**MAPPING OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS
AGAINST UNDAF PRIORITIES IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA**

Disclaimer: The present document broadly maps out 2016-2020 UNDAF priorities against the new Sustainable Development Goals and their targets adopted during the Sustainable Development Summit, 25-27 September 2015.

At the time of the mapping exercise, the majority of UNDAFs were in their pre-final draft form and the analysis presented below was based on the data available at the time. The results of the mapping are presented in aggregated and summarized form.

NOTE: The document recognizes the universality of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and priority importance of each of 17 Sustainable Development Goals in their own right, as well as in their interlinkages. At the same time, each UNCT prioritized a number of particular SDGs, which are directly linked to their UNDAF outcomes and are in line with national development priorities. For the objectives of this mapping document, such SDGs are named "UNDAF priority" SDGs, i.e. whenever the SDG is directly reflected in the UNDAF Outcome statement.

Considering the close correlation between all SDGs, the document is also using the concept of "closely connected" SDGs. These are the SDGs, which even though being clearly important for the achievement of the UNDAF Outcome, are not represented through a standalone Outcome.

It is also important to mention that in view of the long names of both SDGs and their targets the present analysis uses shortened versions in tables, figures and the text itself. For this, short SDG titles used in official SDG pictograms were utilized in this document.[1] The same is valid for targets: key words are used to replace the full name of the target to make the document less cumbersome and more reader-friendly.

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[1] SDG pictograms with short SDG titles can be accessed through the official web-site at
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics

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Section I: Introduction

In 2014, in Europe and Central Asia, 11 countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) and Kosovo[2] (UN SCR 1244) engaged in developing new UN programming frameworks (UN Development Assistance Frameworks - UNDAFs), which will guide UN development cooperation from 2016 through 2020. These Development Assistance Frameworks (referred to as Partnership Frameworks in some of the countries[3]) are medium-term strategic planning documents that articulate collective vision and response of the UN development system while building on national development priorities and the proposed Agenda 2030 and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Preliminary conclusions outlined in this document were drawn based on the analysis of 11 documents (9 UNDAFs and 2 Results and Resources Frameworks).[4] Out of these, only two UNDAFs (for Belarus and Uzbekistan) were finalized and co-signed by the UN and respective national governments at the time of the analysis. Other documents were at different stages of finalization, but all included agreed and approved UNDAF outcomes.

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Section II. ECA UNDAFs and SDGs: Mapping Findings

UNDAF FOCUS AREAS
The analysis of the new generation of UNDAFs shows that each analyzed UN programming framework mainstreams the key pillars of the sustainable development agenda, albeit with some variations. Broadly, all UNDAF outcomes could be grouped under four focus areas:
- Sustainable economic growth and employment;
- Equality and social services/Human development;
- Environmental sustainability and resilience building;
- Effective, accountable and inclusive governance and justice for all.

Naturally, within each focus area, there are specificities driven by national contexts and development priorities.

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[2] All references to Kosovo shall be understood in the context of the UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).
[3] Full list of the titles of the development frameworks can be found in Annex I.
[4] For this mapping UNDAFs of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan were reviewed. At the time of the exercise, FYROM and Kosovo (UN SCR 1244) submitted Results and Resource Frameworks only. Their RRFs already included direct linkages to SDGs. UNDAF for Turkey was not provided at the time of this mapping.

Within the area of sustainable economic growth and employment, analyzed UNDAFs demonstrate a clear prioritization of efforts towards creating better employment opportunities and more dissent jobs. Differences relate to the overall levels of unemployment (which are significantly higher in Armenia, Georgia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, than they are in Azerbaijan, Belarus and Kazakhstan) and groups of population, where unemployment is particularly high, including:

- Youth (relevant to all countries);
- Migrants (relevant to all countries);
- IDPs (Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Serbia);
- Roma (Serbia);
- Women (all countries).

The majority of analyzed UNDAFs indicate that the UN will provide support to the development-oriented policies that support entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and promote growth of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan). Several countries (Belarus, Georgia, and Serbia) will promote sustainable tourism within this focus area. This, in turn, will contribute to bridging inequality gaps for the poor and the vulnerable.

Secondly, promoting equality and inclusiveness, as well as social services and overall human development (health, education, security) is central to all UN programming frameworks. All analyzed UNDAFs reveal a rise of inequalities within and among countries and links between inequalities and gender, health, social protection and employment. Moreover, data presented in UNDAFs show that the most vulnerable (children, women, people with disabilities, Roma, IDPs, migrants, etc.) are often not fully covered by social protection systems due to the lack of integrated and coordinated support and services.

UN engagement approaches on addressing inequalities also differ: for instance, in Serbia, where there is a clear link between the level of education of parents (and overall socio-economic condition of the family) and the percentage of children from these families who drop out of school, the UN will work towards enhancing inter-sectoral cooperation between different sectors (education, employment, social welfare, health, youth, culture) for development and implementation of education policy; in Belarus, reducing equity gaps for children with disabilities will be a cross-cutting UNDAF priority requiring significant advocacy efforts to move towards a paradigm shift from a medical to a social model of disability.

Thirdly, outcomes under the area of environmental sustainability and resilience building are generic and refer to effective resources management, addressing impacts of climate change, and building resilience. Natural resources and ecosystem services are recognized as fundamental in meeting basic needs (providing livelihoods, shelter, food, fresh water, etc.) and reducing inequalities.

The majority of countries will rely on the UN support for policy advice and development of national frameworks for sustainable management of natural resources; promotion of clean energy technologies; building national accountability systems for sustainable water, forest, and energy management; development

and implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies and mapping of community and emergency responses (relevant for all countries in the region). Specificities are based on countries' contexts: post Chernobyl nuclear accident challenges in Belarus; Aral Sea coastal areas degradation in Uzbekistan; mainstreaming gender into early warning systems in Azerbaijan.

Finally, <u>effective, accountable and inclusive governance, and justice for all</u> are seen both as a stand-alone area and as a means of implementation for other areas described above. Effective governance institutions and systems that are responsive to public needs deliver essential services and promote inclusive growth, while inclusive political processes ensure persons can hold public officials to account. This is the focus of a number of UNDAFs (Armenia, Georgia, Serbia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan).

The focus in other countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Serbia, and Tajikistan) is on good governance, which promotes freedom from violence, fear and crime, and helps build peaceful and secure societies.

Governance is also seen as enabling the achievement of a range of critical development objectives, critical in identifying and addressing multiple drivers of exclusion and inequality within political, economic and social systems, as well as in supporting the means to foster inclusiveness and equality (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, and Tajikistan).

In addition to the four focus areas, there are a few outcomes that, although connected, stand outside the above outlined areas. These include:
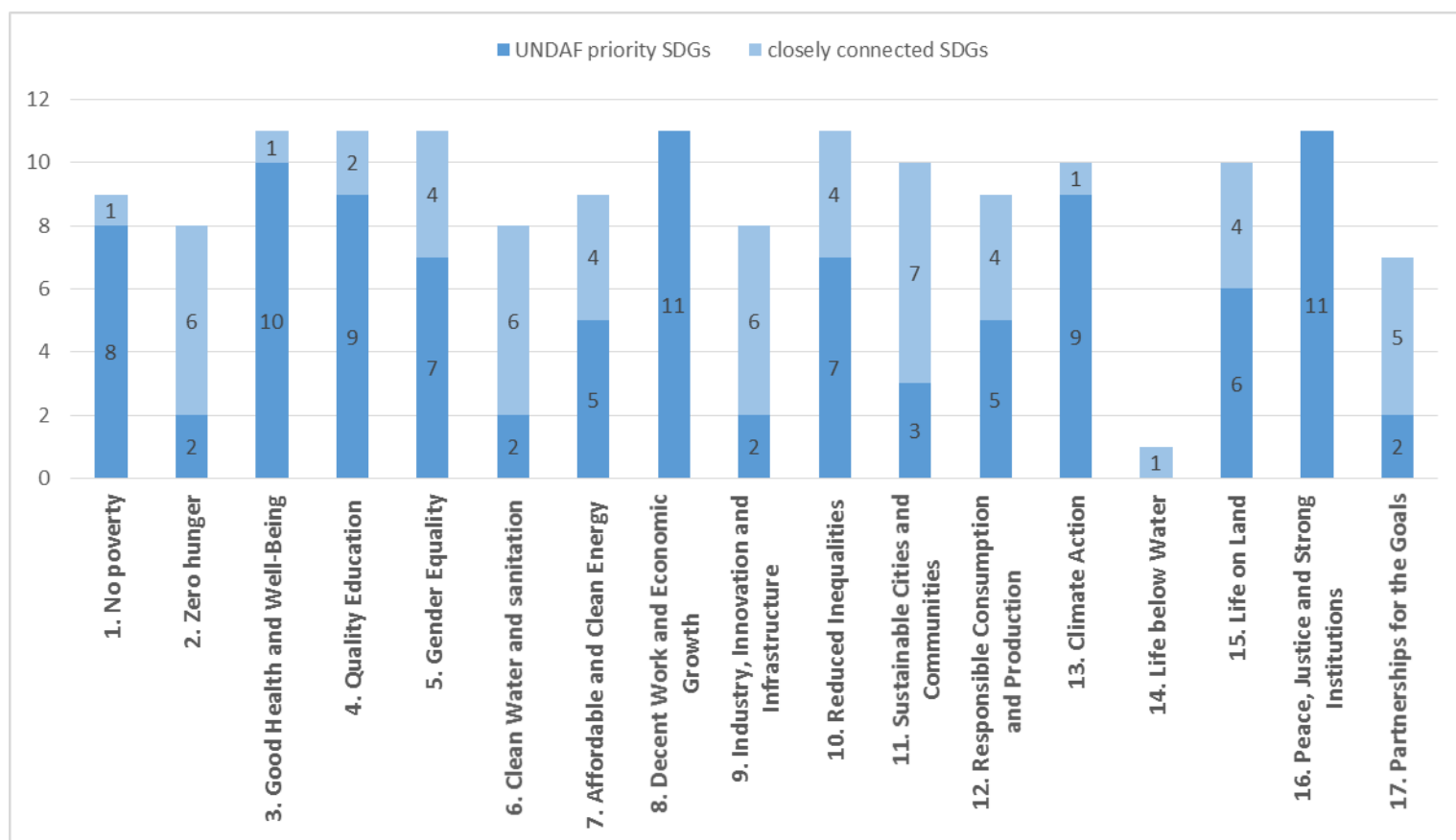- Enhanced international and regional cooperation in Kazakhstan;
- Promoting cultural diversity and managing cultural and natural heritage in Serbia; and
- Quality data and monitoring in Turkmenistan.

CORRELATION BETWEEN SDGs AND UNDAF FOCUS AREAS – GENERAL

New generation UNDAFs were developed in view of and with the linkage to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) not yet adopted at the time of UNDAF preparation. Hence, the linkages between UNDAF outcomes and SDGs are presented in broad terms.

Figure 1 below shows each goal with a number of countries that have programme strategies linked to a particular SDG, with a distinction between "UNDAF priority" SDGs and "closely connected" SDGs based on particular programme interventions outlined in UNDAFs.

Figure 1: Linkages between SDGs and UNDAF Outcomes, 2016-2020[5]
("UNDAF priority" SDGs are marked with dark blue color; "closely connected" SDGs are marked with light blue)

Out of 11 documents reviewed for this mapping exercise, the following SDGs were identified as "UNDAF priority" SDGs in 5 or more country documents:

1) SDG 1 - No Poverty: *End poverty in all its forms everywhere*;
2) SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-being: *Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*;
3) SDG 4 - Quality Education: *Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*;
4) SDG 5 - Gender Equality: *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*;
5) SDG 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy: *Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all*;

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[5] Not all columns in Figure 1 add up to 11 (to match the number of the documents used in the mapping exercise) because not all documents refer to all SDGs.

5

6) SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth: *Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*;

7) SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities: *Reduce inequality within and among countries*;

8) SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production: *Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns*;

9) SDG 13 - Climate Action: *Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**;

10) SDG 15 - Life on Land: *Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss*;

11) SDG 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: *Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.*

"UNDAF priority" SDGs are closely linked with the four focus areas as follows:
- Sustainable economic growth and employment is linked with SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth);
- Equality and services/Human development are correlated with SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities);
- Environmental sustainability and resilience building features SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land); and
- Effective, accountable and inclusive governance and justice for all is directly linked to the SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

"Closely connected" SDGs support the achievement of key targets under the "UNDAF priority" SDGs and are often mainstreamed across broad focus areas. For instance, SDG 2 (No Hunger) has targets that are relevant for the focus areas of:
- economic growth and employment: the target on doubling the income of small-scale food producers is relevant for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Serbia, and Tajikistan;
- social protection and equality: the target on ensuring access by the poor to safe food – Tajikistan; and
- environmental sustainability: the target on ensuring sustainable food production system and implementation of resilient agricultural practices is important for Azerbaijan, Serbia, and Tajikistan.

CORRELATION BETWEEN SDGs AND UNDAF FOCUS AREAS – UNPACKED

Sustainable Economic Growth and Employment
Within this focus area, all analyzed UNDAFs and RRFs reveal a strong linkage with the "UNDAF priority" SDG 8 *Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.* Despite significant differences in economic growth of various countries, analyzed documents

show the intention of the UN system to support and promote economic growth and job creation. In particular, the majority of UNDAFs have programme strategies aiming to:

- Support decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, help to encourage small- and medium-sized enterprises (target 8.3) – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan;
- Engage in activities aimed at achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including young people, PWDs, and equal pay for work (target 8.5) – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan;
- Reduce the proportion of youth not in employment (target 8.6) – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

In addition, some UNDAFs have outcomes that correlate with targets that focus on economic diversification, technological upgrading and high-value added and labor-intensive sectors (8.2 – Azerbaijan, Belarus, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan); targets that promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products (8.9 – Belarus, Georgia, and Serbia) and others.

UNDAF outcomes in their majority are not homogeneous in nature and integrate a number of interrelated aspects. While the SDG 8 is the "UNDAF priority" SDG within the focus area of sustainable economic growth and employment, it is interconnected with "UNDAF priority" SDGs identified within other focus areas, as well as a number of "closely connected" SDGs in the following way:

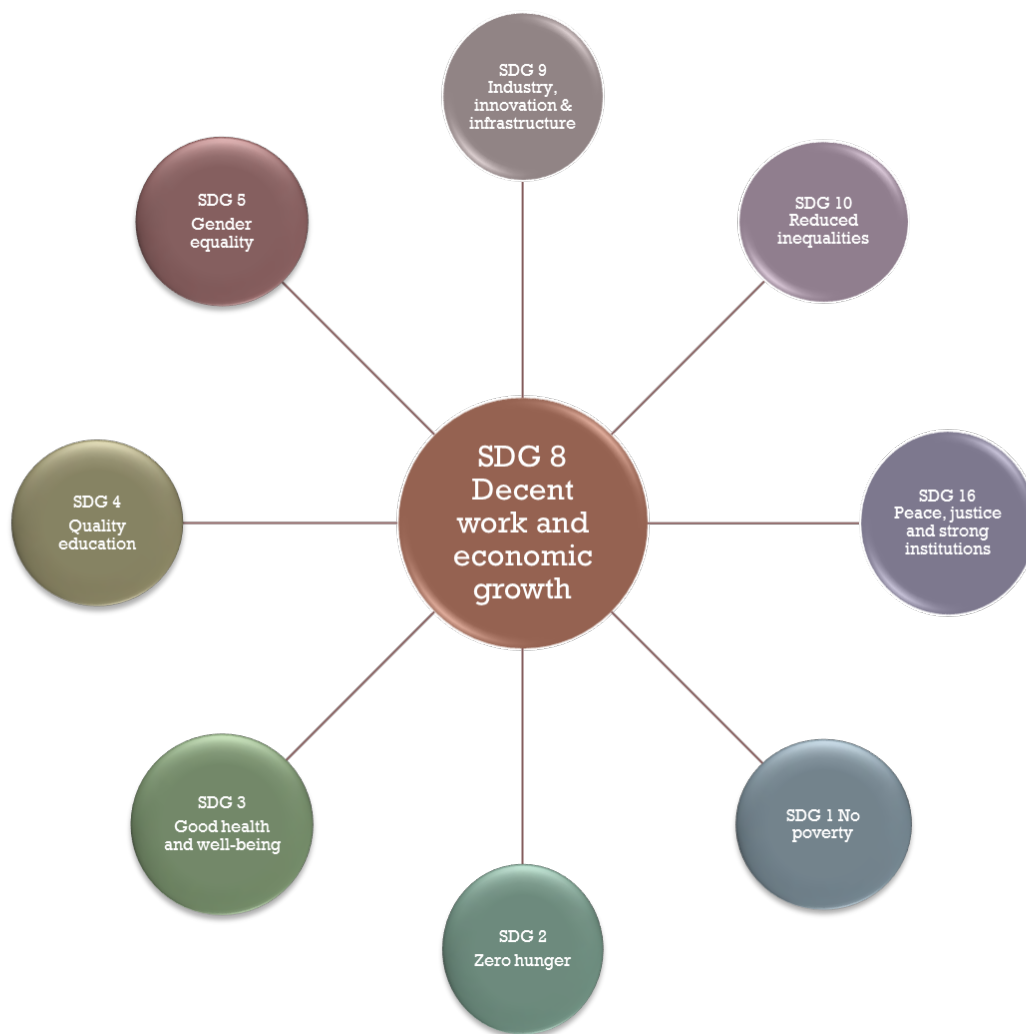"UNDAF priority" SDGs identified in other focus areas:
- SDG 1 – No Poverty
- SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being
- SDG 4 – Quality Education
- SDG 5 – Gender Equality
- SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

"Closely connected SDGs":
- SDG 2 – Zero Hunger
- SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.

The following Figure 2 represents a visual summary of interlinkages between the SDG 8 (as "UNDAF priority") and other SDGs in a graphic way. More detailed analysis and explanation are available immediately after Figure 2.

Figure 2. Interlinkages between SDGs within the area of sustainable economic growth and employment

The SDG 8 is correlated with SDG 1 via its target on providing equal rights to economic resources for all, including the poor and the vulnerable (1.4). Although income disparities can be found in all countries, two UNDAFs are particularly emphasizing the link to this target (Tajikistan and Uzbekistan). Two more UNDAFs (Georgia, Kazakhstan) reveal correlation with the work on policy frameworks based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive strategies (SDG 1, target 1.b).

Although less pronounced in UNDAF outcomes, there are traceable linkages between the SDG 8 and the SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being).

The SDG 4, which is aimed at education and lifelong learning, is integral to the efforts aimed at building highly skilled labor force and boosting employment. Many countries in the region (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, and Uzbekistan) will thus focus on ensuring access to affordable and quality technical, vocation and tertiary education (target 4.3). Others (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, and Uzbekistan) will work on increasing the number of youth and adults, who have relevant skills for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship (target 4.4).

Gender equality and empowerment (SDG 5) is one of the priority areas for the UN development system and has direct linkages with the SDG 8 through the following two targets:
- Target 5.a on equal rights of women to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, etc. (Armenia, Azerbaijan).
- Target 5.c on sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Serbia).

Several countries in the region host significant numbers of migrants and internally displaced people facing challenges in securing official jobs. Many UNCTs (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan) are planning to work in this area, which is linked to the SDG 10 through its target 10.7 focusing on safe and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

There is also an intrinsic linkage to SDG 16 via its target 16.6 (effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels) and 16.7 (responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels).

A few UNCTs (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Serbia, and Tajikistan) will provide support to their programme countries by promoting agricultural productivity and supporting small-scale food producers under the SDG 2 (target 2.3). Two countries (Belarus and Kazakhstan) refer to SDG 9 in their outcomes devoted to economic diversification and decent economic opportunities.

Equality and Social Services/Human Development
Within this focus area the UN development support is linked almost equally to the following "UNDAF priority" SDGs: SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

The SDG 1 (No Poverty) is key to the thematic area of equality and social services/human development through its target 1.3 (social protection systems, measures for all, including floors – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) and target 1.4 (providing equal rights to economic resources for all, including the poor and the vulnerable).

9

In terms of <u>Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3)</u>, most of the analyzed documents demonstrate linkages with the following SDG targets:
- Reduction of premature mortality from non-communicable diseases (target 3.4) – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan;
- Decrease in the rates of HIV and TB transmission (target 3.3) – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan;
- Access to reproductive health-care services, family planning (target 3.7) – Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

<u>Quality Education (SDG 4)</u>, in addition to inter-linkages with employment generation (ref. the previous section), is prioritized within the 'equality and social services/ human development' focus area through the following targets:
- Quality primary and secondary education (target 4.1) – Tajikistan and Turkmenistan;
- Early childhood development and pre-primary education (target 4.2) – Armenia, Serbia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan;
- Equal access to all levels of education for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities (target 4.5) – Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, and Tajikistan;
- Education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive (target 4.a) – Armenia and Turkmenistan.

The <u>SDG 5 (Gender Equality)</u> is directly defined as an "UNDAF priority" SDG for Armenia, FYROM, Georgia, Kosovo,[6] Serbia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Other countries plan to contribute to the implementation of this SDG via its following targets:
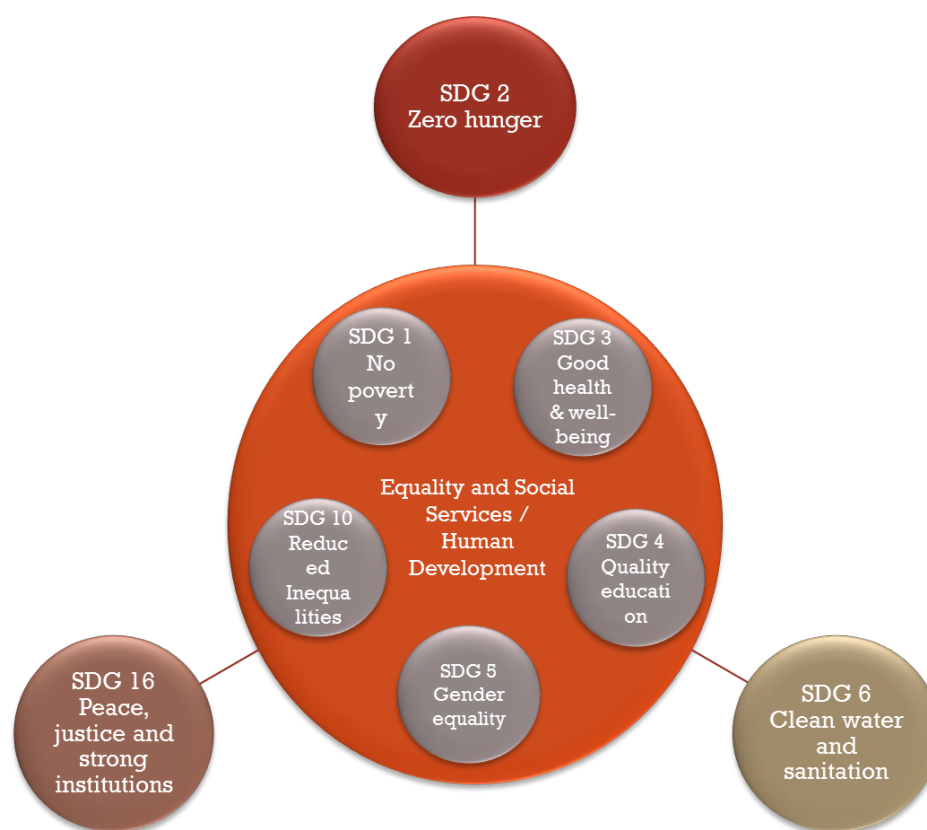- End of all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere (target 5.1) - Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Serbia, and Tajikistan;
- Elimination of all forms of violence against all women and girls (target 5.2) – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Serbia, and Uzbekistan;
- Women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making (target 5.5) – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Serbia;
- Equal rights to economic resources (target 5.a) – Armenia and Azerbaijan;
- Sound policies and legislation for the promotion of gender equality (target 5.c) – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Serbia.

Linkages with the <u>SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)</u> are primarily established through target 10.2 (empowerment and promotion of social, economic and political inclusion), target 10.3 (equal opportunities and reduction of all kinds of inequalities), and target 10.4 (adoption of fiscal, wage and social protection policies). The SDG 10 can also be seen as one of the key objectives, whose achievement is critical to the overall success of the 2030 development agenda, as it captures both systemic and structural barriers to equality and development.

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[6] All references to Kosovo shall be understood in the context of the UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

The following Figure 3 represents a visual summary of interlinkages between SDG 1, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 5, and SDG 10 as "UNDAF priority" SDGs within this focus area and other SDGs in a graphic way. More detailed analysis and explanation are available immediately after Figure 3.

Figure 3. Interlinkages between SDGs in the area of equality and social services/ human development

Overall, all UNDAFs prioritize the need to support targeting social services to the most vulnerable groups. In the majority of cases, this is demonstrated through inter-linkages with the SDG 1 (target 1.3) on social protection systems, including social protection floors – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

These "UNDAF priority" SDGs are closely connected with the following:

- SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) – Tajikistan has programme strategies aiming at promoting access to safe and nutritious food, especially for the poor and the vulnerable;
- SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) – safe drinking water (target 6.1) and adequate sanitation and hygiene (target 6.2) are prioritized under the overarching area of social services and equality by Armenia, Serbia, and Uzbekistan; and
- SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), which is represented in all UNDAFs.

Environmental Sustainability and Resilience Building

The "UNDAF priority" SDGs within this focus area include:
- SDF 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;
- SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;
- SDG 13 (Climate Action) – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;
- SDG 15 (Life on Land) – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Most of UNDAFs (except Kazakhstan and the Results Matrices of Kosovo (UN SCR 1244) and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) reveal plans to work within the framework of the SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) focusing on: a. support to national governments in increasing the share of renewable resources in their energy balances (target 7.2 – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan), and b. support for energy efficiency (target 7.3 – Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan).

Within the SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), UNDAFs prioritize:
- Sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources (target 12.2) – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan;
- Waste management (target 12.3) – Armenia;
- Sound management of chemicals (target 12.4) – Belarus and Serbia.

Within the SDG 13 (Climate Action), the key target relates to resilience building and adaptive capacities (target 13.1) and is relevant for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Other important linkages include:
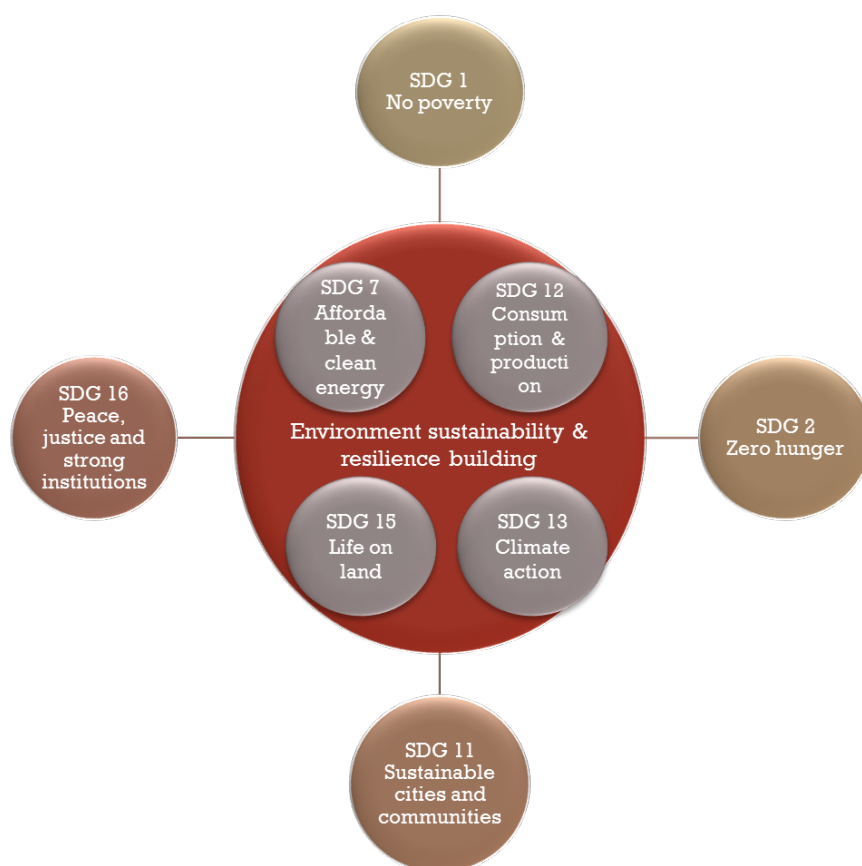- Efforts to integrate climate change measures into policies, strategies and planning (target 13.2) – Armenia, Serbia, and Turkmenistan; and
- Awareness-raising and enhancement of human and institutional capacities on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning (target 13.3) – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan).

Biggest differences can be found within the SDG 15 (Life on Land), which directly relates to physical environments of countries and hence priority linkages through the following targets:

- Sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems (target 15.1) is relevant for Belarus and Tajikistan;
- Sustainable management of all types of forests (target 15.2) – for Armenia, Belarus, and Uzbekistan;
- Land management (target 15.3) – for Tajikistan and Uzbekistan;
- Biodiversity (target 15.5) – for Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan; and
- Integration of ecosystem values into national and local planning (target 15.9) – for Belarus, Georgia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

The following Figure 4 represents a visual summary of interlinkages between SDG 7, SDG 12, SDG 13 and SDG 15 (as "UNDAF priority" SDGs) and other SDGs in a graphic way. More detailed analysis and explanation are available immediately after Figure 4.

Figure 4. Interlinkages between SDGs within the area of environmental sustainability and resilience building

Resilience building aspects link the "UNDAF priority" SDGs within this focus area with the SDG 1 (No Poverty) through its target 1.5 focusing on "resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduction of their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events, environmental shocks and disasters". This link is demonstrated in UNDAFs for Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.

Additionally, the SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) offers a number of entry points for the UN system in the ECA countries. Sustainable land management in SDG 15 is dependent upon resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity but also help maintain ecosystems and progressively improve land and soil quality as environmental and economic assets. This correlation is covered by target 2.4 under the SDG 2 and is within planned programming frameworks of Azerbaijan, Serbia and Tajikistan.

There is also a strong link with the SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) that under its target 11.5 calls to significantly reduce the number of people affected by disasters. Such resilience building efforts will be undertaken by UNCTs in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Serbia and Tajikistan. Furthermore, under the same SDG, the target 11.b calls for adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards resource efficiency and resilience to disasters, which is reflected in UNDAFs for Azerbaijan, Georgia and Serbia.

Finally, there is an intrinsic linkage to the SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) via its targets 16.6 (effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels) and 16.7 (responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels).

Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Governance, and Justice for All
Within this focus area, all UNDAFs demonstrate direct and clear link to the "UNDAF priority" SDG 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.*

Considering all interlinkages between this and other SDGs, the SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) is seen as all-encompassing and related to each "UNDAF priority" and "closely connected" SDG. All documents contain strategies correlating with this SDG throughout all of their focus areas. Two aspects particularly stand out:
- Effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels (target 16.6) – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, and Kosovo (UN SCR 1244);
- Responsive, inclusive and participatory and representative decision-making at all levels (target 16.7) – all countries.
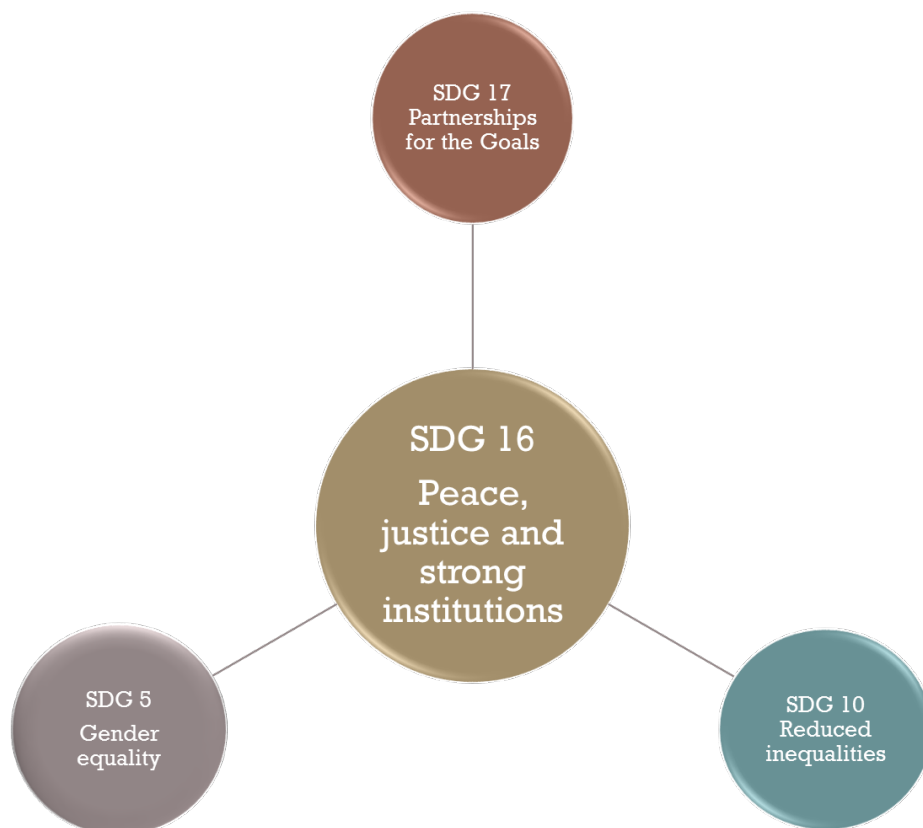
As a separate focus area and domain of effective public administration management and access to justice, the SDG 16 is also an umbrella for the following programme strategies at the country level:
- Corruption prevention (target 16.) – Armenia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, and Tajikistan;
- Violence reduction (target 16.1) – Armenia, Serbia, and Tajikistan;
- Reduction of violence with a specific focus on children (target 16.2) – Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan;

14

- Protection of fundamental freedoms and implementation of key human rights obligations (target 16.10) – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, and Kazakhstan;
- Prevention of crime and terrorism (target 16.a) – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Serbia, and Tajikistan;
- Non-discriminatory policies (target 16.b) – Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, and Tajikistan.
- Access to justice for children and adolescents – Georgia, Uzbekistan, Turkey, Serbia and Kazakhstan.

In addition to being mainstreamed through all UNDAFs, the SDG 16 is also determined as closely linked to stand-alone UNDAF outcomes. In the way it can be identified within UNDAF outcomes formulation, it is directly connected with the SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Figure 5 below presents broad interlinkages between the SDG 16 as a standalone UNDAF Outcome with SDGs 5, 10 and 17.

Figure 5. Interlinkages between SDGs in the area of
effective, accountable and inclusive governance, and justice for all
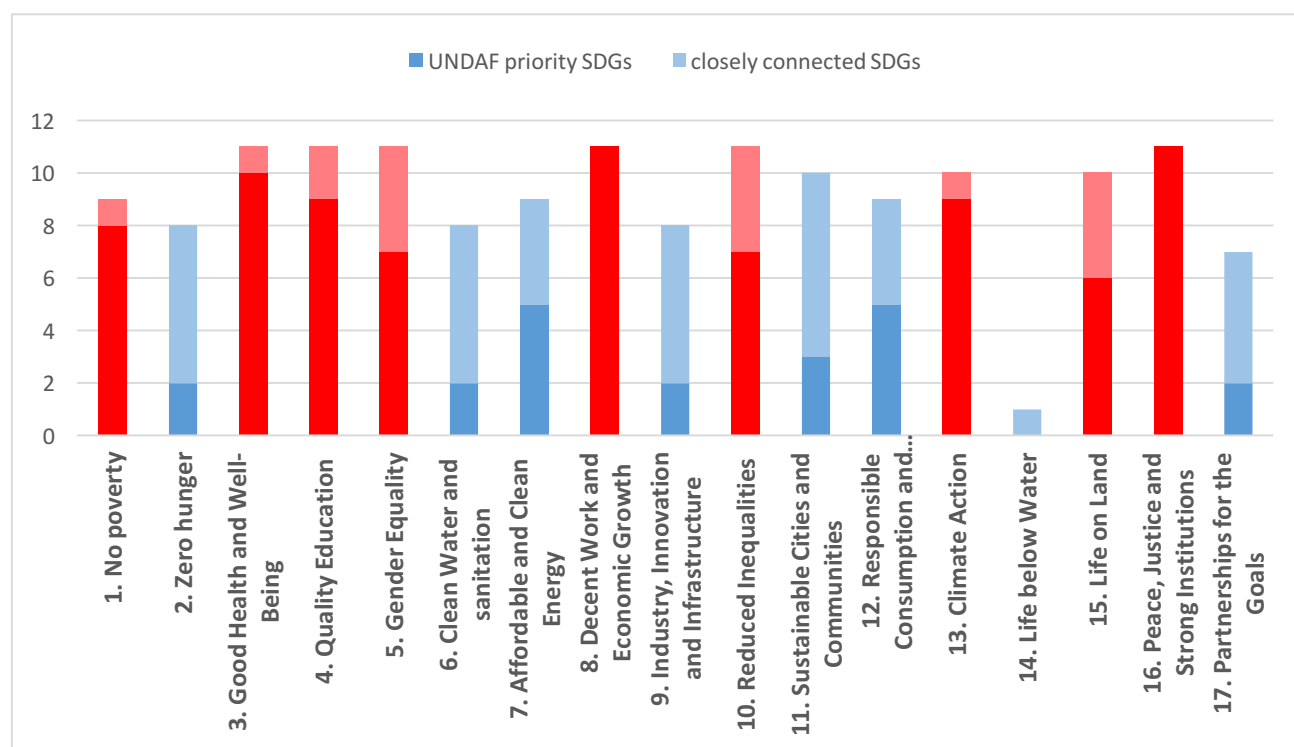
Those countries of the region (Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan) that aim at becoming emerging donors have also activities that relate to the *SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.* The SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) is also an overarching goal that covers data and monitoring (under target 17.18 and 17.19) and multi-stakeholder partnerships (target 17.17), which are relevant for all countries in the region.

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Section III. Conclusions

The present mapping of the new generation of UNDAFs vis-a-vis SDGs shows that the impact of the 2030 development agenda is already being felt at the country level.

The below figure 6 presents the identified UNDAF priorities in their relation with the new Sustainable Development Goals. SDGs highlighted in red color in the below Figure cover the areas, which are emerging as priority at country level. These SDGs were identified as "UNDAF priority" SDGs in more than a half of all UNDAFs reviewed during the mapping exercise.

Figure 6: "UNDAF priority" SDGs in Europe and Central Asia

Based on the above, the following priority thematic areas are emerging out of the mapping exercise:

➢ *Economic growth and development, with particular focus on employment (SDG 8)*, is at the center of all UNDAFs. It has been prioritized by all countries.

➢ *Health and well-being (SDG 3)*. The area of health is featured in the majority of UNDAFs. Focuses and approaches include non-communicable diseases, HIV and TB, maternal health, etc. These are prioritized in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

➢ *Quality education and life-long learning (SDG 4).* Education and lifelong learning has been prioritized in the majority of UNDAFs of the ECA countries, especially through support to be provided in (i) primary education and early childhood development (Armenia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan), and (ii) addressing challenges of sustainable development through extending learning opportunities across the lifespan to build new competencies in multiple generations (Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan).

➢ *Inclusive societies and institutions (SDG 16)*. Efforts are made in the region to create legislative, administrative, and judicial mechanisms to ensure these values are upheld.

➢ *Natural resources management, climate change, energy, and resilience (SDGs 13 and 15).* Preserving resilient ecosystems and, thus, promoting social and ecological resilience, contributes both to economic prosperity and environmental sustainability and conservation.

In addition to the above thematic areas, all analyzed UNDAFs reveal a number of cross-cutting areas, namely:

• *Gender equality and women empowerment (SDG 5)*. Gender issues are mainstreamed through all UNDAFs and are stand-alone outcomes in the UNDAFs of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo (UNSCR 1244), and Serbia.

• *Inequalities (SDG 10)*. Reducing inequalities is of common interest to all countries in the region and is covered by all UNDAFs, although it does not feature as a stand-alone priority or outcome in the reviewed documents.

• *Data collection, monitoring and reporting (SDG 17)*. An absolute majority of countries will need significant UN support in ensuring that they have quality data aligned with international standards available to policy makers, legislators, and interested public to monitor the implementation of nationalized SDGs[7]. The most important aspect of this area is the support in disaggregation of data in order to identify and better target inequalities within countries. It is defined as a standalone UNDAF priority by Turkmenistan, but is also referred to by Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Serbia.

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[7]Turkmenistan-United Nations Partnership Framework for Development has Outcome 1, which calls for Quality Data and Progress Monitoring.

- ***Strengthening and expanding partnerships (SDG 17)***. In view of the complexity of the new development agenda, new and wider partnerships will need to be built by the UN development system to ensure that it is well positioned to work on its commitments. Within identified focus areas for greater inter-agency synergies, Agencies need to explore coherent approaches to various partners, including the private sector, development finance institutions, regional banks.

- ***Inter-sectoral collaboration***. In addition to linkages between SDGs and work of resident and non-resident UN agencies, countries themselves will need to ensure close inter-sectoral collaboration between key state actors. UNCTs will require regional inter-agency support, both in terms of joint analytics of inter-sectoral linkages, as well as respective advocacy.

The analysis presented in this note also provides a good basis for identification of areas of common interest to countries, for example, within one sub-region. By focusing on such areas, cross-border collaboration and coordination can be achieved through the respective UNDAFs.