, WHO 2014.

The Fourth Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party in November 2014 passed a “Decision concerning Several Major Issues in Comprehensively Advancing Governance According to Law”. The Decision outlines areas for reform with the aim of governing the country according to a sound, fair, and transparent judicial system in which the Constitution is taken as the core, and ensuring the right of fair process and safeguarding the protection of human rights. The Decision also highlights the importance of legal capacity development and supervision. These reforms have been implemented orderly and will play a critical role in further equitable development of the country.

Registered unemployment is low in urban areas, minimum wages have been raised, and population coverage of basic unemployment and pension insurance is expanding. However, China will face challenges in job creation in cities as the population urbanizes. It will need to address a structural mismatch in skills of the current labour force and the needs of new and developing sectors of the economy, enhance

productivity and reinforce the links between productivity, wages and employment. One pathway is to further formalize the informal economy that employs a large majority of the nation’s estimated 268.9 million migrant workers. Regulation of fair labour practices can help combat the type of inequality that undermines the equality of opportunity, support higher employment quality and contribute to harmonious labour relations. As the agriculture sector continues the gradual transition from small household farms to larger commercial farms, it will also be important to address the skills and stability of the rural labour force, to ensure a profitable and sustainable agriculture sector which will enhance food security.

The planned shift to domestic consumption-led growth will only be possible if income disparities are reduced and robust social protection floors discourage the population from excessive saving. This implies reform and innovation at all levels, from institutions to financing mechanisms to design and delivery of services.



Priority Area: Poverty Reduction and Equitable Development

Outcome 1) More people, particularly the vulnerable and disadvantaged, enjoy improved living conditions and increased opportunities for economic, social and cultural development.

The UN will support China to promote innovative poverty alleviation mechanisms, and develop a more equitable and resilient society with the aim to improve living conditions, expand economic opportunities, promote inclusiveness and reduce disparities to benefit the entire population.

Specifically, the UN will support China to improve the robustness of the social protection floor, and promote equitable distribution of and access to health care, education, social support, infrastructure, food, pension, decent work and basic income security. Focus will be given to the most disadvantaged and vulnerable populations.

The UN will support China's adherence to national and international commitments, which provide the foundation for equitable development. In this regard, the UN will support the Government's commitment to equitable development, good governance, and human rights as articulated in the Third, Fourth and Fifth Plena, the 13th Five-Year Plan, and other relevant norms and standards.²⁷

The UN will provide relevant input into the development and strengthening of national policies, legislation and regulatory frameworks that promote more equitable outcomes. The UN will support the capacity development to implement and monitor these policies, legislation, and regulatory frameworks through technical assistance, including support to collect high-quality, and where possible, disaggregated data.²⁸

The UN will support China to address specific challenges resulting from the complex interactions between population dynamics and sustainable development, through analysis, policy advice, and the demonstration of innovative solutions.

2. Improved and Sustainable Environment

The Third Plenary Sessions of the 18th Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party: "We must deepen ecological management reform by centering on building a beautiful China. We

should accelerate system building to promote ecological progress, improve institutions, and mechanisms for developing geographical space, conserving resources and protecting the ecological environment and promoting modernization featuring harmonious development between man and nature."

27. Including the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Conference on Population and Development, etc.

28. i.e., by region, gender and age as applicable.

Environmental sustainability is fundamental to sustainable development, including long-term population health, safety and stability and is a prerequisite for sustained economic growth. Green growth offers a course to diversify the economy towards environmentally sustainable ends and will ensure the creation of decent work opportunities and the extension of productivity for future generations.

Rationale

China is faced with severe environmental degradation due to past and current economic growth patterns heavily reliant upon industry and unsustainable use of resources. This situation has been further exacerbated by incomplete legislation and insufficient enforcement. China has 10% of global arable land and 6% of the world's fresh water resources. The continued soil and water contamination and over-use, in addition to the limited per capita availability, place an already risk-prone landmass at further risk of disasters.²⁹ China emits a large amount of carbon dioxide in the world, and its carbon emissions are expected to increase until around 2030, which was announced as a peak target in late 2014 by President Xi Jinping.³⁰

The environmental foundation needed to sustain economic growth may be irreversibly altered, and the human health implications of a deteriorating environment such as increased

agriculture and food contamination and air and water pollution, have resulted in a series of efforts to improve the environment.

The 12th Five-Year Plan set out a range of targets for energy saving, emissions reduction, conservation and green growth, many of which are on schedule, and the 13th Five-Year Plan will set more ambitious targets for 2016-2020. In 2014, China's National Plan on Climate Change (2014-2020) was issued, outlining an extensive list of key targets and main tasks. Goals to be achieved by 2020 include reducing carbon intensity per unit of GDP by 40-45% by 2020 compared with 2005, increasing growth of non-fossil fuel sources to 15% and strengthening carbon sink, and fixation capacity through afforestation and reforestation.³¹ The establishment of a national carbon emission trading system is also under study.

Furthermore, the Government of China has incorporated disaster risk reduction and climate change into its national and local strategies for sustainable development. This includes the strengthening and building of a national disaster prevention and risk reduction system as well as building integrated national capacities for disaster prevention, preparedness and relief. China has also taken an active part in the development of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction with a vision to build a healthy, stable and harmonious society and economy across the country.³²

29. Natural and environmental disasters here are defined as flood, drought, earthquakes, typhoon, and new and emerging human and animal disease epidemics brought about by environmental changes.

30. "US, China target emissions", The Associated Press (China Daily USA), 2014-11-12.

31. China National Plan on Addressing Climate Change, National Development and Reform Commission, 2014.

32. Ministerial Statement at the 6th Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. 24th June 2014..

Environmental Summary

Category	Figure	Year	Source	Change (or target change)
Ambient air quality (percentage of days that reach the standard in 74 monitored cities)	60.3%	In the first half of 2014	China National Environmental Monitoring Center	1.6% increase compared to 2013
Reduction in energy intensity per unit of GDP percentage	9.03%	2013	State Department Report on Current Situation of Energy Conservation and Pollution Reduction	Target 16% between 2010 and 2015
Reduction of water consumption per unit of industrial value added percentage (compared to 2010)	24%	2013	Ministry of Industry and Information Technology	Target 30% between 2010 and 2015
Increase of water efficiency coefficient in agricultural irrigation	0.02	2013	Ministry of Water Resources	Target 0.03 between 2010 and 2015
Comprehensive utilization rate of industrial solid wastes	62.3% (estimate)	2013	12 th FYP Evaluation Report	Target 72% by 2015
Farmland reserves	2.027 billion mu	2012	12 th FYP Evaluation Report	Target 1.818 billion mu by 2015
Forest coverage percentage	21.63%	2012	12 th FYP Evaluation Report	Target 21.66% by 2015
Forest stock volume	15.1 billion cubic meters	2013	8 th National Forest Inventory Investigation	Target 14.3 billion cubic meters by 2015
Rate of natural wetland under protection	45%	2013	2 nd National Survey of Wetland Resources	Target 50% by 2015

Increased coverage of desertification land under management	6.05 million hectares	2013	State Forestry Administration	Target 10 million hectares by 2015
Zero percent increase in the use of fertilizers by 2020	1.3%	2013	Ministry of Agriculture	Target zero % increase by 2020
Zero percent increase in the use of agricultural chemicals by 2020	311,000 tonnes/year	2012-2014	Ministry of Agriculture	Target zero % increase by 2020
Reduction in carbon emissions per unit of GDP percentage	10.68%	2013	State Department Report on Current Situation of Energy Conservation and Pollution Reduction	Target 17% between 2010 and 2015
Non-fossil fuel as a percentage of primary energy consumption	9.8%	2013	National Energy Working Conference	Target 11.4% by 2015
Percentage of electricity generated by non-fossil fuel	21.4%	2012	National Development and Reform Commission	
Environmental Performance Index ³³ (Full score 100; 50 and lower indicates worse environmental performance)	43	2014	A biennial ranking produced by Yale and Columbia Universities	116 of 178 countries ranked

33. The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) is based on 20 indicators reflecting national-level environmental data. These indicators are combined into nine categories, each of which fit under one of two overarching objectives: Environmental Health and Ecosystem Vitality. This index was developed from the Pilot Environmental Performance Index, first published in 2002, and designed to supplement the environmental targets set forth in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

The aim of the Government to establish an “ecological civilization” indicates readiness for development transformation. China is already working on national compliance to international environmental conventions and protocols, as well as disaster risk related international frameworks, but now must accelerate efforts to achieve the ambitious environmental targets and integrated domestic reforms that have been set out by the Government. To

do this, the environmental governance system needs to innovate institutional arrangements, improve management capacity and quality of function. This includes, developing robust governmental coordination mechanisms, strengthening regulatory mechanisms while strengthening the incentive structure to promote environmental protection, developing mechanisms to link land and resource use to carrying capacity, and systems for the partici-



pation of a range of stakeholders.

The economy is in the process of diversification, which allows for adaptation and upgrading of traditional sectors of agriculture and industry to improve resource utilization efficiency in areas related to reduction of air, water and soil pollution, while boosting investment in research and development within green sectors of the economy such as renewable energy, innovative recycling systems, and new approaches to sustainable conservation of natural resources including biodiversity and fresh water. In addition, the urbanization process in China provides great opportunity to pilot innovative planning approaches to healthy urban expansion including energy efficient buildings, enforcement of safer building codes, cleaner public transport systems, and development of green spaces and green skills. As agricultural land is consolidated and farming becomes increasingly large-scale

and commercial, there are opportunities to implement climate-smart agricultural technologies and processes.

There is much room for elevating public environmental awareness and participation in China. International experience has shown that public awareness and engagement in protecting the environment have impacts on environmental performance and the market in terms of behavior and consumption.

Policies to protect the environment, promote energy efficiency and water security, reduce emissions to mitigate the effects of disasters and climate change and strengthen the country's overall resilience can be achieved and surpassed. Further investment in innovative and sustainable pathways to growth can provide new opportunities to balance the economy.



Priority Area: Improved and Sustainable Environment

Outcome 2) More people enjoy a cleaner, healthier and safer environment as a result of improved environmental protection and sustainable green growth.

The UN will support China's adherence to national and multilateral environmental and disaster-related commitments and conventions.

The UN will provide high-quality input into the development and strengthening of national policies, legislation and regulatory frameworks which include support to the institutional innovation and exploration of new modes for the establishment of ecological civilization, so as to improve and protect the environment, reduce climate and disaster risks and their effects on the population, build community resilience, and promote sustainable environmental practices and use of resources.

The UN will support capacity development of regulatory authorities to develop, implement and monitor these policies, legislation, and regulatory frameworks, including through gender mainstreaming.

The UN will provide analysis and support to develop innovative approaches to green and inclusive economic growth. Work in these areas will seek to address specific environmental and sustainability challenges posed by population dynamics, particularly urbanization and migration as well as unsustainable production and consumption patterns of traditional industries such as agriculture.

The UN will provide technical assistance and capacity building support for China's ecosystem protection and restoration, and the sustainable development of mountainous and forest regions, so as to slow down ecological degradation, reduce relevant poverty incidence, and promote green growth.



3. Enhanced Global Engagement

Rationale

China is now the world's second largest economy, one of the fastest growing, and is more interconnected with the world than ever before. Furthering global engagement is an opportunity for China to both benefit from and contribute to knowledge transfer and exchange of best practice in a range of development areas with both developing and developed economies. Expanding the breadth and depth of South-South Cooperation will create better capacity for more effective development assistance and will give rise to new platforms for international collaboration. There is growing support for China's engagement in important global and regional dialogues.

On one hand, as China implements its own reforms, it will need to draw upon domestic and international models to inform innovative development. Knowledge transfer and utilizing the experience of other countries will be critical in developing the service sector and other emerging sectors of the economy, re-orienting education to support that growth, reforming the agriculture sector, upgrading industry, strengthening capacities of labour market institutions, reforming the health care system, achieving gender equality, utilizing community participation to fulfill societal needs, cultivating an innovation culture that encourages entrepreneurship, and solving specific bottlenecks in development.

On the other hand, given its rapid socio-economic growth and achievement of many of the MDGs, China is well positioned to share its development experience with other countries. For example, trade development has been a motor of economic growth for the country, and China can

share good practices, knowledge and expertise in this area as well as in other areas of development. China has also changed from an assembler of parts and components to a final destination for goods, and seeks to rebalance its economy away from reliance on exports towards domestic demand and import promotion. China has, for example, implemented the so-called mechanism of Sci-tech Commissioners, which has showed remarkable results in commercializing China's agricultural research findings and improving farmers' income. The Chinese government actively shares this experience and best practices with other developing countries in Asia and Africa, helping these countries to establish their own mechanisms of Sci-tech Commissioners adapted for local conditions. International cooperation in this regard helps to promote modernization of local agricultural development and improve farmers' livelihood, thereby reducing poverty.

China has increasingly participated in international development cooperation in the framework of South-South Cooperation and has provided funds and techniques to relevant cooperation projects. Between 2010 and 2012, China contributed at least RMB 1.76 billion to multilateral institutions³⁴, and established the South-South Cooperation Fund on Climate Change, aiming to help other developing nations build capacity to tackle climate change. China has also actively helped other developing countries respond to natural disasters and the Ebola epidemic through financial and in-kind contributions. In 2014 China helped found the New Development Bank (NDB) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), while proposing the "One Belt One Road Strategy" (the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Marine Silk Road).

China continues to provide assistance within its capacity to other developing countries in

34. China's White Paper on Foreign Aid, Information Office of the State Council, The People's Republic of China, July 2014, Beijing.



the framework of South-South Cooperation, and to support other developing countries, especially the least developed ones, to reduce poverty and improve people's livelihood. According to the White Paper on China's Foreign Aid published in 2014, China has contributed RMB 89.34 billion in the forms of grants, interest free loans, and concessional loans between 2010 and 2012 to 121 developing countries with 51.8% to Africa. This assistance has been concentrated in the least developed countries (LDCs).³⁵

China's engagement in a range of high level international fora and pro-active shaping of the post-2015 agenda is an indication that China is already increasing its engagement on global matters. For example, China and

UNESCO co-hosted the International Congress "Culture: Key to Sustainable Development" in Hangzhou in 2013³⁶ and the Second High Level Policy Forum on Global Governance held in Beijing was co-coordinated with UNDP. The September 2015 summit on post-MDGs, the Addis Ababa Conference on Financing for Development, and the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) offer important opportunities for further engagement.

The UN is in a unique position with global representation, expertise in development and specialized areas such as agriculture, education, health, and environment, to play a catalytic role in optimizing the transfer of knowledge and experience in both directions.

35. Ibid.

36. UNESCO's International Congress, "Culture: Key to Sustainable Development" held 15-17 May 2013 in Hangzhou, China with the support and involvement of the Chinese Government.

Priority Area: Enhanced Global Engagement

Outcome 3) The effectiveness of China's engagement in international cooperation is enhanced for the mutual benefit of China and the world.

The UN will support China to expand engagement in best-practice and knowledge exchange, and increase participation in international fora and in global and regional dialogues. The UN will also support China's effective collaboration to enhance global health and human security. As China's engagement in the global economy increases, the UN will support the Government in promoting sustainable development principles in line with international standards.

The UN will support China to further increase the scope, and effectiveness of South-South, international cooperation and development and humanitarian assistance, and support the establishment of the South-South Cooperation Fund on climate change.

Means of Engagement

The UN will work collaboratively with the Government of China to offer relevant and coherent support to find effective solutions to China's development challenges. The outcomes of this Framework will be achieved by:

1. Providing strategic policy advice, evidence-based analysis and technical inputs

to address national development challenges, emerging issues or to promote novel and innovative strategies.

2. Providing support to adhere to national and international commitments, standards and norms, particularly in the development of legislation, policy advice, and capacity development at the national and sub-national levels.



3. Supporting China's engagement in global and regional issues as well as facilitating and contributing to China's development cooperation with other countries.

The strategies and activities of the UN system in China will be primarily developed with the Government and governmental entities. Coordination and collaboration with the Government and a wide range of other partners will further enrich the support the UN can provide to China and will make it more effective and far-reaching. The value added to the UN by these partners arises from access to many kinds of additional resources, including financial resources, skills and expertise, technology and knowledge and platforms for dialogue and communication. The UN will encourage the participation of beneficiaries of development, particularly those deemed vulnerable and disadvantaged, in the development process. The particular modalities of engagement will be outlined during the elaboration of agencies' programmes. In general, the UN's approach will be to work with partners, both government and non-government, to effectively target the most vulnerable populations.

Coordination and Delivery

The UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) in China is responsible for the coordination of the UNCT and oversight of the UNDAF implementation process. Coordination is accomplished through regular UNCT meetings and through other coordination mechanisms such as theme groups, the operations management team, and joint working groups.

The outcomes in the UNDAF will be achieved both through implementation of individual agency programmes developed with national counterparts, and through joint initiatives developed by multiple agencies. During the

course of this UNDAF it is the aim of the UN System in China to maximize UN development support through the production of joint products and initiatives such as position papers, policy briefs, research, dialogues, campaigns and advocacy.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Progress towards the three outcomes will be monitored annually and evaluated in the penultimate year of the UNDAF cycle with the ultimate goal of assessing the operational and development effectiveness of the UN in supporting China to achieve its development goals. The UNDAF Monitoring and Evaluation Guidelines are provided in Annex 2.

A short joint UN annual report on each outcome will be prepared. The report will measure quantitative changes in appropriate development indicators over a period of time and then will qualitatively describe the substantive contribution of the UN to these changes. The report will highlight the achievements, identify major challenges, and may propose future directions for discussion. This report will be prepared before and tabled during the annual dialogue between the Government and the UN for strategic level monitoring purposes (See section below). At the implementation level, monitoring and reporting on results will take place through the Theme Groups established and aligned with the UNDAF outcomes (See details in Annex 2). The final evaluation will assess to what extent the UN work has substantively contributed to each priority area.

Annual Dialogue

With the UNDAF elaborated at a strategic level, and in order for the UN and the Government to truly engage in fruitful dialogue that

can respond to the dynamic context in China, exchanges between the UN system and the Government at the appropriate level are critical. This is essential to effectively monitor the implementation of the UNDAF. Based on the agreement of relevant Chinese governmental entities and the UNCT, annual dialogues will be conducted by relevant Chinese governmental entities and the UNCT to provide a platform for regularly reviewing the UNDAF, discussing the progress and gaps and modifying as necessary. Chinese governmental entities and the UNCT will hold at least one high-level dialogue for the mid-term review of the UNDAF.

Risks and Assumptions

The 2016-2020 UNDAF is based on the assumption that Government of China and the UN will continue to work closely together towards strengthening their collaboration. It is also assumed that good internal and external coordination amongst UN agencies will continue and that the value of the UN presence is well recognized. Meanwhile, the most important risks to effective UN work in China are; limited human and financial capacity and potential risks of over-reach, and potential lack of Government engagement at the appropriate level.



Annex 1. Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere
Goal 2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Goal 4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Goal 5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Goal 7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
Goal 8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
Goal 9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
Goal 10	Reduce inequality within and among countries
Goal 11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal 12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Goal 13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*
Goal 14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Goal 15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Goal 16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Goal 17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Annex 2. UNDAF Monitoring and Evaluation Guideline

The Framework articulates the unified priorities of the UN system in China between 2016 and 2020 where it aims to have the most significant and meaningful impact in support of China's development goals.

Monitoring & Evaluation Summary

National progress towards the three outcomes and UN substantive contribution to support the government in achieving these outcomes will be monitored annually. An evaluation will take place at the end of five years

Based on the agreement of relevant Chinese governmental entities and the UN Country Team (UNCT), annual dialogues will be conducted by relevant Chinese governmental entities and the UNCT to provide a platform for regularly reviewing the UNDAF, discussing the progress and gaps and modifying as necessary. Chinese governmental departments and the UNCT will hold at least one high-level dialogue for the mid-term review of the UNDAF.

Monitoring will take place through a short annual report on each outcome, distributed prior to each dialogue. The report will measure quantitative changes in appropriate development indicators over a period of time and then will qualitatively describe the substantive contribution of the UN to these changes. The report will highlight the achievements, identify major challenges, and may propose future directions for discussion. A final evaluation at the end of five years will be undertaken to assess how effective the UN system has been in

supporting China to achieve its development goals, the effectiveness of the UNDAF as a tool for cooperation internally and between the UN System and the Government, and to learn from experiences of the current programming cycle to inform future engagement with the Government.

Monitoring Process (Annual)

Outcome-level monitoring of progress towards UNDAF outcomes will take place annually two months before the annual dialogue. For each priority area/outcome focal agencies that are chairing the various UN theme groups will be assigned as a lead to develop the relevant report components. Before the start of the UNDAF cycle, these focal agencies will also be tasked to coordinate the selection of indicators that will be used to help assess national progress in the outcome areas over the UNDAF cycle. This will be supported by the RCO.

1. The first component of the report will be a **short analysis** that will assess **national progress towards outcomes** based on a limited selection of available and appropriate indicators pre-selected by working groups³⁷ before the start of the UNDAF cycle (e.g. for the poverty reduction and equitable development outcome: GINI coefficient, Percentage population living in poverty, primary school enrollment in rural and minority areas, etc.). The objective of the analysis will be to assess progress towards outcomes, e.g. has education become more equitable in China? Has health care become more equitable in China?

37. The working groups are to be selected from the relevant UN Theme Groups.

Are fewer people living in poverty? The analysis will look specifically at the vulnerable and disadvantaged populations. After assessing markers of equity in selected sectors, the analysis should summarize progress towards outcome 1.³⁸ This analysis will be shared with working groups/UNCT for their review and input.

- The second component of the report will describe the **UN system substantive contribution to progress in each outcome**. The report should detail the most important contributions of individual agencies as well as joint-work by multiple agencies to the outcomes delivered through the means of engagement and products delivered. For example, for the first outcome the following elements could be included in the report.

Normative: A task-force with representatives from multiple UN agencies under the UN Theme Group on Gender assisted in the drafting of the Domestic Violence Law.

High-level policy: WHO and World Bank supported a high-level analysis on health reform that was used to inform the 13th Five-Year Plan.

Innovative pilots: A UNICEF-supported impact study showed that a multiple micronutrient provided to children (ages 6-24 months) in three poor counties was highly effective in reducing anemia rates, vitamin A and B12 deficiency and respiratory infections. This intervention was scaled up to over 300 poverty counties.

Poverty Reduction and Equitable Development		
Outcome	Analysis	Reporting
Outcome 1) More people, particularly the vulnerable and disadvantaged, enjoy improved living conditions and increased opportunities for economic, social and cultural development.	Summary of progress towards outcome based on selected indicators	<p>Over the past [12 months], what has been the most significant change (positive and negative) for national progress towards this outcome?</p> <p>Over the past [12 months], what have been the most significant UN contributions* to change in this area?</p> <p>What important progress is being made in (each) area of engagement that we are supporting? (e.g. high level policy support and innovation, normative work, international cooperation).</p>

38. Indicators selected must be available. Supplementary data from surveys can be added to the narrative where relevant.

Improved and Sustainable Environment		
Outcome	Analysis	Reporting
Outcome 2) More people enjoy a cleaner, healthier, and safer environment as a result of improved environmental protection and sustainable green growth.	Summary of progress towards outcome based on selected indicators	<p>Over the past [12 months], what has been the most significant change (positive and negative) for national progress towards this outcome?</p> <p>Over the past [12 months], what have been the most significant UN contributions* to change in this area?</p> <p>What important progress is being made in (each) area of engagement that we are supporting? (e.g. high level policy support and innovation, normative work, international cooperation).</p>
Enhanced Global Engagement		
Outcome	Analysis	Reporting
Outcome 3) The effectiveness of China's engagement in international cooperation is enhanced for the mutual benefit of China and the world.	Summary of progress towards outcome based on selected indicators	<p>Over the past [12 months], what has been the most significant change (positive and negative) for national progress towards this outcome?</p> <p>Over the past [12 months], what have been the most significant UN contributions* to change in this area?</p> <p>What important progress is being made in (each) area of engagement that we are supporting? (e.g. high level policy support and innovation, normative work, international cooperation).</p>

3. A report based on the analysis and on the substantive contribution of working/theme groups will be developed and will be shared with the UNCT for further input.
4. RCO will support the theme groups or assigned task teams with the finalization of the reports on each outcome in preparation for the high-level dialogue.

Evaluation Process (Five Year)

The UNDAF evaluation is a joint UN review, conducted with national partners, of the overall results expected from UN cooperation in the country. The UNDAF Evaluation should use standard development assistance criteria (effectiveness, impact and sustainability of results) as well as appropriateness to country context to guide its objectives and key questions.

1. Assess how effective the UN system has been in supporting China to achieve its national development goals under the framework of the UNDAF.
2. Assess the effectiveness of the UNDAF as tool for coordination, (i) as a mechanism for flexible coordination of UN System work with the Government (ii) as a mechanism for flexible coordination among individual UN agencies.
3. Learn from experiences of the current programming cycle, to inform how the UN can best engage with the Government in the future.

Methods and Process

The UNDAF Evaluation is a participatory, and iterative learning exercise, which should be completed within a timeframe of two-three months. It takes place at the beginning of the penultimate year of the programme cycle and builds on UNDAF annual result monitoring reports.

The UNDAF Evaluation is jointly commissioned and managed by the UNCT (heads of agencies) and the national government. The UNDAF Evaluation should be articulated in the RC annual work plan for the penultimate year of the UNDAF cycle. Funds required by the UNCT to carry out the evaluation should also be requested in the RC annual budget and agencies of the UN System should make financial and in-kind contributions (e.g. providing transport for field visits, cost of photocopying, publication of the report, etc.) to the best of their ability and as equitably as possible.

The final evaluation will then be shared and discussed internally with the UNCT and jointly, with the governmental counterpart.

Abbreviations

ACWF	All-China Women's Federation
AIIB	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
COP	Conference of the Parties
ESCAP/CSAM	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific / Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FYP	Five-Year Plan
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HDI	Human Development Index
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
ITC	International Trade Centre
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MIC	Middle-Income Country
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NCDs	Noncommunicable Diseases
NDB	The New Development Bank
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

UNDAF (or the Framework)	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER	United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs / United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organization
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals



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