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Dear Sir/Ma'am,

As we commence our consultation process for the next India-United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (GoI-UNSDCF). It was noted that in the existing framework of engagement with UN entities in India, there are certain structural and operational gaps which often result in duplication of efforts, lack of clarity and suboptimal use of resources.

2. In this context, it was felt that we should have a clearly articulated results- and deliverables-oriented approach to implementation of activities of the UN entities. Therefore, we have drafted a standardized template for all UN entities in India, which was developed in line with the following overarching principles:

- A. All line Ministries are requested to evaluate the last Country Programme/framework document before developing SDCF of the UN entity concerned. This Document has to be developed in consultation with the relevant designated official of the line Ministry/Department with a copy to UNES Division, MEA.
- B. The UN entities concerned should take consent of their primary line Ministry and MEA for activities which they intend to undertake with other Ministries, Departments, State Governments or civil society organizations.
- C. All UN entities, through the UNRC, may be advised to adopt a results- and deliverables - based implementation approach in their relevant Country Programme Documents as well as in their submissions for the SDCF. These should be in line with our national priorities/programmes.
- D. All line Ministries are advised to take necessary steps so that the UN entities adhere to the following template while formulating the Country Programme Document as well as SDCF, or any other cooperation document and for any other annual or joint work plan or interim projects or projects developed after the agreement of the country programme:

S. No.	A. Objectives of the project	B. Request Received from	C. Specific task	D. Quantifiable marker/ measurable targets	E. Budget allocated and by whom	F. Implementing partners	G. Monitoring and Evaluation Methodology	H. Any other remarks

(I). The sub-head C. 'Specific task' should be categories into one of the following; (or any other activity, which should be clearly mentioned), i.e., whether the task undertaken by the UN entity is a:

- i. Pilot Projects;
- ii. Capacity Building Projects;
- iii. Financing Projects;

- iv. Policy inputs;
- v. Introduction of new technologies/ system development/ procurement;
- vi. Development of any new monitoring/ evaluation mechanisms;
- vii. Exposure visits within and outside India.

(II). The general guidelines to be observed while preparing this table should be:

1. A clearly articulated description of the nature of work and contribution involved; *[Please note: Non-specific and broad-based comments should be avoided.]*
2. Exact role of the relevant United Nations entities in each project;
3. Clearly defined measurable outcomes of the project due to UN entities direct support and alignment of the same with the Government of India's policies/ programmes to ensure accurate representation.

E. While developing the Country Programme, the following aspects may also be ascertained and certified before agreeing to any other cooperation activity:

- i. **Technical feasibility and institutional capacity**, including whether the UN entity possesses the requisite technology, expertise, personnel and innovative capabilities required for effective implementation.
- ii. **Clarity of project scope and implementation modalities**, including identification of potential risks, challenges, and proposed mitigation measures.
- iii. **Financial structure and sustainability**, including details of financing arrangements, phasing strategy, and any co-funding requirements.
- iv. **Alignment with national priorities, policies, and sectoral objectives**.
- v. **Monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management mechanisms**, including provisions for periodic review and clearly defined performance indicators.

F. Further, it may be noted that all agreements (including MoUs/MoAs/Lols/Sols etc.) between any UN entity and Gol entity/State Governments as well as with any civil society organisation or NGO to be vetted by MEA before signing. It is advised to standardise the template so that there is better appreciation of expected activities. Non-specific and generic documents should be avoided as we already have host country agreements with various UN entities operating in India.

3. We hope that this template will help advance predictability, clarity and uniformity in our engagement as well as a clear understanding of expectations.

*with regards,*

Yours sincerely,

  
(Acquino Vimal)

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