



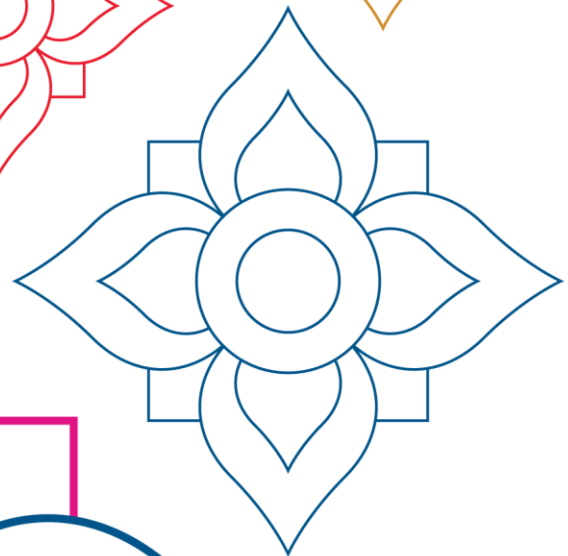
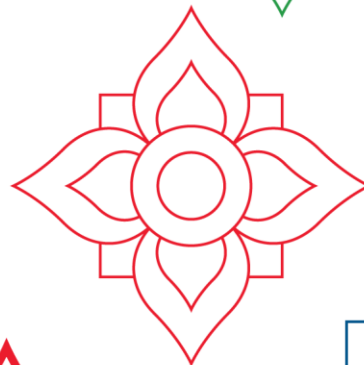
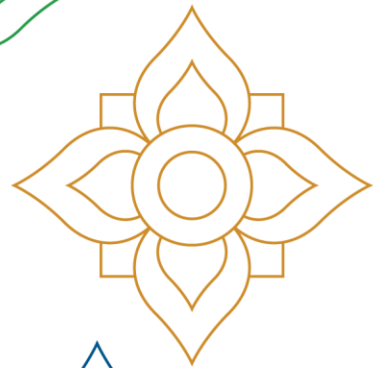
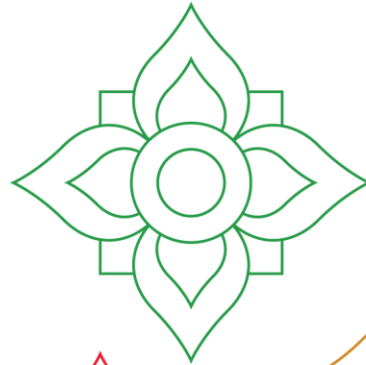
UNITED NATIONS  
THAILAND



# UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

THAILAND 2022–2026

**(DRAFT)**



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## Joint statement and Signature Page

### Acronym and Abbreviation List

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCNT	Global Compact Network Thailand
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
IFIs	international financial institutions
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NESDC	National Economic and Social Development Council
NESDP	National Economic and Social Development Plan
NSO	National Statistical Office of Thailand
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
SBAA	Standard Basic Assistance Agreement
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises
STEM	science, technology, engineering and mathematics
UN	United Nations
UN Habitat	United Nations Human Settlement Programme
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
WHO	World Health Organization

## Executive Summary

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2025<sup>1</sup> (UNSDCF) articulates the UN development system's support for Thailand's strong commitment to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and its ambition to become a high-income, inclusive, sustainable, resilient and advanced nation.

In recent decades, Thailand has registered significant progress on both the social and economic fronts with macroeconomic fundamentals contributing to economic stability. In less than 40 years, Thailand has transitioned from a low-income to an upper middle-income country including strong sustained growth and poverty reduction.<sup>2</sup> The economy has become more sophisticated, diversified and regionally integrated, based increasingly on manufacturing and services. The country has been open to trade, financial flows, labour migration and investments in both human and physical capital, which has facilitated high gross domestic product (GDP) growth.

There have also been long-term gains in social welfare, with increasing numbers of learners now obtaining many more years of education and a growing portion of the population covered by health insurance, while other forms of social security have expanded. Access to safe water, basic sanitation and digital connectivity is almost universal. Widespread social and economic progress contribute to advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the core principle of 'leave no one behind'.

As in many countries, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected both the economy and society, further exposing pre-existing imbalances, inequalities, vulnerabilities and risks.<sup>3</sup> A recent UN report<sup>4</sup> on the impact of COVID-19 showed a strong causal relationship between the pandemic and economic, macro-economic and social effects for vulnerable groups. As a result, the UNSDCF incorporates the UN's comprehensive socio-economic impact assessment of COVID-19 within its strategies and focus areas.

Since the launch of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Thailand has stressed the importance of the SDGs despite the setbacks of the COVID-19 pandemic. There is strong alignment between the 2030 Agenda and Thailand's own development agenda. The Government has established the National Committee for Sustainable Development to lead on SDG implementation within national policies and strategic development plans.

The country has integrated the 17 Goals into the 20-Year National Strategy (2017-2036) for realization of the vision of 'Thailand as a developed country with security, prosperity and sustainability'. The Framework of the 13th NESDP (2023-2027) revolves around four priority areas: i) Transformation to a High Value-Added and Sustainable Thailand; ii) High Opportunity Society; iii) Eco-Friendly Living; and iv) Key Enablers for Thailand's Transformation.

At the same time, the Government acknowledges that incremental change is not enough and that structural transformation is required to become a high-value sustainable economy based on advances in human knowledge, creativity and innovation-based development.<sup>5</sup> Over recent decades, Thailand's economic and social progress has been accompanied by high levels of environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and air pollution, as well as the contamination of land and water resources. In light of these factors, Thailand is positioned to shift its development trajectory and environmental policies in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In the preparation of the UNSDCF, the UN, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) have led an extensive stakeholder consultation process. The overarching objective of the consultations was to ensure that diverse stakeholders had the opportunity to inform the discussion on Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and focus areas, with

<sup>1</sup> The Tripartite Steering Committee reserves the right to review the timeframe at midpoint of the Cooperation Framework to assess if it should be extended.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/thailand/overview>.

<sup>3</sup> In 2020, the country recorded less than 1 death from COVID-19 per million population.

<sup>4</sup> Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Thailand, October 2020, United Nations, page 6.

<sup>5</sup> Presentation 'Implementing the SDGs in Thailand', NESDC, 14 June 2021.

a specific emphasis on the UN's contribution and value add in supporting the government to advance the SDGs while leaving no one behind.

Three strategic outcomes for the UNSDCF emerged, founded on the UN principles including 'Leave No One Behind', human rights, gender equality, sustainability and resilience. These three outcomes align with Thailand's 20-year National Strategy and contribute to 12 of the Government's 13 milestones contained in the draft 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan (NESDP).<sup>6</sup> The three strategic outcomes are underpinned by six focus areas in which UN agencies will collaborate with the Government and development partners to support the country achieve specific results that contribute to the SDGs, where the UN is best placed to leverage its comparative advantages:

- **Outcome One:** Thailand's transformation into an inclusive economy based on a green, resilient, low-carbon, sustainable development is accelerated.

UN focus areas:

- i) Support inclusive and sustainable economic growth premised on Thailand's bio-circular-green model.
  - ii) Enable and strengthen capacities for a low-carbon society, resilience and disaster recovery with capability to adapt to and reduce the risks of disasters.
- **Outcome Two:** Human capital needed for social and inclusive development is improved through strengthening institutions, partnerships and the empowerment of people.

UN focus areas:

- i) Improving accessibility, responsiveness and quality of public services as enablers for Thailand's transformation.
  - ii) Enable people with digital literacy, infrastructure and innovation for their inclusion in Thailand's economic, social and environmental transformation.
- **Outcome Three:** People living in Thailand, especially those at risk of being left furthest behind, are able to participate in and benefit from development, free from all forms of discrimination.

UN focus areas:

- i) Provide an enabling, rights-based, inclusive environment to address inequalities, support equal opportunities and reduce poverty.
- ii) Good governance, rule of law and social contract enhanced for SDG acceleration.

The first outcome will contribute to two NESDP strategic priorities dealing with 'high value-added green economy' and 'eco-friendly living'. The second outcome will contribute to the NESDP strategic priority dealing with 'key enablers for Thailand's transformation'. The third outcome will contribute to the NESDP strategic priority dealing with a 'high opportunity society'.

In summary, for Thailand to advance into higher value-added sectors based on low carbon, environmentally sustainable and inclusive growth requires a bold policy shift, accompanied by a significant change in policy implementation. A major increase in public and private investment is needed in Industry 4.0 enablers, including digitization, innovation and associated technologies (automation, AI, the internet of things, fintech, blockchain, etc.) to increase productivity and transformation across the NESDP prioritized sectors. This must be accompanied by increased investment in quality human capital via equitable education, skills and labour market development, universal healthcare services, and adequate social welfare provision.

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<sup>6</sup> Milestone 1 - high value agriculture; Milestone 2 - value tourism; Milestone 3: electric vehicles; Milestone 4 - comprehensive medical and health services; Milestone 5 regional logistics hub; Milestone 6 - smart electronic and digital services; Milestone 7 - sustainably growing social/local enterprise; Milestone 8 - modern and liveable cities; Milestone 9 - lower intergenerational poverty and adequate social protection; Milestone 10 - circular economy and low-carbon society; Milestone 11 - natural disaster and climate change impact mitigation; Milestone 12 - high-skill workers to serve market demands; Milestone 13 - high-efficiency public sector.

These key processes of change require an unprecedented commitment to working in partnership with the private sector, parliament, civil society and academia, including leveraging new and innovative financing strategies. This should extend to a whole-of-society approach in which all institutions, communities and individuals exercise their combined agency in advancing Thailand's ambition to achieve the SDGs. The UN will collaborate with the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) to identify exemplar South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) flagships, leveraging ASEAN and Thailand's Coordinator role on Sustainable Development Cooperation and Dialogue in the process.<sup>7</sup>

The UN will support Thailand in the fulfilment of its vision for transformative high-value economic, human and sustainable development by drawing on its global reach and capabilities. The UN is at the forefront of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and is uniquely placed to support the Government to leverage opportunities arising from development inspired by human rights-based treaties and conventions to which the country is party, and to promote inclusive social and economic development through the transfer of technical knowledge and adaptation of scalable development solutions. The UN can be depended upon as a provider of cutting-edge integrated policy support and technical assistance to build forward sustainably with a focus on enhancing productivity and balancing environmental impacts.

The UNSDCF is a strategic instrument of mutual accountability that promotes national ownership. A Tripartite Committee has been established as the highest governing body of the UNSDCF, co-convened by the Steering Group, comprising the MFA, the NESDC and the United Nations Resident Coordinator. During implementation of the UNSDCF, operationalized via joint workplans, the Tripartite Committee will meet once a year to review progress towards the targeted results and recommend strategic adjustments or new opportunities to accelerate action. The UNSDCF will be monitored regularly and evaluated in its penultimate year. The legal relationship between the UN and the Government is governed by the UNSDCF legal annex.

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<sup>7</sup> ASEAN Center for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (located at the College of Management, Mahidol University), the ASEAN Center for Active Aging and Innovation (located at the Ministry of Public Health), and the ASEAN Training Center for Social Work and Social Welfare (located at Ministry of Social Development and Human Security).

## CHAPTER 1: COUNTRY PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA

### 1.1 Country context

**For most of the last four decades Thailand has been a social and economic success story with sound macroeconomic fundamentals providing a secure basis for economic stability.** In less than a generation, Thailand has transitioned from a low-income to an upper middle-income country through sustained strong growth and poverty reduction.<sup>8</sup> Its economy has become more sophisticated, diversified and regionally integrated, based increasingly on manufacturing and services. Since the Asian financial crisis of 1997, Thailand has successfully maintained a high foreign reserve, low inflation, a sound banking system and a stable exchange rate. These features, combined with an openness to trade, financial flows, labour migration, and investments in both human and physical capital, have facilitated high levels of GDP growth and significant gains in prosperity. Long-term gains in social welfare have been equally tangible, with increasing numbers of children now obtaining many more years of education and a growing portion of the population covered by health insurance, while other forms of social security have expanded. Access to safe water, basic sanitation and digital connectivity is almost universal. Such widespread social and economic progress provides a bedrock for advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the core principle of ‘leave no one behind’ in Thailand.

**The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the economic and social life of the nation and exacerbates existing imbalances, inequalities, vulnerabilities and risks.**<sup>9</sup> Thailand is considered to be among the top-ten most prepared countries, ranking first among all upper middle-income countries.<sup>10</sup> Thailand’s strong health system – an extensive network of healthcare facilities, technical and institutional expertise, and an impressive cadre of health volunteers – contributed to successful containment of COVID-19 for the first 15 months of the pandemic. A resurgence of COVID-19 in April 2021, driven by hyper-transmissible variants of the virus, has put substantial pressure on the health. The Government’s vaccination plan centres around building capacity for manufacturing vaccine domestically and immunizing 70 per cent of the population by the end of the year to build herd immunity. Meanwhile, a UN report<sup>11</sup> undertaken to understand the impact of COVID-19 showed ‘a strong causal relationship between the pandemic and the immediate economic, macro-economic and social impacts, which pushed vulnerable groups into poverty and created social problems. The economic consequences resulted in a broad decline in consumption, investment and trade, affecting all sectors, such that the economy in 2020 contracted by about 8 per cent, with up to 8.4 million jobs lost in additions to 6 million farmers at risk from drought.<sup>12</sup> The ongoing impact on household welfare is likely to be significant, with Thailand’s middle class expected to contract,<sup>13</sup> the number of economically insecure people projected to double<sup>14</sup> and working poverty anticipated to rise.<sup>15</sup> Nearly half of Thailand’s workforce face risk of impact.<sup>16</sup> Many lack social protection, which will result in a further increase in already high levels of household debt. Two groups especially hard hit are new graduates and migrant workers.

### 1.2 National vision for sustainable development

**Thailand is a proven advocate for the SDGs at the international and national levels and has integrated the Goals into its development plans.** There is strong alignment between the 2030 Agenda and Thailand’s own development agenda, grounded in the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, which shares common principles with the SDGs, seeking to balance the dimensions of sustainable development. The Government has established the National Committee for Sustainable Development to lead on SDG implementation within national policies and strategic development plans. Voluntary Nations Reviews have been prepared voluntarily on an annual basis since 2017<sup>17</sup> to take stock of Thailand’s SDG progress and

8 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/thailand/overview>.

9 In 2020, the country recorded less than one COVID-19 death per million population.

10 Based on the 2019 Global Health Security Index.

11 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Thailand, October 2020, United Nations, page 6.

12 Economist Intelligence Unit. 2020. ‘Covid-19 Economic impact assessment for Thailand’, Thailand, Research Paper for UNDP Bangkok and NESDC, 2020. Gross Domestic Product: Q2/2020. Bangkok: NESDC.

13 Thailand’s middle-class expected to contract from 50.6 per cent to 38.4 per cent, while the number of economically insecure people is projected to double from 4.7 million to an estimated 9.7 million.

14 ‘Thailand in the Time of COVID-19’, Thailand Economic Monitor, World Bank, July 2020.

15 Working poverty is anticipated to rise by the end of 2020 from 4.7 per cent to 14.5 per cent, with nearly 21 million of Thailand’s 37 million workers at risk of impact.

16 The ten occupations with the highest shares of daily and hourly workers saw a reduction of 435,000 persons employed between the first quarter 2019 and first quarter 2020. Those most affected was agriculture (partly also due to seasonal effect), but also low-skilled workers undertaking clerical work including customer service, refuse workers, assemblers, handicraft workers and the electrical and electronic trades.

17 In 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.



national agencies are invested in an integrated online SDG monitoring system. In addition, the Government has recently adopted the Bio-Circular Green Economic Model,<sup>18</sup> making stronger connections between the human development and environmental SDGs.

### Box 1 The SDGs within Thailand's National Policy Framework

Since the launch of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Thailand has stressed the importance of and has continued to press ahead with implementation of the SDGs, despite the setback of the COVID-19 pandemic. The country has integrated the 17 Goals into the 20-Year National Strategy (2017-2036) for realization of the vision of 'Thailand as a developed country with security, prosperity and sustainability'. The Framework of the 13th NESDP (2023-2027) revolves around four priority areas key components which are aligned with the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy: i) Transformation to a High-Value Added and Sustainable Thailand; ii) High Opportunity Society; iii) Eco-Friendly Living; and iv) Key Enablers for Thailand's Transformation, as illustrated below.



Thailand's ambition to become a **High Value-Added and Green Economy** utilizes knowledge, creativity, technology and innovation while minimizing negative impacts on the environment. Aspirations towards a **High Opportunity Society** entails everyone having equal opportunity to improve their economic and social status, and participate in and benefit from equitable economic growth, including access to quality public services that reduce inequalities and reach populations at risk of being 'left behind'. All sectors of society should have lifestyles and economic activities that can contribute to **Eco-Friendly Living** and the sustainability of natural resources, ecosystems and climate, including protection from shocks and freedom from sources and forms of pollution. The **Key Enablers for Thailand's Transformation** depend on human resource development mechanisms (education system, skills development and shifting the workforce to more high value-added sectors) and to public administration mechanisms (regulations, laws, budgeting systems, infrastructure, public services, etc.) Thailand's SDG Roadmap provides the blueprint to move forward in six key areas: awareness raising; policy integration and coherence; enabling mechanisms; implementation; partnerships; and monitoring and evaluation.



<sup>18</sup> Recent adoption of the Bio-Circular Green Economic Model (2021-2026) by the Government indicates the intent to regard human development and environmental concerns in a more holistic manner in line with the integrated nature of the sustainable development agenda.  
Source: <https://www.stkc.go.th/sites/default/files/ebook/1592192149.pdf>



### 1.3 Progress and challenges in SDG implementation

#### 1.3.1 The interconnected nature of the Sustainable Development Agenda and SDGs

**The SDGs are indivisible, interconnected and interdependent, and founded on the universal framework of human rights.** In Thailand, investments in ‘people’ (SDGs 1-5, 10) and ‘environment’ (SDGs 7, 11-15) will accelerate the economic and inclusive transformation of the country, making a significant contribution to the central principle of ‘leave no one behind’, while adjusting towards an environmentally sustainable pathway. Prioritizing the human and environmental sectors thereby provides the engine and driver for the ‘economic’ and ‘productive’ SDGs (6-9) to be attained, perpetuating the transformation process. SDGs 16 and 17 provide the stability and enabling environment for the process of transformation to be resilient, sustained and effective. To meet the SDGs in Thailand it is estimated<sup>19</sup> that US\$40.9 billion<sup>20</sup> in additional annual investment from 2020 to 2030 will be required.

**Based on the SDG assessment, some Goals are more likely to reach the 2030 targets, while others require greater attention.** As a snapshot of the whole, Thailand has track record of progress in advancing the SDGs but will need to take additional measures on selected national priorities in the areas of human capital development (SDGs 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8), climate action (SDG 13), biodiversity and the environment (SDGs 14 and 15), and in particular on tackling inequalities (SDGs 1 and 10) and stunting and wasting (SDG 2), through its pledge to support populations that are at greatest risk of being ‘left behind’.

**Figure 1 provides an illustration of progress across each SDG using an assessment undertaken by the Government and the UN based on national data. The Government’s assessments are made based on SDG targets and indicators. Qualitative assessment is used when relevant quantitative indicators are not available. The UN assessments are based on indicators.** Nevertheless, there is broad alignment. However, sufficient data is only currently available for assessing just over half of all SDG indicators,<sup>21</sup> meaning that the Government and the UN will need to work together to address the remaining data gaps (SDG 17). This will also serve to strengthen the national data ecosystem, improving evidence-based policy, programme design and enhanced learning through better monitoring and evaluation.

#### 1.3.2 Structural transformation for sustainable development

**Thailand acknowledges that incremental change is not enough in a disruptive world and structural transformation is required for the country to become a high-value sustainable economy based on advances in human knowledge, creativity and innovation-based development.**<sup>22</sup> Over recent decades, Thailand’s economic and social progress has been accompanied by conspicuous levels of environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and air pollution, as well as the contamination of land and water resources. Reflecting on the impact of COVID-19 and the unsustainable nature of the previous economic model that has delivered widespread prosperity, Thailand is poised to grasp the opportunity to shift its development trajectory and environmental policies to align with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Vision, ambition, scale and pace are vital components for achieving catalytic change.

**However, SDG attainment in the environmental sector is significantly challenged by Thailand’s high ranking on the global list of greenhouse gas (GHG) emitting and nations.** The domestic energy, industrial, transportation and agriculture sectors contribute significantly to GHG emissions as Thailand records one of the fastest-growing energy-intensive economies in Southeast Asia. Select regions of the country and people suffer from high levels of pollution, including for example haze pollution, which originates from neighbouring countries as well as domestically, exerts a substantial impact on human health (SDG 3), economic growth (SDG 8) and biodiversity (SDGs 14 and 15).<sup>23/24</sup> Human activities thereby contribute significantly to climate change (especially SDG 7, 8, 9 and 13), which increases Thailand’s already high exposure to extreme weather events and their devastating effects (SDGs 1-3).

**Thailand’s rich biodiversity faces an immediate challenge with nearly 460 species currently threatened with extinction.** Forests (SDG 15) and marine ecosystems (SDG 14) have been significantly

<sup>19</sup> Source: ESCAP - [Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2019 – Ambitions beyond growth](#)

<sup>20</sup> THB 1.27 trillion.

<sup>21</sup> Refer to the UN CCA February 2021

<sup>22</sup> Presentation ‘Implementing the SDGs in Thailand’, NESDC, 14 June 2021.

<sup>23</sup> Cheong, K., Ngiam, N., Morgan, G., Pek, P., Tan, B., Lai, J., Koh, J., Ong, M., Ho, A. ‘Acute Health Impacts of the Southeast Asian Transboundary Haze Problem – A Review’. Published online 6 Sept 2019. DOI: 10.3390/ijerph16183286.

<sup>24</sup> IQAir (2012). 2019 World Air Quality Report, V8.

degraded and remain under threat. Thailand's precious biodiversity is a target and major source of origin, transit and destination for many types of wildlife and wildlife products resulting in habitat loss, poaching and trafficking, and human-wildlife conflict, which heavily impacts many native plant and animal species. In addition, Thailand is the world's tenth biggest contributor of marine pollution, which is a transboundary issue due to the multiple challenges posed.<sup>25</sup> Life on land, life under water and Thailand's cultural heritage are among the endowments that require safeguarding and for which a fundamental rebalancing of the relationship between human activities and nature is most needed. Not least, a financing requirement of close to US\$1 billion,<sup>26</sup> among other capacity gaps, is needed to begin to remedy this situation. Thailand has thereby arrived at a pivotal juncture to transform its economic model based on green principles, for example via eco-tourism, which signals an opportunity for global leadership at the nexus of environment and economy.

### 1.3.3 Human development and economic transformation

**Human capital is key to completing the structural transformation of Thailand's economy, addressing the productivity gap and the middle-income trap in the process, and putting Thailand on the trajectory to advanced country status on a bedrock of SDG progress.** Agriculture still accounted for over 30 per cent of all jobs in 2019 and contributed about 9 per cent of total value addition, while Thailand ranked 12th among food exporters worldwide (SDGs 2 and 8).<sup>27</sup> Lack of reform in the sector dampens national productivity and prevents it from effectively completing the economic transformation process. In addition, low levels of productivity combined with a large unskilled informal sector and insufficient investment in human capital (SDGs 4 and 8) and innovation and technology (SDG 9) lock Thailand into the middle-income trap. Moreover, in 2018 Thailand was the 25th largest economy in the world in terms of GDP,<sup>28/29</sup> but over recent years has been losing ground. Due to the declining number of Thai nationals willing to pursue agricultural work, the sector has increasingly come to depend on migrant workers. Working conditions of migrant workers in this sector reveal that substantial gaps continue to exist in fundamental labour rights protection<sup>30</sup> (SDG 3, 5, 8, 10). Safe and secure work environments for migrants are essential to ensure they become productive members of society and contribute to economic growth (SDG 8).

**The Government's Thailand 4.0<sup>31</sup> initiative provides a framework to restructure the economy to promote greater innovation and creativity.** Digitalization, automation and the transition to Industry 4.0 involving the internet of things, artificial intelligence and big data analytics are all being utilized to transform Thailand's economy and enable the country to accede to more advanced levels of development (SDGs 3, 8, 9 and 11).<sup>32</sup> At the heart of the challenge, however, is that Thailand's education system (SDG 4) has been unable to prepare graduates sufficiently for labour market transformation in line with the demands and requirements of Industry 4.0. Not least, there is a shortage of science and technology graduates, with manufacturing firms reporting that the lack of skilled workers is one of the leading constraints to growth (SDG 8).<sup>33</sup>

**Thailand has a legacy of human development gains, but now needs to adjust to face a rapid demographic transition and address the deficit in human capital investment relative to its regional peers, which is otherwise bound to constrain economic transformation and SDG accomplishment.** Thailand has made historical progress on most of its poverty reduction (SDG 1), health (SDG 3), education (SDG 4), and social assistance policies and indicators (SDG 1). Widespread universal healthcare including health promotion and disease prevention, treatment and rehabilitation is available across the life course, educational outcomes have risen significantly since the 1990s, and the country now has a relatively well-developed high level of social protection. However, COVID-19 has heavily impacted the education sector, including through school closures, and reflected in educational outcomes, although the full long-term effect

<sup>25</sup> Further details can be found at: <https://tdri.or.th/en/2021/06/disparity-worsens-ocean-pollution/> and <https://www.thaipbsworld.com/thailands-ranking-among-20-top-marine-polluters-improves-from-6th-to-10th-place/>

<sup>26</sup> For the period 2019-2021.

<sup>27</sup> Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives 2020.

<sup>28</sup> Based on current US\$.

<sup>29</sup> The number 22 in terms of total exports, the number 23 in total imports, and the number 28 for most complex economy according to the Economic Complexity Index.

<sup>30</sup> Thailand Migration Report 2019

<sup>31</sup> [https://www.boj.go.th/upload/content/Thailand\\_Taking\\_off\\_to\\_new\\_heights\\_@\\_belgium\\_5ab4e8042850e.pdf](https://www.boj.go.th/upload/content/Thailand_Taking_off_to_new_heights_@_belgium_5ab4e8042850e.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> A middle-income trap is commonly defined as a situation in which a country that is successful in lifting its economy from the status of being a least developed or low-income country to a middle-income one but remains at that level without much prospect of becoming a high-income country.

<sup>33</sup> Thailand – World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework, 2019-2022

is unknown. Universal and evidence-based approaches that reach ‘leave no one behind’ at risk populations will also enable those groups to participate in, contribute to and benefit from Thailand’s growth and prosperity. Such challenges in the human capital sectors remain, since critically the Government’s revenue generation is only 21.4 per cent of GDP (SDG 17),<sup>34</sup> which is considerably lower than both the regional average (40.7 per cent) and the average for its income group (30.6 per cent).<sup>35</sup> Thailand invests much less (6.5 per cent of its GDP) in human capital (education, health and social assistance),<sup>36</sup> compared to the 10.7-per-cent regional average.<sup>37</sup>

**Good governance and human rights constitute the enabling environment for advancing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and SDGs (SDG 16).** Thailand’s national and provincial elections in March 2019 and December 2020 were indicative of the direction of the country in its ongoing democratic process. In terms of fundamental rights and effective governance, the country records a mixed performance, on which the Government seeks to improve.<sup>38</sup> The Government has also made a strong commitment to prioritize corruption prevention as evidenced by the 20-year National Strategy and draft 13th NESDP. Furthermore, within Thailand’s complex multi-level system of governance, further decentralization and digitization are among some of the most promising areas of innovation that would yield tangible gains in strengthening an enabling environment and accelerating SDG attainment.

**Thailand is also experiencing a rapid demographic transition.** The steadily declining fertility rate has resulted in a high dependency ratio, effectively shrinking the proportion of working-age people relative to older people.<sup>39</sup> Thailand must find ways to raise productivity (SDG 8), invest in skills development (SDG 4), and further strengthen its healthcare (SDG 3) and social protection systems (SDG 1), such as pensions,<sup>40</sup> and leverage this ‘longevity dividend’.<sup>41</sup> These factors will all impact Thailand’s ability to raise productivity, revenues (SDG 17) and investments in human capital capable of completing the economic transformation (SDG 9) necessary for achieving the SDGs. They also imply that Thailand’s demand for migrant workers will continue based on this demographic transition and in response to increased demand in key sectors including care, infrastructure, agriculture and fishing. In this light, Thailand must continue its efforts towards effective migration governance to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration (SDG 3, 10) and that migrants have access to decent jobs and safe and secure work environments (SDG 3, 8).

#### 1.3.4 Inequalities and leaving no one behind

**Central to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda is the requirement of addressing inequalities and ensuring no one is left behind in Thailand, which requires improved levels of investment and coordination of services in human capital development (SDGs 1, 3 and 10).** Inequalities in Thailand are generated by issues such as access to education, health and sanitation, water resource<sup>42</sup>, clean fuels and financial services, for example, and exacerbated by factors such as geography, socio-economic and legal status, as well as the prevalence of violence against women. These challenges and impediments prevent people from fulfilling their potential and in and of themselves exacerbate inequalities. As noted above, COVID-19 has also exposed and deepened pre-existing structural inequalities across the population. The lack of an effective, coherent and sustained institutional and policy response to inequalities, supported by disaggregated data for evidence-based policy formulation and monitoring, is one of the prime structural causes. The lack of an adequately resourced and coordinated multi-sectoral policy response undermines the realization of human rights, results in the perpetuation of poverty and inequality, and constitutes a significant barrier for social mobility.<sup>43</sup>

**Evidence shows that different groups experience several barriers and multiple deprivations simultaneously, which compounds their impact.**<sup>44</sup> For example, the rural poor includes people with disabilities, children, and from ethnic/linguistic minorities, who face multiple challenges. Similarly, women

34 2018.

35 [https://databank.worldbank.org/data/download/hci/HCI\\_2pager\\_THA.pdf](https://databank.worldbank.org/data/download/hci/HCI_2pager_THA.pdf).

36 Thailand spends 2.9 per cent of its GDP in public spending on health, compared to 4.9 per cent of the regional average. It spends 4.1 per cent of its GDP on public education, versus 4.7 per cent of the regional average. And it spends 0.5 per cent of its GDP on social assistance, compared to an average of 1.1 per cent in the region.

37 Thailand – World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework, 2019-2022.

38 In the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index for 2020, Thailand performs in the lower range in fundamental rights, coming 90th out of 128 countries measured.

39 See Figures 7, 8, 18, 19 and 20 as well as Table 6 in the UNCCA Technical Annex, February 2021.

40 International Labour Organization (ILO), Thailand Decent Work Country Programme, 2019-21, p.19.

41 The longevity dividend is characterized by an accumulation of wealth and savings as older individuals save for consumption in old age and invest in their human capital, especially in health and education.

42 Access to water resource is fundamental to addressing inequality both in the urban and rural settings. SDG 6 is a cross cutting issue of all SDGs.

43 For a more detailed assessment poverty and inequality in Thailand, refer to section Chapter 2: Poverty and Inequalities of the UN CCA, February 2021.

44 Sample Surveys with LNOB groups commissioned by the United Nations in Thailand, October 2020.

and children from lower socio-economic groups, belonging to migrant, refugee or asylum-seeking households, face multiple disadvantages.<sup>45</sup> Furthermore, Thailand's child poverty rate is nearly 13 per cent,<sup>46</sup> with large segments of poor children living in the rural areas of the North and Northeast regions, from the lowest income groups and often from ethnic minority backgrounds. Of concern, stunting and wasting rates among children have also begun to rise (SDG 3). In poorer regions, lower-income people, including minorities, such as those living in hill areas, are also more likely to be discriminated against by the majority of the mainstream population. Human trafficking for sexual or labour exploitation also remains a serious problem in Thailand (SDG 5, 8 and 16). Thailand is tackling this by having amended the law to include clearer definitions of trafficking.

**Recent increases in poverty and persistent inequalities also impede SDG progress and Thailand's leadership in economic growth and poverty reduction (SDGs 1 and 10).** Extreme poverty was reduced to negligible levels between 1986 and 2015, and over a similar period the national poverty rate fell to about 10 per cent in 2014.<sup>47</sup> This equates to more than a third of the population moving out of poverty during this period.<sup>48</sup> However, rates of poverty increased twice in recent years, returning the country back to 2014 levels.<sup>49</sup> This recent increase occurred in almost all provinces, with the majority of poor residing in the North and Northeast, as well as in rural as opposed to urban areas. Furthermore, poverty rates in three of the southern border provinces have remained high at around a third of the population. Meanwhile, Thailand has the highest level of household income inequality among Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries. Inequalities of opportunities and services also occur, such as access to education, clean fuels, sanitation and financial services, with barriers such as geography and socio-economic status, all of which prevent people from fulfilling their potential. These inequalities and barriers, as noted above, have been compounded by the pandemic and exacerbate vulnerabilities among particular population cohorts.

**Various forms of digital divide are apparent in Thailand, which serves as an impediment to SDG acceleration across all sectors, despite mobile-cellular connectivity in Thailand being near universal and the country ranking third in the ASEAN region for fixed broadband subscription (SDGs 9 and 10).** Although internet connectivity (access to internet and mobile devices) covers 98 per cent of Thailand's population, a significant digital divide and varying levels of media and information literacy are observed across income groups, urban/rural populations and regions when accounting for internet access and computer use.<sup>50</sup> For example, nearly six of ten households in the bottom quartile of income distribution had an internet connection in their home compared to eight in the top quartile. Similarly, the percentage of top-quartile households in the provinces with access to a computer was double than the bottom quartile. Similar manifestations of the digital divide also exist in schools, with rural areas, the North and Northeast as well as provinces with lower per capita income being further disadvantaged. In sum, technological poverty compounds disadvantages and inequalities faced by already poor and vulnerable populations. This requires concerted efforts by stakeholders focused on the 2030 Agenda and SDG attainment, which can unlock the potential of all the population for the technology age.

**Thailand's aspiration of accelerating the SDGs depend on achieving greater progress on gender equality (SDG 5).** While women and girls currently tend to achieve better educational outcomes than men and boys, and do not appear to be disadvantaged by access to digital connectivity, these gains do not easily translate into wider societal gains. Clear challenges persist in Thailand arising from women's unequal participation in the political, social, economic, environmental and legal domains, including discrimination and violence against women and girls. The lack of a clear mandate on gender-based violence responses for many government agencies,<sup>51</sup> is an impediment and risk factor to Thailand being able to achieve the SDGs, which cuts across all sectors of the 2030 Agenda. While the Women's Development Strategy 2017-2021 includes protective and corrective measures, a National Plan and Memorandum of Understanding to address gender-based violence is underway, which will address some of these impediments. While there have been gains within the economic sector and in labour market participation (SDG 8), women are still

<sup>45</sup> ESCAP: 'Inequality of opportunity – Who are those left behind in Thailand'.

<sup>46</sup> UNICEF – Multi-dimensional poverty.

<sup>47</sup> From 2013, at approximately US\$6.20 per day based on 2011 PPP.

<sup>48</sup> Thailand – World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework, 2019–2022.

<sup>49</sup> Official figures showed that poverty rates increased both in 2016 and in 2018; Thailand's Poverty on the Rise Amid Slowing Economic Growth (worldbank.org); Taking the Pulse of Poverty and Inequality in Thailand, World Bank, p.7.

<sup>50</sup> See Technical Annex Figure 10.

<sup>51</sup> UN Joint Report: 'Gap Analysis and Needs Assessment of Gender-based Violence Response System in Thailand and Implications for Crisis Responses during COVID-19', Dr. Varaporn Chamsanit et al, January 2021, p 1/2.

underrepresented in politics at all levels.<sup>52</sup> Thailand's gender wage gap has been narrowing over the years, helped partly due to the growing economy and greater improvements in education and skills made by women, but there still remains a factor-weighted pay gap of 10.9 per cent.<sup>53</sup> Concurrently, women remain under-represented in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)-related degree programmes and are predominantly in jobs requiring low STEM skills (SDGs 4 and 8), which are clearly at risk of automation.<sup>54</sup> Regarding indicators to monitor progress from a gender perspective, just over 30 per cent of the gender-specific SDGs have data available, with gaps in key areas such as violence against women and skills in information and communication technology. Addressing these data gaps will be a prerequisite for deepening the understanding of the situation of women and girls in Thailand and achieving gender-related SDG commitments.<sup>55</sup>

**In summary, Thailand has built a foundation for accelerating its progress towards the SDGs but will need to redouble its efforts in respect to human capital development, climate change, biodiversity and the environment, and inequalities, including through its commitment to those populations at greatest risk of being left behind.** As noted above and illustrated immediately below, climate action (SDG 3, 13) and the environmental SDGs (3, 14 and 15) need the most deliberate attention. Transformation of the education and skills sector (SDGs 4 and 8) to produce quality outcomes is central to the Government's aims of effecting economic transformation and increased productivity. More broadly, inclusiveness through education, education for sustainable development, global citizenship education and lifelong learning are all important for balanced, resilient and changing societies. Reducing inequalities (SDG 10), alongside focusing efforts on reducing stunting and wasting (SDG 2), are also primary concerns.

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52 Women account for only 23.9 per cent of high-ranking civil servants, and gender equality in senior leadership positions has risen by just 3 per cent in the last 15 years. The results of the general election in 2019 show a three-fold increase in women's representation as Members of Parliament increased from 5.4 per cent in January 2019 to 16.2 per cent. This is despite progress made in the Constitution of Thailand B.E. 2560 stipulating that gender balance must be considered in preparing party lists of MP candidates. The national percentage remains lower than the average of women MPs in Asia (20.5 per cent), the Pacific (16.6 per cent) and the Middle East and North Africa (17.5 per cent), as well as far below the global average of 24.9 per cent.

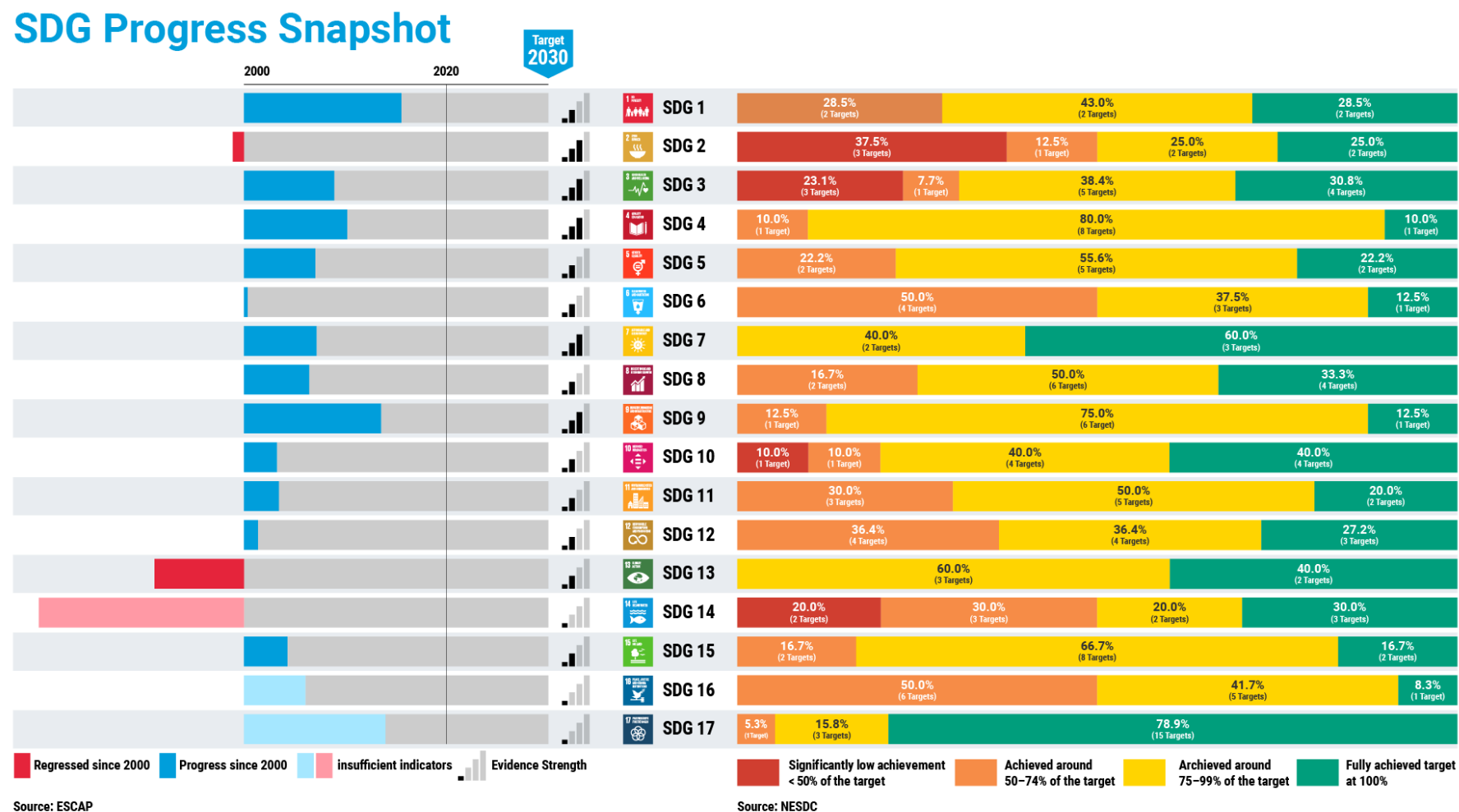
53 ILO, Global Wage Report, 2018/2019:

([https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/multimedia/maps-and-charts/enhanced/WCMS\\_650829/lang-en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/multimedia/maps-and-charts/enhanced/WCMS_650829/lang-en/index.htm)).

54 ILO, Women in STEM workforce readiness and development programme in Thailand, 2020:

[https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms\\_673419.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_673419.pdf).

55 <https://data.unwomen.org/country/thailand>

Figure 1. SDG progress snapshot using UN and Government of Thailand<sup>56</sup> data

<sup>56</sup> ESCAP data. More information on the progress assessment methodology, national SDG data and definitions of indicators are available on Asia-Pacific SDG Gateway (<https://data.unescap.org/>). NESDC 'Executive Summary' Report, June 2021



## CHAPTER 2: UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO THE 2030 AGENDA

The UNSDCF articulates the UN development system's support for Thailand's strong commitment to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, and its ambition to become a high-income, inclusive, sustainable, resilient and advanced nation.

Guided by the UN principles of Leave No One Behind, human rights, gender equality, sustainability and resilience, the UNSDCF is closely aligned to Thailand's 20-Year National Strategy and the draft 13th NESDP. Thailand has made progress and is positioned to accelerate work towards the objectives of the transformative 2030 Agenda by addressing some of the more complex and interconnected development challenges. This becomes even more pertinent as the country begins the process of recovery from the deep impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, necessitating the UNSDCF to promote digitalization and efforts to preserve environmental gains.

The UNSDCF will also contribute to Thailand's efforts in advancing the 'Bio-Circular-Green Economy' model, as the post-COVID-19 transformative pathway towards building back better and stronger. In line with the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, the Bio-Circular-Green Economy model prioritizes a development path that is more balanced, resilient and sustainable, while being environmentally and climate responsive. The vulnerable groups consulted included women, the LGBTI community, young people, ethnic groups, migrants, persons with disabilities, the elderly and refugees (see Figure 2).

### 2.1 Cooperation Framework stakeholder consultation process

The UN Thailand, MFA and NESDC led an extensive stakeholder consultation process during the design of the Cooperation Framework.

The overarching objective of the consultations was to ensure that diverse stakeholders inform the discussion on Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and focus areas, with a specific emphasis on the UN's contribution and value add in supporting the Government to advance the SDGs while leaving no one behind.

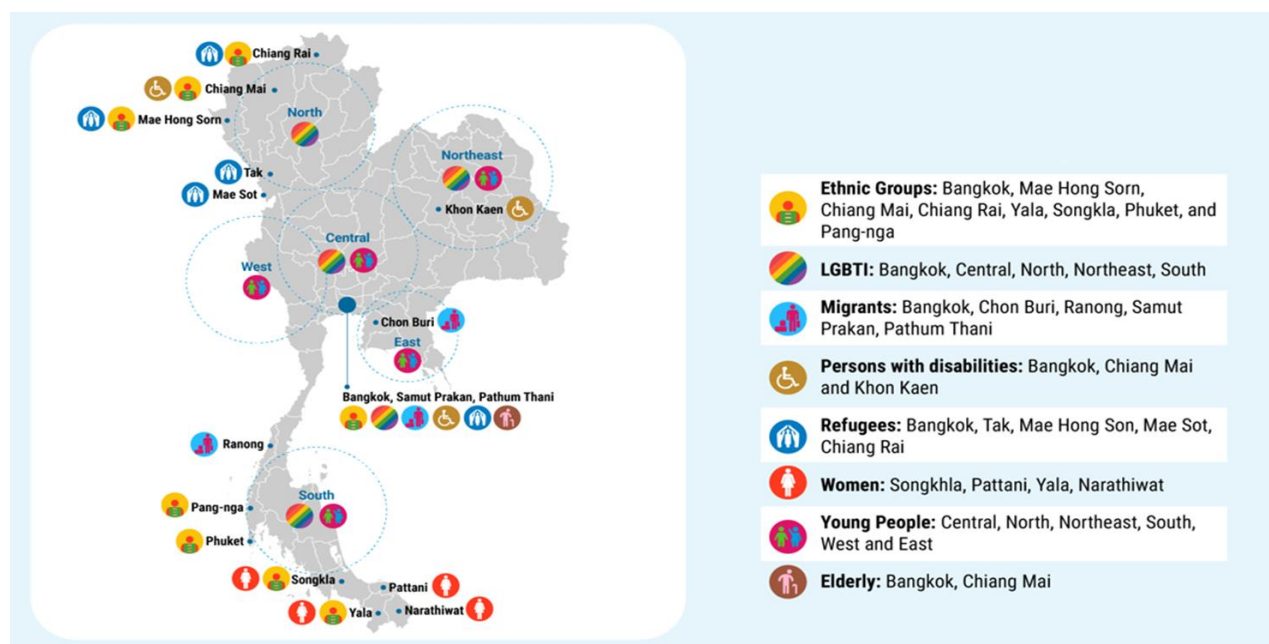
To ensure a participatory, inclusive and iterative process, the consultations included dialogues and focus group discussions with a range of stakeholders. The consultations adopted the use of digital tools, polling and social media platforms for wider outreach.

The consultation process was both targeted and wide reaching, leveraging system-wide resources as well as innovative approaches, including the following six strategies:

1. Focused consultations with line ministries co-led by the MFA, NESDC and UN Country Team (UNCT).
2. Multi-stakeholder dialogues with the private sector, parliament, civil society, and academia co-led by the MFA, NESDC and UNCT.
3. Public consultations through nationally representative polling in partnership with the National Institute of Development Administration with a focus on the UN's value proposition to advance the SDGs and assess UN and SDG awareness.
4. Consultation through social media and online platforms through a social media campaign to raise awareness of the Cooperation Framework and assess the UN's value add led by the UN Communications Group using UN social media accounts.
5. Capitalize on recently held consultations and polls with targeted groups to extrapolate data, including with the SDGs Youth Panel and on the draft 13th NESDP facilitated by UNICEF in 2021; My World and UN75 survey of 2020; the leaving no one behind (LNOB) survey and focus group discussions led by UNCT in 2020; and the findings of the People's Climate Vote led by UNDP in 2020.

6. Leverage the consultations led by the 11 UN agencies in developing their Country Programme Documents.<sup>57</sup>

**Figure 2. Stakeholder consultations with vulnerable groups**



The resulting feedback from each consultation was used to validate and inform the strategic direction of the Cooperation Framework per each of the three Outcomes and focus areas, with important adjustments made. The resulting consultation summaries were published on the UN Thailand website.<sup>58</sup>

## 2.2 UNSDCF alignment with NESDP priorities

Based on the above consultations and a detailed analysis of the country context, the UN has identified three strategic outcomes aligned with the four national priorities of the draft 13th NESDP. These three outcomes in turn contribute to 12 of the Government's 13 milestones contained in the draft 13th NESDP.<sup>59</sup> These three strategic outcomes are underpinned by six focus areas in which UN agencies will collaborate with the Government and development partners to support the country achieve specific results that contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

The three risk-informed outcomes for consideration are critical for advancing the SDGs around which the UN is best placed to leverage its comparative advantages:

- **Outcome One:** Thailand's transformation into an inclusive economy based on a green, resilient, low-carbon, sustainable development is accelerated.
- **Outcome Two:** Human capital needed for social and inclusive development is improved through strengthening of institutions, partnerships and the empowerment of people.
- **Outcome Three:** People living in Thailand, especially those at risk of being left furthest behind, are able to participate in and benefit from development, free from all forms of discrimination.

<sup>57</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), ILO, International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and World Health Organization (WHO).

<sup>58</sup> <http://thailand.un.org>

<sup>59</sup> Milestone 1 - high value agriculture; Milestone 2 - value tourism; Milestone 3: electric vehicles; Milestone 4 - comprehensive medical and health services; Milestone 5: regional logistics hub; Milestone 6 - smart electronic and digital services; Milestone 7 - sustainably growing social/local enterprise; Milestone 8 - modern and liveable cities; Milestone 9 - lower intergenerational poverty and adequate social protection; Milestone 10 - circular economy and low-carbon society; Milestone 11 - natural disaster and climate change impact mitigation; Milestone 12 - high-skill workers to serve market demands; Milestone 13 - high-efficiency public sector.

The first outcome will contribute to two of the NESDP strategic priorities dealing with high value-added green economy and eco-friendly living. The second outcome will contribute to the NESDP strategic priority dealing with key enablers for Thailand's transformation. The third outcome will contribute to the NESDP strategic priority dealing with a high opportunity society.

## 2.3 Realization of Thailand's vision of national development and attainment of the SDGs

Realization of Thailand's vision of national development and attainment of the SDGs entails transformational rather than incremental change, as acknowledged in the draft 13th NESDP. It recognizes the closely interconnected nature of the 2030 Agenda across its various social, economic and environmental dimensions with good governance and human rights providing the foundation for transformative, inclusive and resilient development to be achieved.

For Thailand to advance into higher value-added sectors based on low carbon, environmentally sustainable and inclusive growth requires a bold policy shift that is integrated, accompanied by a significant change in policy implementation. A major uptick in public and private investment is needed in Industry 4.0 enablers, including digitization, innovation and associated technologies (automation, AI, the internet of things, fintech, blockchain, etc.) to increase productivity and transformation across the NESDP prioritized sectors. This must be accompanied by increased investment in quality human capital via equitable education, skills and labour market development, universal healthcare services and adequate social welfare provision.

Maintaining predictable conditions for vibrant private enterprise and a flourishing civil society can only be fully secured by accountable, transparent and good governance arrangements offering institutional integrity based on the rule of law and human rights in accordance with international standards and norms to which Thailand is party.<sup>60</sup> Parliament, also serves as an important national platform to facilitate public dialogue on national development priorities with relevant stakeholders. Public services must match the levels of innovation, digital and technology drivers of Industry 4.0 to significantly improve the quality of service delivery.

The ultimate measure of performance will be gauged by the impact in reducing Thailand's multi-dimensional poverty rate and underlying inequalities, for example through social protection schemes to enable all people to participate in and benefit from development, and to ensure that no one in Thailand is left behind. Specific policies and development solutions are required to tap the unrealized potential that exists in the informal sector, through facilitating access and transition to opportunities for young people and women, and in reinforcing migrant workers' rights in a modern, inclusive and progressive society, economy and democracy.

These key processes of change require an unprecedented commitment to working in partnership with the private sector, parliament, civil society and academia, including the leverage and pursuit of new and innovative financing strategies. This should extend to a whole-of-society approach in which all institutions, communities and individuals exercise their combined agency in enabling Thailand's ambition to achieve the SDGs.

## 2.4 Comparative advantages of the UN

The UN will support Thailand in the fulfilment of its vision for transformative high value economic, human and sustainable development by drawing on its global reach and capabilities. The UN is at the forefront of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and uniquely placed to support the Government to leverage the opportunities arising from the range of development inspired by human rights-based treaties and conventions to which the country is party to promote inclusive social and economic development. In seeking to implement this normative framework of global best practice, the UN will draw on global good practices and facilitate South-South and Triangular Cooperation through high quality flagship programmes

<sup>60</sup> 1. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) - ratified; 2. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) - ratified; 3. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) - ratified; 4. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) - ratified, and its Optional Protocol; 5. Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) - ratified; 6. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) acceded and its three Protocols - Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography; Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict; Optional Protocol to the CRC on a Communication Procedure; 7. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) - ratified, and its Optional Protocol; 8. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICMW); 9. International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED) - signed.

in each of the Outcome areas for advancing the SDGs through transfer of technical knowledge and adaptation of scalable development solutions. The UN can be depended upon as a provider of cutting-edge integrated policy support and technical assistance to build forward sustainably with a focus on enhancing productivity and balancing environmental impacts. This will be achieved by harnessing real-time big-data analytics and science to tackle some of Thailand's most pressing development challenges, such as climate change, inequalities, demographic dynamics and the digital divide, for example by utilizing chemical fingerprinting and satellite imagery for understanding air pollution, and in the secondment of technical advisory skills such as in the area of social protection.<sup>61</sup> The UN and its agencies work closely with populations at risk of being left behind and are well placed to both support and partner with these groups as well as the broader civil society. The UN is also well placed to co-create platforms and partnerships that support innovation, digitization and foresight with the private sector, civil society and young people. These endeavours help to reinforce Thailand's position as a pioneer of sustainable development solutions across the ASEAN region and within global platforms convened by the UN.

## 2.5 Strategic priorities, outcomes and focus areas of the UNSDCF

### Outcome One: Thailand's transformation into an inclusive economy based on green, resilient, low-carbon, sustainable development is accelerated.

The first strategic outcome that is being considered contributes to the NESDP priorities aiming at a high value-added and green economy premised on principles of eco-friendly living to support climate action, biodiversity conservation and disaster management. To focus the UN's support towards the attainment of this outcome, the UN will collaborate with the Government and development partners to deliver on the following two focus areas, which contributes to ten of the milestones prioritised in the draft 13th plan.<sup>62</sup>



**UN Focus Areas:** Support inclusive and sustainable economic growth premised on Thailand's bio-circular-green model.

- Facilitate technology transfer and sharing of nature-based solutions to reduce emissions and create green jobs.
- Incorporate responsible business practices, human rights, gender equality, environmentally sound technologies, decent work, and promote a conducive business environment for SMEs.
- Promote ecological and biodiversity-based sustainable and cultural tourism.
- Promote policy solutions, green technologies, low emission mobility, as well as circular economy practices for regenerative economy, climate resilient agriculture, as well as sustainable food production and livelihoods.
- Accelerate adoption of the UNs sustainable and responsible banking, investment, and insurance principles to advance their contribution to the target of net zero emissions.

**UN Focus Areas:** Enable and strengthen capacities for low carbon society, resilience and disaster recovery with capability to adapt to and reduce the risks of disasters.

- Facilitate new partnerships for energy transition, renewables, bio-circular, blue, and green economy.
- Conservation and protection of biodiversity scaled up.
- Improve waste management and reduce pollution through evidence generation and partnerships to find sustainable and nature-based solutions to biomass burning, ocean debris, chemical toxic waste etc.
- Strengthen community resilience and marine ecosystems through adaptation, mitigation, and disaster risk reduction.

<sup>61</sup> The Social Security Office Thailand funded the post of an actuarial expert for ILO who is working with the SSO and ILO .

<sup>62</sup> Milestones of the draft 13th NESDP supported under UNSDCF Outcome One: Milestone 1 - high value agriculture; Milestone 2 - value tourism; Milestone 3: electric vehicles; Milestone 7 - sustainably growing social/local enterprise; Milestone 8 - modern and liveable cities; Milestone 9 - lower intergenerational poverty and adequate social protection; Milestone 10 - circular economy and low-carbon society; Milestone 11 - natural disaster and climate change impact mitigation; Milestone 12 - high-skill workers to serve market demands; Milestone 13 - high-efficiency public sector.

*UN focus area: Support inclusive and sustainable economic growth premised on Thailand's bio-circular-green model.*<sup>63</sup>

In its convener role, the UN will facilitate dialogues, co-create platforms, leverage partnerships and support trade and investment initiatives<sup>64</sup> with the Government and the private sector including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). For example, with the Global Compact Network Thailand (GCNT),<sup>65</sup> it will accelerate the global collective impact of business by upholding the ten principles of the Global Compact.<sup>66</sup> This contributes to delivering the SDGs through companies committed to responsible business practices and promotes ecosystems that enable positive change, including through digitization. The UN will promote a conducive business environment for MSMEs to participate in the Bio-Circular Green (BCG) market, supporting increased capacity for BCG innovation and low-carbon technology development in the process. Working with business associations such as the Federation of Thai Industries, the UN will support green solutions including eco-design, resource switching and waste exchange. The UN and private sector engagement will seek to make markets work for the SDGs, with an emphasis on gender equality and inclusion of poor and marginalized communities. The UN will also work with partners to identify and reduce inequalities that may arise from the transition to a low-carbon economy (SDGs 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16 and 17).

Working within the broad scope of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,<sup>67</sup> Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, the UN will support the Government with integrated policy and technical advice on green financing. This will include partnering to scale up responsible banking, investment and insurance principles to support the advancement of the net-zero emission targets and safeguarding natural resources. The UN will make available tools, methodologies and solutions that aim to bridge the bio-circular-green economy investment gap, including strengthening data collection systems for better design of green economy and GHG reductions (SDGs 9, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17).

The UN will work to connect with relevant initiatives on the bio-circular-green economy, including supporting market mechanisms that incentivizes environmentally friendly products and services to enable

<sup>63</sup> Supporting draft 13th NESDP Milestones 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13.

<sup>64</sup> This may include developing infrastructure, international standards, and a traceability system to create an environment conducive to trade and investment in the BCG field

<sup>65</sup> <https://thailand.un.org/index.php/en/90764-global-compact-network-thailand-unites-public-private-partnership-declaration-commitment-lead>

<sup>66</sup> Derived from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the ILO's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, the Global Compact's Ten Principles are a universal framework for corporate sustainability and responsible business practice.

<sup>67</sup> <https://unfccc.int/>



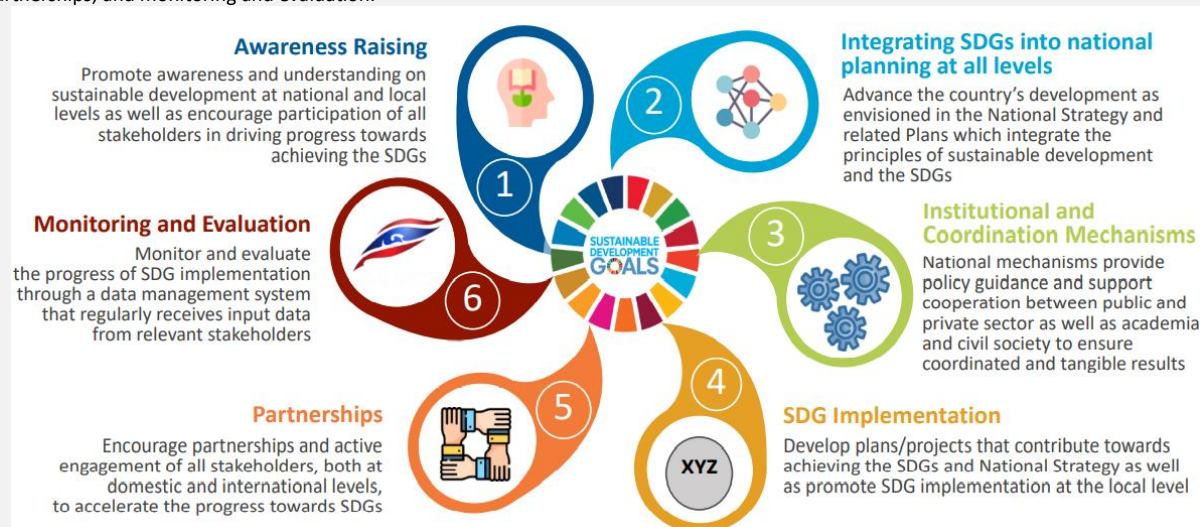
the government's Bio-Circular Green Economic Model as well as the SDGs. The UN will leverage its knowledge networks and technical expertise to support Thailand in its efforts to accelerate a reduction in GHG towards net zero emissions to narrow the global emissions gap<sup>68</sup> with a focus on low-carbon mobility, material recycling and application of digital technologies as well as circular economy practices to encourage the regenerative economy by design. This will also entail promotion of green skills and jobs, as well as

#### Box 1 The SDGs within Thailand's National Policy Framework

Since the launch of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Thailand has stressed the importance of and has continued to press ahead with implementation of the SDGs, despite the setback of the COVID-19 pandemic. The country has integrated the 17 Goals into the 20-Year National Strategy (2017-2036) for realization of the vision of 'Thailand as a developed country with security, prosperity and sustainability'. The Framework of the 13th NESDP (2023-2027) revolves around four priority areas key components which are aligned with the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy: i) Transformation to a High-Value Added and Sustainable Thailand; ii) High Opportunity Society; iii) Eco-Friendly Living; and iv) Key Enablers for Thailand's Transformation, as illustrated below.



Thailand's ambition to become a **High Value-Added and Green Economy** utilizes knowledge, creativity, technology and innovation while minimizing negative impacts on the environment. Aspirations towards a **High Opportunity Society** entails everyone having equal opportunity to improve their economic and social status, and participate in and benefit from equitable economic growth, including access to quality public services that reduce inequalities and reach populations at risk of being 'left behind'. All sectors of society should have lifestyles and economic activities that can contribute to **Eco-Friendly Living** and the sustainability of natural resources, ecosystems and climate, including protection from shocks and freedom from sources and forms of pollution. The **Key Enablers for Thailand's Transformation** depend on human resource development mechanisms (education system, skills development and shifting the workforce to more high value-added sectors) and to public administration mechanisms (regulations, laws, budgeting systems, infrastructure, public services, etc.) Thailand's SDG Roadmap provides the blueprint to move forward in six key areas: awareness raising; policy integration and coherence; enabling mechanisms; implementation; partnerships; and monitoring and evaluation.



cleaner energy. The UN will support nationwide and sector specific awareness-raising campaigns and initiatives that advocate for environmentally friendly production and consumption. In addition, the UN will

<sup>68</sup> <https://www.unep.org/emissions-gap-report-2020>



continue to support Thailand to deliver on its Nationally Determined Contributions as well as in the implementation of its National Adaptation Plan and Climate Change Master Plan (SDGs 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 16).

The UN will support Thailand across the integrated range of prosperity, sustainability and inclusion challenges, to advance sound ecological and biodiversity-based sustainable and cultural tourism through partnership with government, the private sector and local communities.<sup>69</sup> Thailand has long occupied a prominent place in global tourism and is now at a pivotal opportunity to redefine its competitive edge by using tourism as a global showcase on how to affect a transformation of its economic model based on green and inclusion principles, signalling leadership in the environmental domain.<sup>70</sup> The UN will provide integrated support for Thailand's post-COVID green recovery drawing on good practices to build forward sustainably with a focus on enhancing productivity and balancing environmental impacts. In addition, support will be extended to support preservation of Thailand's Biosphere Reserves, natural and cultural heritage, and further advance environmental protection and biodiversity conservation both on land and under water (SDGs 3, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15 and 16).

The UN will take a holistic view of the agricultural and food systems in ensuring food security and food safety. This entails the provision of support grounded in green agricultural extension technologies; food loss and waste reduction; low emissions strategies including logistics, organic farming and exports; gender-sensitive circular economy practices; and natural resource management including water, marine, forests, mangroves, etc.; and climate resilient agriculture for sustainable and nutritious food production and livelihoods (SDGs 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 15, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15).

*UN focus area: Enable and strengthen capacities for low carbon society, resilience and disaster recovery with capability to adapt to and reduce the risks of disasters.<sup>71</sup>*

The UN will partner with Government to champion the greenhouse gas emission reduction of Thailand's economy through integrated policy implementation, technical assistance and advisory services, including for strengthened data and information collection systems in response to the UN Secretary-General's call for 'all leaders worldwide to declare a state of climate emergency in their countries'<sup>72</sup> (SDG 13).

In step with the Government's aspirations to shift towards eco-friendly living and ensure the sustainability of natural resources, ecosystems and the climate, the UN will prioritize conservation for biodiversity through public, private and community-based partnerships aligned to the Convention on Biological Diversity.<sup>73</sup> Biodiversity will be a key area of focus and the UN will remain an active partner in supporting the implementation of the National Master Plan for Integrated Biodiversity Management, the National Biodiversity Finance Plan and the nature-based solutions initiative. The UN will offer its expertise to policymakers in the public and private sectors to test and consider the inclusion of health and productivity of ecosystems in their economic decision-making (SDGs 3, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17).

The UN will step up collaboration through technical assistance to support a reduction in all forms of pollution (air, water and land) and promote an improvement in waste management policies and practices through circular economy practices. A diversity of partnerships, including through international cooperation where required, to support innovation and co-creation to reduce, reuse and to find sustainable and nature-based solutions to biomass burning, ocean debris, and chemical and toxic wastes (SDGs 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17).

The UN will continue to strengthen national, sub-national, and community institutions and systems for disaster risk reduction. This includes resilience through adaptation, mitigation and preparedness through policies and practices that are inclusive and gender-sensitive, including through multi-hazard risk assessments, disaster risk reduction planning, and real-time disaster monitoring through big data sources

<sup>69</sup> SDG 8.9: By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism which creates jobs, promotes local culture and products.

<sup>70</sup> SDG 12.b: Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.

<sup>71</sup> Supporting draft 13th NESDP milestones 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13.

<sup>72</sup> <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2020-12-12/secretary-generals-remarks-the-climate-ambition-summit-bilingual-delivered-scroll-down-for-all-english-version>

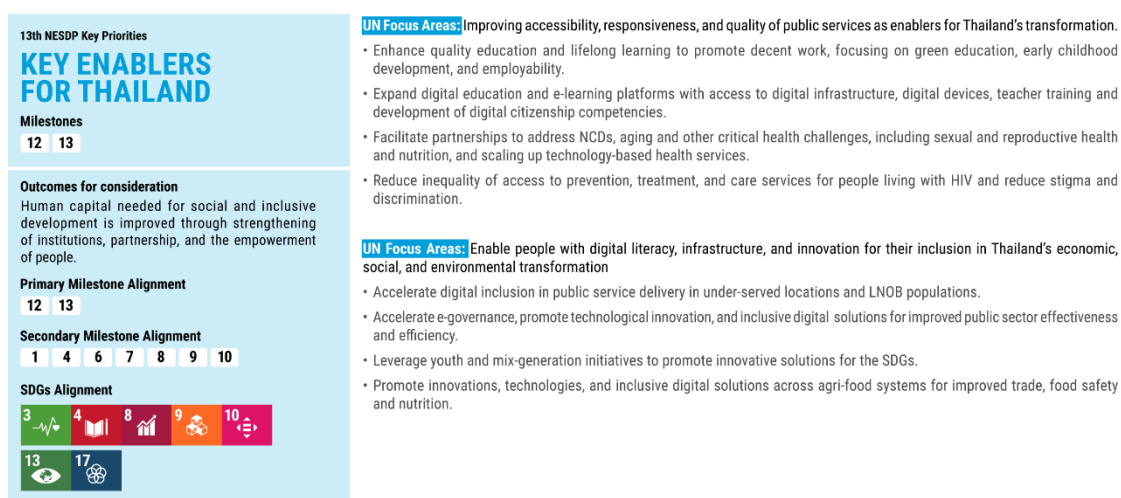
<sup>73</sup> The international legal instrument for 'the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources' that has been ratified by 196 nations. The Convention on Biological Diversity covers biodiversity at all levels: ecosystems, species and genetic resources. It also covers biotechnology, including through the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and all domains that are directly or indirectly related to biodiversity and its role in development, ranging from science, politics and education to agriculture, business, culture and more.

and analytics. The UN will also support sustainable and smart liveable cities by showcasing regional and global best practices. Particular attention will be paid to increasing resilience to climate change impact in the marine and coastal areas along the Gulf of Thailand (SDGs 5, 9, 11, 13, 16 and 17).

The UN will support research and knowledge-sharing on the mobility, and particular attention will be paid to the gender implications of research findings (SDG 1, 3, 5, 10 and 13).

## Outcome Two: Human capital needed for social and inclusive development is improved through strengthening of institutions, partnerships and the empowerment of people.

The second strategic outcome for consideration contributes to the NESDP priorities enhancing Thailand's human capital. The underlying premise is that people represent the true wealth of the nation. A healthy, well-educated and skilled population, evidenced through the high human development index and based on the foundation of being able to access and exercise human rights, is a good in itself. It will act as a catalyst that drives the transformation of Thailand. The enabling environment for such a transformation is also dependent on the ability of public institutions, systems and services to successfully frame and implement a coherent integrated policy framework, based on principles of equity, accountability, transparency and efficiency. To affect such a change and achieve the impact required, public services need to concentrate on measures that drive standards and outcomes upwards through a focus on quality improvement. To focus the UN's support on the attainment of this outcome, the UN will collaborate with the Government and development partners including civil society, businesses and communities to prioritize two focus areas, which contribute to eight of the milestones prioritized in the draft 13th Plan.<sup>74</sup>



*UN focus area: Improving accessibility, responsiveness and quality of public services as enablers for Thailand's transformation.*<sup>75</sup>

The SDG 4 education agenda will be actively promoted as a human right and a driver of human capital transformation and sustainable development. The UN will partner with the government to invest in strengthening early childhood development; accelerate the ongoing education reforms to better align the education systems for improved and equitable learning and attainment of 21st century skills for all children; and facilitate effective school to work or higher education transitions. This will include access to affordable and quality technical and vocational education, including university education. In accordance with these objectives, the UN will pursue education technology and digital learning as key strategies and support the Government in its efforts to close the digital gap by supporting digital education for schools through innovative demonstration interventions and also enabling sufficient, dependable, high-quality access to e-

<sup>74</sup> Milestones of the draft 13th NESDP supported under UNSDCF Outcome Two: Milestone 1 - high value agriculture; Milestone 4 - comprehensive medical and health services; Milestone 6 - smart electronic and digital services; Milestone 7 - sustainably growing social/local enterprise; Milestone 8 - modern and liveable cities ; Milestone 9 - lower intergenerational poverty and adequate social protection; Milestone 10 - circular economy and low-carbon society; Milestone 12 - high-skill workers to serve market demands; Milestone 13 - high-efficiency public sector.

<sup>75</sup> Supporting draft 13th NESDP milestones 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13.

learning platforms, including connectivity and digital devices, and appropriate teacher training (SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5 and 8).

The UN will work comprehensively to support the Government, private sector and civil society to strengthen linkages and the transition between education and training and labour market institutions, systems and policies for lifelong learning as well as business and human rights. The agenda of decent work for women and men, regardless of their nationality and status in Thailand, will be pursued based on full and productive employment, including equal pay for work of equal value, and ensuring improved transitions to decent work over the life course. The UN will continue to support initiatives to improve employability for migrant workers through public-private cooperation, and regional collaboration on skills development and portability (SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 16 and 17).

The UN aims to address the structural problems and root causes of development challenges. It will pay particular attention to policies and programme that secure inclusiveness, gender equality, empowerment and employability, including for young people, especially those not in education, employment and training, persons with disabilities, migrants and other LNOB groups. The UN will continue to champion initiatives targeted to leave no one behind by piloting the use of blockchain technology for initiatives targeting migrants and disadvantaged children (SDGs 1, 4, 9 and 10).

Prioritizing nationwide investment in health, education and skills development will bridge the gap between the population's skills and the demands of an advanced 21st century society. High quality and relevant skills, entailing social, emotional, creative and intellectual capabilities, are essential for accomplishing the Government's high capital and green revolution ambitions within the key sectors identified in the draft 13th NESDP.<sup>76</sup> The UN will support the acceleration of efforts to magnify the importance of green education and green enterprise for students and adults that promote decent and sustainable jobs (SDGs 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9).

The UN will continue to cooperate closely with the Government in the facilitation of partnerships to address Thailand's most prominent health challenges. This includes but is not limited to non-communicable diseases across the life cycle, age-related illnesses, sexual and reproductive health, mental health and nutrition. The UN will leverage its global network to support the Government with innovation for technology-based solutions to deliver quality and inclusive health services, such as the promotion of telemedicine. The UN will also continue to bring together public health and border and mobility management to ensure border security and mitigated risk to public health. The UN will collaborate with Thailand on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. It will continue its work on reducing inequalities of access to essential health services to accelerate a comprehensive package of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) prevention, testing, treatment and care for people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV as well as ending TB by 2030. This includes expanding community and key population-led systems for health and promoting community health workers. The UN will continue supporting the integration of HIV and TB related services as part of universal health coverage, including promoting enabling factors that tackle stigma and discrimination (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 10 and 17).

The UN will continue to support the government to strengthen its integrated child protective services for the prevention, detection and response to all forms of violence in various settings for all children in Thailand and to address barriers to protection and service posed by legal identity challenges. The UN will also seek to address the social norms that permit tolerance of violence against children in communities (SDGs 1, 3, 5, 10 and 16).

***UN focus area: Enable people with digital literacy, infrastructure and innovation for their inclusion in Thailand's economic, social and environmental transformation.<sup>77</sup>***

The UN will support the Government to address a range of new and interconnected opportunities available through e-governance, e-services, digital transformation and digital solutions needed to succeed in the 21st century. Leveraging and connecting to insights generated from other country experiences, including the ethical and human rights-based aspects of data protection and usage, the UN will draw on a rapidly accumulating bank of expertise to support Thailand's digitally enabled economic, social and environmental

<sup>76</sup> This includes agricultural and food products, tourism, electric vehicle manufacturing, health services, electrical manufacturing and digital services, alongside Thailand consolidating its position as a world-class regional and global logistics hub.

<sup>77</sup> Supporting draft 13th NESDP milestones 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12 and 13.

transformation, including through smart cities approaches. Adopting innovative technologies and digital solutions will be a key driver to build back better, transition to a green economy and accelerate the SDGs (SDGs 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 16).

Similarly, COVID-19 exposed the digital divide across all aspects of society. This digital gap could, if not consciously addressed, contribute to exacerbating pre-existing socio-economic inequalities. The UN will consider the implications and opportunities provided by digital solutions for greater inclusion and sustainability across all interventions. To this end, the UN will support the acceleration of digital inclusion and technological solutions to help drive the reform in reaching and responding to the needs of underserved locations and LNOB populations. This includes access to digitalized platforms by LNOB at risk groups in respect to languages, culture and accessibility for persons with disabilities (SDGs 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 and 16).

The UN will partner with young people and leverage inter-generational initiatives that promote and scale up people-centred and innovative solutions for the SDGs as a strategy for strengthening participation and resilience, social cohesion and youth employment, in line with the Youth 2030 Strategy, the global strategy for youth employment and the Global Jobs Pact<sup>78</sup> (SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 16 and 17).

The UN will partner with the Government and the ecosystem of actors including SMEs, farmers, smallholders, cooperatives and rural communities to promote integrated policy, technical and digital solutions for rural transformation, which will be scaled up through South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Interventions will also empower the rural poor and Thailand's ethnic minorities as agents of change (SDGs 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16 and 17).

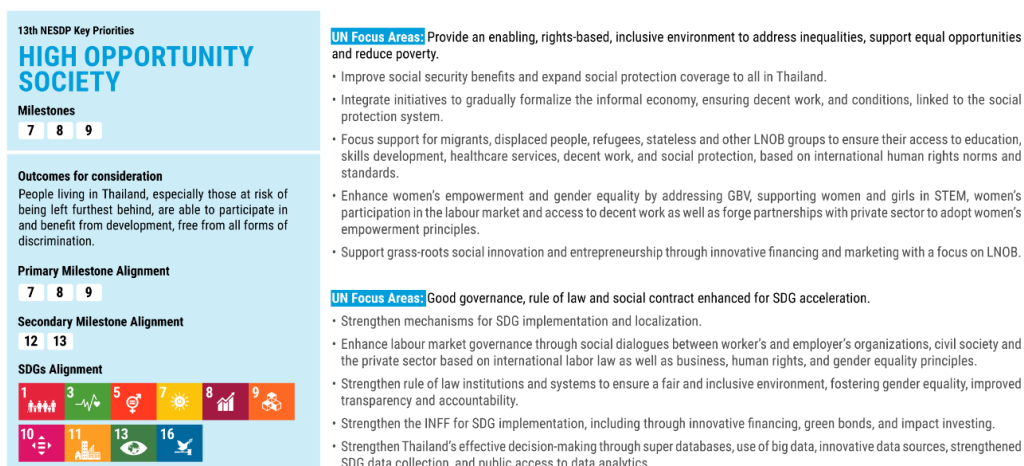
### **Outcome Three: People living in Thailand, especially those at risk of being left furthest behind, are able to participate in and benefit from development, free from all forms of discrimination.**

The aspiration to leave no one behind is the touchstone of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Women and LGBTI people in particular lag behind their male counterparts across much of Thailand's social, economic and political life. The energy and dynamism of young people will play a key role in catalysing Thailand's enterprising culture in the post-COVID-19 landscape. Equally, older people should experience healthy and active aging, as Thailand is an aging society. Ethnic populations and people living in rural and remote areas should have equal opportunity to those residing in urban areas. Evidence consistently shows the criminalization, stigma, discrimination and other human rights violations towards people infected and affected by HIV reduce service uptake and increasing HIV infection. As already noted, the digital divide, nationality as well as status can hold populations back from benefitting and contributing towards Thailand's collective development journey. In short, where barriers to inclusion and development exist, they need to be systematically dismantled and replaced with enabling opportunities and services.

To focus UN's responsibility to support and uphold rights and ensure equality of opportunity, the UN will collaborate with the Government and development partners to focus on two areas, which contribute to four of the milestones prioritised in the draft 13th Plan.<sup>79</sup>

<sup>78</sup> Global Jobs Pact of the ILO.

<sup>79</sup> Milestones of the draft 13th NESDP supported under UNSDCF Outcome Three: Milestone 7 - sustainably growing social/local enterprise; 8 - modern and liveable cities; Milestone 9 - lower intergenerational poverty and adequate social protection; Milestone 12 - high-skill workers to serve market demands; Milestone 13 - high-efficiency public sector.



*UN focus area: Provide an enabling, rights-based, inclusive environment to address inequalities, support equal opportunities and reduce poverty.<sup>80</sup>*

The UN will support Thailand's efforts at the national and sub-national levels to make its social protection systems and schemes universal, inclusive and coordinated, and better targeted to reach the farthest first. This includes expanding coverage to all workers, including informal workers, migrant workers, and especially those at greatest risk of being left further behind. It will also entail support for analysis and policy recommendations that seek to address issues of high levels of household debt, especially among the most vulnerable. (SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 16).

The UN will also work more intensively with the government, the private sector and industry associations on initiatives targeted towards financial inclusion for SMEs and the gradual formalization of the informal economy. The UN will draw on contextually appropriate good practices from across the region to affect a shift towards decent work and conditions, including the provision of social security benefits, linked more integrally to Thailand's progressive social protection system and which in turn supports the movement of labour to high-productivity sectors. . The UN will assist policies and initiatives that skill-up informal workers, self-employed workers, and students who have dropped out of school during the Covid-19 crisis (SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 16).

The UN will support a whole-government and society approach to eliminate all forms of stigma and discrimination that contribute to inequalities in the HIV and TB response, adversely impacting on people living with and affected by HIV and TB. This will be accomplished through creation of an enabling legal environment that removes punitive and discriminatory laws and policies, including laws that criminalize key populations such as sex workers, transgender people, drug users, people in closed settings and people in same-sex relationships. There will be increasing access to justice and protections for labour rights so that that people living with HIV and key populations enjoy the opportunity for full and productive employment (SDGs 3, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 16) and freedom from discrimination.

The UN will entail extending priority consideration for women's full and equal participation. In this respect, the UN will prioritize support for women and girls across all sectors, and specifically as valued and skilled workers in STEM as a vital enabler to Thailand's aspiration for a high-value, inclusive and sustainable economy. The UN will facilitate partnerships with the private sector and media to adopt women's empowerment principles, incentives and practices. Not least, the UN will work with all partners and at all levels to address the degrading scourge of gender-based violence (SDGs 5, 8, 9, 10 and 16).

In accordance with Thailand's strong commitment to growing a flourishing culture of local social enterprise and to lowering inter-generation poverty,<sup>81</sup> the UN will support efforts to cultivate an enabling environment for community-based social innovation and entrepreneurship. The UN will continue to champion its partnership with the private sector on business regarding human rights, labour rights and migrants' rights., This will be accompanied by enhanced partnerships that promote innovative financing and marketing with a particular focus on LNOB at-risk groups and communities. This is aligned with the Sufficiency Economy

<sup>80</sup> Supporting draft 13th NESDP milestones 7, 9, 12 and 13.

<sup>81</sup> Key areas of focus of the 13th NESDP strategy to promote a high opportunity society.



Philosophy, in which Thailand's homegrown development approach and way of life aims at building sustainable, resilient and inclusive communities (SDGs 1, 5, 8, 9, 10 and 11).

Given the significance of cross-border migration in the region and its importance to Thailand's economy, the UN will support the Government in better ensuring access for migrants to education, skills development, ethical recruitment and decent work, child protection, and social protection by sharing good practices, providing technical support and enhancing capacity of key stakeholders. In addition, the UN will support the Government to implement alternatives to detention to ensure the rights of vulnerable migrants and displaced persons, refugees and asylum seekers are protected based on international human rights norms and standards (SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 16).

The UN will continue to engage with the Government and provide mechanisms for international cooperation across a range of development and humanitarian issues, including those related to stateless persons, displaced persons and refugees. For example, the National Screening Mechanism will serve to identify those in need of international protection, while the UN will continue to support the Government through technical advice, capacity-building, and participating and contributing to the work of the Steering Committee and relevant sub-committees. This will contribute to the inclusion of displaced persons, refugees and those with international protection needs, contributing to access to education, livelihood opportunities and social protection of those vulnerable populations including stateless persons. The UN will also support the Government in its efforts to strengthen the law, policy and practices related to birth registration, civil registration and nationality procedures to prevent and reduce statelessness in the country and ensure access to legal identity. Further, the UN will support the Government's efforts to strengthen access to education, livelihoods and social protection for stateless persons (SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 16).

*UN focus area: Good governance, rule of law and social contract enhanced for SDG acceleration.<sup>82</sup>*

The UN is resolute that in this Decade of Action all efforts must be made to mobilize a 'whole-of-society' approach across Government, civil society, businesses and communities, and by calling on all people to 'make the SDGs their own'. To realize this ambition, the UN in partnership with the private sector, academia and development partners will support the establishment of a formal mechanism to engage volunteers in the SDG implementation process. This will include problem solving, monitoring and evaluation, financial mobilization for sustainable development, as well as raising public awareness on the SDGs and local data collection. The UN will also support the development of an integrated national financing framework to scale up financing for the SDGs from all sources and support the Government and communities with their SDG implementation and localization efforts. This especially includes strengthening the capacities of local actors and deepening local partnerships right across the country (SDGs 16 and 17).

As the Government implements reforms towards the creation of a high-efficiency public sector in line with the draft 13th NESDP objective, the UN will support the Government towards the creation of more open, participatory and consultative processes of legislation and integrated policymaking, good governance and the rule of law, including the roll out of anti-corruption, information integrity measures and initiatives to foster social cohesion (SDGs 1, 5 and 16).

The UN will support the improvement of Thailand's labour market governance and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers – including migrant workers, particularly women migrants, and those in precarious employment. Based on international treaties and conventions to which Thailand is a signatory,<sup>83</sup> the UN will foster strengthening tripartite social dialogues between the Government, worker's and employer's organizations, industry associations, civil society and the private sector that will reinforce social cohesion. The UN will also support the Government to address trafficking in humans, drugs and wildlife, and support the juvenile justice system to address crimes against children and protection and support for children in contact with the law (SDGs 1, 5, 8, 16 and 17).

The UN will support relevant authorities, including parliament, in adopting and implementing laws and policies that enable the sustainable financing of people-centred, community-led health and social services through effective social contracting, including seizing the opportunities through universal health coverage

<sup>82</sup> Supporting draft 13th NESDP milestones 9, 12 and 13.

<sup>83</sup> [http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:11200:0::NO::P11200\\_COUNTRY\\_ID:102843](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:11200:0::NO::P11200_COUNTRY_ID:102843)



and other public funding mechanisms to sustain financing and improve investment toward community resilience (SDGs 1, 3, 10, 16 and 17).

The UN will partner to strengthen Thailand's data ecosystem for the SDGs in support of evidence-based policymaking. The UN will provide technical assistance to address the SDG data gap and extend the use of big data analytics as well as alternative and innovative data initiatives and sources. Public access to information, data and SDG reporting via digital platforms will be significantly improved (SDG 16).

## CHAPTER 3: COOPERATION FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

### 3.1 Governance arrangements

A Tripartite Committee is established as the highest governing body of the UNSDCF. It is co-convened by the Steering Group, comprising the MFA, NESDC and the UN Resident Coordinator. In addition to the co-conveners, the Tripartite Committee includes the representatives of Government Ministries and the UNCT.<sup>84</sup> Development partners, for example, from the private sector, civil society, academia, industry associations, donors, international financial institutions (IFIs), LNOB groups and communities, and volunteer groups may be invited to send representatives to attend the Tripartite Committee as observers or to make presentations at the approval of the co-conveners. During implementation of the UNSDCF, the Tripartite Committee will meet once a year to review progress towards the targeted results and joint work plans and recommend strategic adjustments or new opportunities to accelerate action during the subsequent period. The Steering Group meets at least once a year with the co-conveners of the three Outcome Groups.

### 3.2 UNCT strategic alignment to the UNSDCF

The UNCT, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, will be responsible for the overall effectiveness and implementation of the United Nations development system contributions and results along with its partners. These will be translated through the overall Cooperation Framework joint work plan and individual United Nations agencies, programmes and funds programming documents. The UNCT will be supported by the SDGs Youth Panel, an institutional mechanism to dialogue on development priorities to advance SDG comprised of young people who are emerging leaders across the Global Goals.

### 3.3 Outcome Groups and core coordination mechanisms

To ensure a strong focus on results throughout implementation of the UNSDCF, the UNCT will establish three Outcome Groups, which will be co-convened by two or three Heads of Agency.<sup>85</sup> These Outcome Groups will correspond to the three strategic priorities and outcomes articulated in the UNSDCF. Membership of the Outcome Groups will reflect the partnerships and collaboration (see Figure 2) best needed to deliver the results. At the co-conveners' discretion, external stakeholders such as the Government, civil society, IFIs, the private sector and others may be invited to participate in meetings as appropriate. The Outcome Groups will meet at least biannually to facilitate the implementation of the joint work plans, planning and reporting.

The programme implementation of the UNSDCF will be supported by three core coordination mechanisms to enable the UN to facilitate joint management of operations, adopt a comprehensive approach to advocacy for the SDGs, and track the delivery of results based on government data. This will include the Operations Management Team, the UN Communications Group, and the Data and Monitoring Group. The Data and Monitoring Group will ensure that the UN's work through the Cooperation Framework is digitized through the UNInfo platform. The planning, monitoring, reporting and progress tracking tool embedded in UNInfo will also be made available to the Government and its partners and accessible in real time.<sup>86</sup>

In addition, the UNCT will establish UN thematic groups for collective coordination, including at the request of the Government.<sup>87</sup> These may have mandates that are shorter or longer than the life cycle of the Cooperation Framework, and include groups in which UN is a neutral convener with membership by stakeholders such as Government, parliament, civil society and other stakeholders. As the thematic working groups are established with a fixed timetable, the UNCT has flexibility to change, end or start new ones depending on the context at the time.

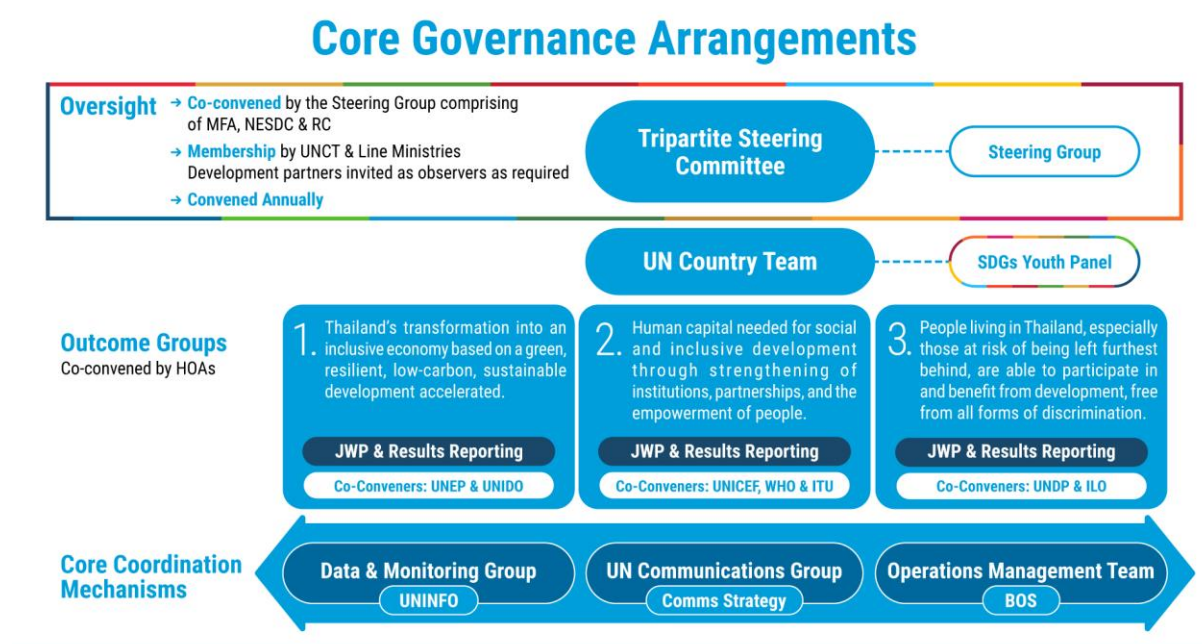
<sup>84</sup> United Nations agencies, funds and programmes with operational activities in Thailand, the members of which are signatories to the UNSDCF – see front section of this document.

<sup>85</sup> The co-conveners for the outcome groups will be responsible for offering strategic direction and leadership, promoting partnership, dialogue and engagement with stakeholders and coordinating and collaborating for results.

<sup>86</sup> UN Info link: <https://uninfo.org/>

<sup>87</sup> As of Jan 2022, the thematic groups include Gender, Young People, Migration, Southern Border Provinces, Civic Space, the Joint Team on HIV/AIDS and the Joint Task Force on Non-Communicable Diseases.

Figure 3: Core governance arrangement of the Cooperation Framework



### 3.4 UNCT configuration

UN Thailand is sitting in a regional hub with some agencies having in-country presence and with most operating from Regional Offices through full-fledged or project-based activities and is leveraging these cross-cutting resources to maximize its configuration. Consultations on the configuration among the UNCT and Government demonstrated that skills related to climate action need to be enhanced, which may be done through the secondment of a climate adviser from one of the academic institutions in country. Concurrently, innovation and digital transformation are other skill sets that the UNCT will prioritize as cross-cutting.

### 3.5 Strategic partnerships

The performance of high-quality, open-ended, dynamic partnerships will deeply affect Thailand's ability to successfully transition to a sustainable and inclusive development pathway in which no one is left behind. Recognizing that Thailand, as a middle-income country, does not benefit from significant official development assistance,<sup>88</sup> the UN will seek to maximize the financing and resources available for the SDGs through a number of strategic, innovative and operational partnerships that reach across the public, private and civil society sectors at all levels to advance the three overarching priorities identified in the Cooperation Framework. It will also seek to promote partnerships with a varied array of stakeholders across sectors to efficiently mobilize resources, whether financial or otherwise, as appropriate towards the achievement of the SDGs.

Reflecting the broad diversity and vibrancy of Thailand's society, the UN will partner with civil society organizations for the advancement of social innovation and enterprise, human rights, and young people's and women's empowerment. The UN will continue to develop and explore interactive relationships with these essential constituencies and communities, including through institutionalized dialogues. Throughout the implementation of this Cooperation Framework and in accordance with the 2030 Agenda objective of leaving no one behind, the UN will partner and continue to engage closely with those groups and communities at greatest risk of being left behind to ensure their voices and experiences are heard, that they have access to their rights, and are extended equal opportunity to participate in Thailand's development, including through access to information and services as well as through volunteers at the community level

<sup>88</sup> For example, according to the OECD, in 2019 gross official development assistance to Thailand was US\$435.8 million and net ODA US\$338 million: [https://public.tableau.com/views/OECDDACAidataglacbyrecipient\\_new/Recipients?:embed=y&:display\\_count=yes&:showTabs=y&:toolbar=no&:showVizHome=no](https://public.tableau.com/views/OECDDACAidataglacbyrecipient_new/Recipients?:embed=y&:display_count=yes&:showTabs=y&:toolbar=no&:showVizHome=no)

who serve as the amplifiers of the voices of the vulnerable. The UN will also utilize available volunteer approaches and mechanisms to ensure engagement of disadvantaged groups and communities.

Central to the purpose of achieving the SDGs in Thailand is the overarching partnership between the Government and the UN. This enduring partnership at the national level will be further deepened at the sub-national level to support Thailand's various tiers of provincial, municipal, district and local administration take leadership and drive partnerships at levels for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs.

As a priority, the UN will focus on partnerships between the Government and private sectors to galvanize Thailand's accelerated economic transformation towards green, resilient, low-carbon, sustainable development. Partnerships with the private sector will be diversified and scaled-up to include industry associations and labour market institutions. The UN-GCNT flagship partnership will be extended across Thailand's five regions to ensure nationwide mobilization and impact for the SDGs.

The UN will partner with national scientific bodies, research and policy think-tanks, academia and universities, data analytics and institutions with a mandate for advancing innovation, technology and the future of work in line with Industry 4.0. Similarly, the UN is acutely aware that SMEs will play a pivotal role in driving Thailand's economic transformation and delivering the SDGs. For this reason, the UN will partner with SMEs, the Thai Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Thai Industries and other important private sector bodies.

The academic community also plays a crucial role in the implementation of SDGs. The UN will partner with academia, universities and education intuitions to enhance awareness raising on the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development towards achieving the three outcomes of this Cooperation Framework. The UN will also draw from a range of resources from the wider UN community, such as learning material from the UN Staff System College and connect them with local partners.

Stronger partnerships will be pursued with development partners, such as government, parliament, private sector and academia, throughout the implementation of this UNSDCF for resource mobilization to secure the financing needed to accelerate the SDGs. The financial, investment and insurance sectors will play a particularly important role alongside some of Thailand's leading commercial and industrial corporations. Not only will this attract additional, alternative and innovative sources of financing, but these partnerships are equally essential for amplifying the UN's ethical, sustainable and responsible business practices. This entails achieving higher levels of SDG impact investment as well as yielding increased social and environmental dividends derived from accelerating the transition to inclusive green growth, decarbonization, and the advancement of business and human rights initiatives under which Thailand's performance has been notably strong, and the preservation of Thailand's rich but threatened natural resources and biodiversity.

To support Thailand's advancement to a more highly skilled society, enabled by high efficiency and high-quality public sector services, the UN will partner with national and sub-national authorities in the areas of education, skills, health, social protection and population migration. In support of advancing public sector reforms, including anti-corruption, the rule of law, e-governance, digitization including narrowing the digital gap, as well as SDG data, analysis and reporting, partnerships with parliament's support on budget allocation, will be established with key government agencies as appropriate to the context to focus interventions in areas in which the UN can best add value.

The range and extent of partnerships outlined above are important vehicles for co-creation, innovation and collaboration. These partnerships also enable the exchange of research, dialogue, ideas and knowledge generation, including for policy consultation and South-South and Triangular Cooperation. As trust continues to deepen across them through jointly funded initiatives and projects, staff secondments both to and from the UN to other partners, for example on climate change, will be pursued. The UN will utilize its convening and facilitating role to ensure these healthy and productive spaces and opportunities are maintained for partnerships with all relevant stakeholders to flourish to advance the SDGs and objectives of this Cooperation Framework, driving forward sustainable development in Thailand. The UN will collaborate with the TICA to identify exemplar South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) flagships

across the public, private and civil society sectors, leveraging ASEAN and Thailand's coordinator role on sustainable development cooperation and dialogue in the process.

## CHAPTER 4: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

### 4.1 Monitoring arrangements

Monitoring the implementation progress of this UNSDCF will be primarily based on the attached Results Framework<sup>89</sup> (see Annex 1) and will be led by the UNCT in close collaboration with the relevant government agencies.

The Result Framework is based on nationally established SDG indicators, baselines and targets relying on governmental official data. In total 17 indicators (57 per cent) contained in the UNSDCF results framework correspond directly to the SDGs. Baselines are derived from the latest government reports and data availability of selected national SDG indicators in consultation with line ministries.

In operationalizing the monitoring plan, the UN will make maximum use of national data and information systems. The UN will partner with Line Ministries, the National Statistical Office of Thailand (NSO) and NESDC to strengthen the SDG data ecosystem and fill data gaps, including for the purposes of collation, analysis, monitoring, as well as digitization and use of satellite imagery. Disaggregated data, broken down by geography, gender, socio-economic status and LNOB groups, will be pursued and tracked regularly to improve analysis, evidence-based integrated policymaking and programme implementation.

Monitoring responsibility for each outcome area will primarily be led by each of the three dedicated UN outcome groups. Each outcome group will carry out joint monitoring with respect to its outcome area as set out in the two-year rolling joint work plans.

The UN Data and Monitoring Group in Thailand, comprising the monitoring and evaluation focal points of the UN agencies and coordinated by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, will provide technical support in the implementation and monitoring all results. This will include data quality assurance, oversight and reporting to the respective UN outcome groups and UNCT for evidence-based progress reporting. UN agencies will act as custodians for their respective national SDG indicators reported under each outcome. This strengthens accountability and assists the co-conveners of the outcome group to coordinate reporting on an annual basis.

The UNCT, in collaboration with the Government and implementing partners, will undertake periodic reviews of the UNSDCF to measure overall progress towards planned results; monitor risks; identify key points of learning, opportunities and challenges; and reflect on experience to inform decisions and adjustment. For this purpose, via the UNCT the UN outcome groups will prepare an annual implementation progress report for presentation and consultation with the Steering Group and the Tripartite Committee, making recommendations for adjustments, to ensure the Cooperation Framework remains relevant and effective in an ever-changing context.

As outlined above, the Data and Monitoring Group will also strengthen the data ecosystem and support joint reviews, reporting, documentation and knowledge sharing, including the development of templates and guidance for monitoring and evaluation-related interventions and data collection. The Data and Monitoring Group will facilitate the coordination of a monitoring workplan for implementation across the outcome groups, including UN agencies and partners, to ensure coherence and uniformity in data standards and processes. At any time during its five-to-six-year implementation, the UNSDCF can be reviewed and adjusted according to Thailand's changing development landscape and priorities as agreed upon by the Government and the UN.

UNInfo will be utilized as an online planning, monitoring and reporting platform for the electronic and digital tracking of this Cooperation Framework and its corresponding joint work plans. This online platform will provide an overview of progress at country level and reflects the UN development system's efforts to

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<sup>89</sup> At the Tripartite Steering Committee's discretion, indicators may be replaced should more suitable indicators become available.



improve transparency and accountability,<sup>90</sup> as well as to better address the needs and priorities of Member States.

In addition to reporting on the quantitative progress of the UNSDCF against SDG and related targets, the UN will also pursue qualitative and participatory assessments in each outcome and focus area to better appreciate and understand the real benefits and impact of its implementation on the health of the economy and environment, and critically on the quality of peoples' lives, especially those at greatest risk of being left behind. Since a people-centred approach to development lies at the heart of all UN development efforts, it is important to generate lessons learned on how institutions and policies affect the rights and opportunities of diverse populations and stakeholders in the development process in constructive, measurable and meaningful ways.

The UN will also seek to gain a deeper appreciation of how partnership activities that support platforms for South-South and Triangular Cooperation can better inform and benefit decision-makers and policymakers both within Thailand and internationally. The output of the Data and Monitoring Group will be used to highlight key areas of learning and identifying exemplary initiatives arising from different geographic communities across the country and continue to be captured in succinct Annual Reports and other snapshots of progress prepared by the UN Communication Group in collaboration with its partners.

## **Evaluation**

The attainment of SDG targets depends significantly on results-based monitoring and evaluation. In this regard, the UN working closely with the Government and key partners will seek to foster a culture of learning and mutual accountability. Emerging new approaches and methodologies will be shared with developmental partners that contribute to strengthening the learning cycle through participatory evaluation.

To further advance the UN reform process in Thailand, individual UN agencies will strive to harmonize the review and reporting requirements of their own individual programmes and seek synergies in monitoring in areas within which they are jointly interested and invested. These reviews will take place to generate shared knowledge and lessons learned throughout UNSDCF implementation.

A final independent evaluation of the UNSDCF will be conducted in 2025. The evaluation will be commissioned by the UNCT in close consultation with the Government. The evaluation will be independently conducted following the United Nations Evaluation Group standards and norms.

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<sup>90</sup> Regarding implementing partners, there is an agreement to cooperate with the UN system agencies to monitor all activities supported by cash transfers that will facilitate access to relevant financial records and personnel responsible for the administration of cash provided by the UN system agencies (please refer to Annex 2).

## ANNEX 1: RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Outcome	Focus Area	Indicator	Baseline Value	Target <sup>91</sup> Value	Data Source	Data Availability
<b>Outcome 1: Thailand's transformation into an inclusive economy based on a green, resilient, low-carbon, sustainable development is accelerated</b>	<b>Focus area 1: Support inclusive and sustainable economic growth premised on Thailand's bio-circular-green model</b>	Indicator 1: Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person (SDG 8.2.1)	Avg. 2010-2019=3.3%/year	2027=2.5%/year	NESDC/World Bank	Annually
		Indicator 2: CO <sub>2</sub> e emission per unit of value added (SDG 9.4.1)	2018=0.2 CO <sub>2</sub> e kg per 2017 PPP \$ of GDP	2027=0.18 CO <sub>2</sub> e KG per 2017 PPP \$ of GDP	NSTDA/MOE	Annually
		Indicator 3: Number and percentage of public companies listed under SET's Thailand Sustainability Investment	2020=124 companies 2020=19.2% (124/646 companies)	2027=25%	SET	Annually Annually
		Indicator 4: Number of registered GAP farmers (Proxy for SDG 2.4.1-Sustainable agriculture)	2020=201,000 farms (plant 170,000 farms, livestock 20,000 fisheries 11,000)	2027=250,000 farms	MOAC	Annually
		Indicator 5: Number of financial institutions adopting UN sustainable finance principles	2020=3	2027=6	UNEP Finance Initiative; Principle for Responsible Investment	Annually
	<b>UN Focus Areas 2: Enable and strengthen capacities for low carbon society, resilience, post COVID 19 and disaster recovery with capability to adapt and reduce the risks of disasters</b>	Indicator 6: Renewable energy consumption as % of total final energy consumption (SDG 7.2.1)	2020=15.13%	2027=22.5% <sup>92</sup>	M. of Energy	Annually
		Indicator 7: Environment Performance Index (covering air, soil, water, ocean quality, waste management, biodiversity, biome protection)	2020=45.4, Rank 78th out of 180 countries (10 years change of 4.1)	2023-2027=EPI Score of 55	the Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy and the Center for International Earth Science Information Network at Columbia University's Earth Institute MONRE	Annually
		Indicator 8: Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies (SDG 11.b.1)	2020=52.2%	2027=80%	MOI	Annually
<b>Outcome 2 Human capital needed for social and inclusive</b>	<b>UN Focus Areas 3: Improving accessibility, responsiveness, and quality of public services as</b>	Indicator 9: Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health) as a percentage of GDP (SDG 1.a.2)	2019=6.93%	2027=8%	MOF, BOT, NSO	Annually
		Indicator 10: Proportion of children and young people (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at	2018=51%	2027=60%	MOE <sup>93</sup>	Every year/

<sup>91</sup> In discussion with Line Ministries to finalize target value for each of the indicators

<sup>92</sup> Renewable energy consumption target is 30% by 2037 according to the 20 years master plan.

<sup>93</sup> Additionally, see the youth proficiency statistics in the Survey on the Situation of Children and Women in Thailand conducted every three years by NSO.

development is improved through strengthening of institutions, partnerships, and the empowerment of people	enablers for Thailand's transformation.	the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics (SDG 4.1.1)				
		Indicator 11: Schools and learning facilities with access to computers and internet for pedagogical purposes, lower secondary level (Percentage) (SDG 4.a.1)	2020=98.8% and 17 students/computer	2027=100% and 14 students/computer	MOE, ITU	TBC
		Indicator 12: Share of youth (15-24 years) not in education, employment or training	2019=15%, 11.24% (M), 18.61% (F)	2027=13.9%	ILO, World Bank, NSO	Quarterly/Annually
		Indicator 13: Prevalence of tobacco use among adolescents	2018=15% (13-15 Yrs.)	2026=10%	NSO, WHO Global Youth Tobacco Survey	Annually Every 5 Years (last in 2020)
		Indicator 14: Proportion of adolescents (15–19 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods (SDG 3.7.1)	2020=81% (MICS)	2026=86%	RH Database /MOPH and MIC survey (SDG 3.7.1)	Annually
		Indicator 15: Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations (SDG 3.3.1)	2020=6,600	2025=4,000 2030=1,500	Source: 1. Ministry of Health, Thailand (2021). Thailand AEM-Spectrum HIV Est 2021; 2. UNAIDS (2021). End Inequalities End AIDS: Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026	Annually
	UN Focus Areas 4: Enable digital transformation, digital inclusion, and innovation for human capital optimization	Indicator 16: Proportion of rural individuals and/or elderly using the Internet (SDG 4.4.1)	2020=73.2% (non-municipality area) 2020=49.7% (50+ Yrs. old)	2027=80% (non-municipality area) 2020=55% (50+ Yrs. old)	NSO	Annually
		Indicator 17: E-government Development Index covering provision of online services, telecommunication connectivity, and human capacity	2020=0.7565, Rank=57th	2023-2027 ranked in the top 50	UN	Every two years
		Indicator 18: Global innovation Index (covering institution, human capital & research, infrastructure, market sophistication, business sophistication, knowledge & technology output, and creative output)	2020=36.68 Rank=44th	2027 ranked 40th	Cornell University, INSEAD, & World Intellectual Property Org ( <a href="https://www.globalinnovationindex.org/home">https://www.globalinnovationindex.org/home</a> )	Annually
		Indicator 19: Number and percentage of smart farmers (% of total farmers)	2017=7.7% (981,649 smart farmers out of 12,710,000 farmers (farm labour based on NSO's labour Force Survey)	2027=15%	MOAC, NSO	Annually

<b>Outcome 3: People living in Thailand, especially those at risk of being left furthest behind, are able to participate in and benefit from development, free from all forms of discrimination</b>	<b>UN Focus Areas 5: Provide an enabling, rights-based, inclusive environment to address inequalities, support equal opportunities and reduce poverty.</b>	Indicator 20: Percentage coverage of social protection by migratory status (Thai/non-Thai) including child grant, elderly care, disability allowance, pension, and the poor and the vulnerable (SDG 1.3.1)	2019=50% for child grant 0-6 Yrs (C) 53.4% for person with disabilities (D); 81.7% for elderly grant (E); 40% Workers contributing to pension fund (W)	2027=60% (C) =80% (D) =90% (E) =50% (W)	MOF, MSDHS, MOL	Annually
		Indicator 21: Percentage share of informal workers covered by the Social Security Scheme	2019=14.61%	2027=25%	MOL	Annually
		Indicator 22: Thailand migration policies facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people disaggregated by key migration policy domains (SDG 10.7.2) (1 = Requires further progress; 2 = Partially meets; 3 = Meets; 4 = Fully meets)	2019=4	2027=4	MGI assessment and review, GCM review, MFA, MOL	Every 4 years
		Indicator 23: Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex, age and migratory status (SDG 1.2.1)	2019=6.24%	2027=3%	NESDC	Annually
		Indicator 24: Gini coefficient of income (SDG 10.4.2)	2019=0.430	2027=0.420	NESDC	Annually
		Indicator 25: Gender wage gap measured by female-male earnings ratio for similar work (F/M)	2021=0.814, Rank=12th out of 156 countries (lower is better)	2027=0.825 (F/M Ratio)	World Economic Forum, MOL	Annually
		Indicator 26: Number of children and women subjected to physical violence and abuse seeking medical treatment at hospitals, total	2018=14,237 (6,182 Children/Youth (43.4%) and 13,265 Female/Alternative Gender (93.2%))	2027=declining trend	MOPH, MSDHS	Annually
	<b>UN Focus Areas 6: Good governance, rule of law and social contract enhanced for SDG acceleration</b>	Indicator 27: Average score of Provincial Development Index (based on 32 provincial economic, social and environmental SDG indicators)	2019=52.87% (NESDC's SDG Index)	2027=55%	NESDC	Annually
		Indicator 28: WB's Government Quality Index (covering corruption control, rule of law, political stability, accountability, effectiveness, and regulatory quality)	2019= 0.36, 65.86th percentile in Government Effectiveness Index, 0.1029, 57.69th percentile in Rule of Law index, -0.41, 39.42nd percentile in Corruption Control Index -0.083, 24.14th percentile in voice, human rights & accountability index (higher is better)	2027 in the top 60th	WB	Annually
		Indicator 29: 10 sectoral human rights and 12 vulnerable groups human rights plan have been developed	2020=No	2027=Yes	MOJ	Annually
		Indicator 30: Availability rate of SDG indicator data (Proxy for 17.18.1)	2020=51%	2027=55%	NSO, ESCAP	Annually

## ANNEX 2: THE UNSDCF LEGAL ANNEX

**[please do not edit any language in this section]**

This section refers to the cooperation or assistance agreements or other agreements that are the already existing legal basis for the relationship between the Royal Thai Government and each UN organization supporting the country to deliver on the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (Cooperation Framework).

Whereas the Royal Thai Government (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”) has entered the following relationships:

- a) **With the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, a basic agreement to govern UNDP’s assistance to the country, which was signed by the Government and the United Nations Special Fund, which is one of the predecessor legal entities of UNDP (the “Basic Agreement”) on 4 June 1960. This Cooperation Framework, together with a joint results group work plan specifying UNDP programme activities further to this Cooperation Framework (which shall form part of this Cooperation Framework and is incorporated herein by reference), constitute together a “project document” as referred to in the Basic Agreement plus Supplemental Provisions to the project document, attached hereto as Annex [4]. The implementing partner and UNDP will sign a project agreement containing the specific arrangements for each project further to the relevant project document.
- b) **With the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)** a Basic Cooperation Agreement concluded between the Government and UNICEF 1 December 1948.
- c) **With the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** the Agreement concluded between the Government and UNHCR on 1 December 1977.
- d) **With regard to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**, the Agreement concluded between the Government and the United Nations Special Fund on 4 June 1960 (the “Basic Agreement”) mutatis mutandis applies to the activities and personnel of UNFPA, in accordance with the agreement concluded by an exchange of letter between UNFPA and the Government which entered into force on 2 August 2000. Further, the standard annex to project documents (“Standard Annex”), appended as Annex 1 and forming a part of this Cooperation Framework, mutatis mutandis applies to the activities and personnel of UNFPA and forms part of the Basic Agreement. This Cooperation Framework together with any work plan concluded hereunder, which shall form part of this Cooperation Framework and is incorporated herein by reference, constitutes the Plan of Operation as referred to in the Basic Agreement and Project Document as referred to in the Standard Annex.
- e) **With United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)** pending the conclusion of a Standard Basic Cooperation Agreement between the Government and UNIDO, the Government shall apply, mutatis mutandis, the provisions of the Agreement between the United Nations Special Fund and the Government, signed and entered into force on 4 June 1960.
- f) **With the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** the Agreement between the Government and FAO for the opening of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific on 5 April 1956.
- g) **With the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme** being administered by UNDP, SBAA signed between the Government and UNDP will govern UNV’s assistance to the country.
- h) **With the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** through the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the UNEA’s approval of UNEP’s Medium-Term Strategy 2014-2017, 2018-2021, 2022-25 and Related Programmes of Work (PoWs).
- i) **With regards to the United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS)**, the Government and UNOPS concluded an agreement on 28 December 2005 for the opening of the UNOPS Regional Office for Asia.
- j) **With the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** a Host Country Agreement was concluded between the Government and UNESCO on 6 September 1961
- k) The Basic Agreement concluded between the Government and the United Nations Development Programme on 4 July 1960 (the “Special Fund Agreement”) mutatis mutandis applies to the activities and personnel of **UN WOMEN**, in accordance with the agreement [concluded by an exchange of letters] between UN WOMEN and the Government which entered into force on 4 July 2012. Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of UN Women’s governing structures.

**For all agencies:** Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency’s governing structures [ILO, IOM, ITC, ITU, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDRR, UN-Habitat, UNODC, and WHO].

The Cooperation Framework will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner, that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.

The Government will honour its commitments in accordance with the provisions of the cooperation and assistance agreements outlined in paragraph on the Basis of the Relationship.



Without prejudice to these agreements, the Government shall apply the respective provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (the “General Convention”) or the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies (the “Specialized Agencies Convention”) to the Agencies’ property, funds, and assets and to their officials and experts on mission. The Government shall also accord to the Agencies and their officials and to other persons performing services on behalf of the Agencies, the privileges, immunities and facilities as set out in the cooperation and assistance agreements between the Agencies and the Government. In addition, it is understood that all United Nations Volunteers shall be assimilated to officials of the Agencies, entitled to the privileges and immunities accorded to such officials under the General Convention or the Specialized Agencies Convention. The Government will be responsible for dealing with any claims, which may be brought by third parties against any of the Agencies and their officials, experts on mission or other persons performing services on their behalf and shall hold them harmless in respect of any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is mutually agreed by Government and a particular Agency that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of that Agency, or its officials, advisors or persons performing services.

Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Government shall insure or indemnify the Agencies from civil liability under the law of the country in respect of vehicles provided by the Agencies but under the control of or use by the Government.

- (a) “Nothing in this Agreement shall imply a waiver by the UN or any of its Agencies or Organizations of any privileges or immunities enjoyed by them or their acceptance of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising of this Agreement”.
- (b) Nothing in or relating to this document will be deemed a waiver, expressed or implied, of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations and its subsidiary organs, including WFP, whether under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13th February 1946, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21st November 1947, as applicable, and no provisions of this document or any Institutional Contract or any Undertaking will be interpreted or applied in a manner, or to an extent, inconsistent with such privileges and immunities.

## ANNEX 3: THE UNSDCF PROGRAMME AND RISK MANAGEMENT CLAUSES

**[please do not edit any language in this section]**

### Programme Implementation

The programme will be nationally executed under the overall co-ordination of \_\_\_\_\_ (Government Co-ordinating Authority). Government coordinating authorities for specific UN system agency programmes are noted in Annex X. Government Ministries, NGOs, INGOs and UN system agencies will implement programme activities. The Cooperation Framework will be made operational through the development of joint work plan(s) (JWPs)<sup>94</sup> and/or agency-specific work plans and project documents as necessary which describe the specific results to be achieved and will form an agreement between the UN system agencies and each implementing partner as necessary on the use of resources. To the extent possible the UN system agencies and partners will use the minimum documents necessary, namely the signed Cooperation Framework and signed joint or agency-specific work plans and project documents to implement programmatic initiatives. However, as necessary and appropriate, project documents can be prepared using, inter alia, the relevant text from the Cooperation Framework and joint or agency-specific work plans and / or project documents<sup>95</sup>

Cash assistance for travel, stipends, honoraria and other costs shall be set at rates commensurate with those applied in the country, but not higher than those applicable to the United Nations system (as stated in the ICSC circulars).

### Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers

All cash transfers to an Implementing Partner are based on the Work Plans (WPs<sup>96</sup>) agreed between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies.

<sup>94</sup> As per the UN Development Group Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for countries adopting the “Delivering as One” approach

<sup>95</sup> In the case of UNDP, the Government Coordinating Authority will nominate the Government Co-operating Agency directly responsible for the Government’s participation in each UNDP-assisted workplan. The reference to “Implementing Partner(s)” shall mean “Executing Agency(s)” as used in the SBAA. Where there are multiple implementing partners identified in a workplan, a Principal Implementing Partner will be identified who will have responsibility for convening, coordinating and overall monitoring (programme and financial) of all the Implementing Partners identified in the workplan to ensure that inputs are provided, and activities undertaken in a coherent manner to produce the results of the workplan.

<sup>96</sup> Refers to Outcome Groups<sup>7</sup> or agency specific annual, bi-annual or multiyear work plans.

Cash transfers for activities detailed in work plans (WPs) can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:

1. Cash transferred to the [national institution] for forwarding to the Implementing Partner:
  - a. Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or
  - b. After activities have been completed (reimbursement).
2. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner.
3. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners.

Where cash transfers are made to the [national institution], the [national institution] shall transfer such cash promptly to the Implementing Partner.

Direct cash transfers shall be requested and released for programme implementation periods not exceeding three months. Reimbursements of previously authorized expenditures shall be requested and released quarterly or after the completion of activities. The UN system agencies shall not be obligated to reimburse expenditure made by the Implementing Partner over and above the authorized amounts.

Following the completion of any activity, any balance of funds shall be refunded or programmed by mutual agreement between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may depend on the findings of a review of the public financial management capacity in the case of a Government Implementing Partner, and of an assessment of the financial management capacity of the non-UN<sup>97</sup> Implementing Partner. A qualified consultant, such as a public accounting firm, selected by the UN system agencies may conduct such an assessment, in which the Implementing Partner shall participate. The Implementing Partner may participate in the selection of the consultant.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may be revised in the course of programme implementation based on the findings of programme monitoring, expenditure monitoring and reporting, and audits.

In case of direct cash transfer or reimbursement, the UN system agencies shall notify the Implementing Partner of the amount approved by the UN system agencies and shall disburse funds to the Implementing Partner in 15 calendar days from date of receipt of the FACE form.

In case of direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner; or to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners, the UN system agencies shall proceed with the payment within 15 days from date of receipt of the invoices and supporting documents.

The UN system agencies shall not have any direct liability under the contractual arrangements concluded between the Implementing Partner and a third-party vendor.

Where the UN system agencies and other UN system agency provide cash to the same Implementing Partner, programme monitoring, financial monitoring and auditing will be undertaken jointly or coordinated with those UN system agencies.

A standard Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of the work plan (WP), will be used by Implementing Partners to request the release of funds, or to secure the agreement that [UN organization] will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. The Implementing Partners will use the FACE to report on the utilization of cash received. The Implementing Partner shall identify the designated official(s) authorized to provide the account details, request and certify the use of cash. The FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the Implementing Partner.

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<sup>97</sup> For the purposes of these clauses, "the UN" includes the IFIs.

Cash transferred to Implementing Partners should be spent for the purpose of activities and within the timeframe as agreed in the work plans (WPs) only.

Cash received by the Government and national NGO Implementing Partners shall be used in accordance with established national regulations, policies and procedures consistent with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the work plans (WPs), and ensuring that reports on the utilization of all received cash are submitted to [UN organization] within six months after receipt of the funds. Where any of the national regulations, policies and procedures are not consistent with international standards, the UN system agency financial and other related rules and system agency regulations, policies and procedures will apply.

In the case of international NGO/CSO and IGO Implementing Partners cash received shall be used in accordance with international standards in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the work plans (WPs), and ensuring that reports on the full utilization of all received cash are submitted to [UN organization] within six months after receipt of the funds.

To facilitate scheduled and special audits, each Implementing Partner receiving cash from [UN organization] will provide UN system agency or its representative with timely access to:

- all financial records which establish the transactional record of the cash transfers provided by [UN system agency], together with relevant documentation.
- all relevant documentation and personnel associated with the functioning of the Implementing Partner's internal control structure through which the cash transfers have passed.

The findings of each audit will be reported to the Implementing Partner and [UN organization]. Each Implementing Partner will furthermore:

- Receive and review the audit report issued by the auditors.
- Provide a timely statement of the acceptance or rejection of any audit recommendation to the [UN organization] that provided cash (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, add and to the SAI) so that the auditors include these statements in their final audit report before submitting it to [UN organization].
- Undertake timely actions to address the accepted audit recommendations.

Report on the actions taken to implement accepted recommendations to the UN system agencies (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, add: and to the SAI), on a quarterly basis (or as locally agreed).

The Supreme Audit Institution may undertake the audits of Government Implementing Partners. If the SAI chooses not to undertake the audits of specific Implementing Partners to the frequency and scope required by the UN system agencies, the UN system agencies will commission the audits to be undertaken by private sector audit services<sup>98</sup>.

## Resource Mobilization

The UN system agencies will provide support to the development and implementation of activities within the Cooperation Framework, which may include technical support, cash assistance, supplies, commodities and equipment, procurement services, transport, funds for advocacy, research and studies, consultancies, programme development, monitoring and evaluation, training activities and staff support. Part of the UN system entities' support may be provided to non-governmental [and civil society] organizations as agreed within the framework of the individual workplans and project documents.

Additional support may include access to UN organization-managed global information systems, the network of the UN system agencies' country offices and specialized information systems, including rosters

<sup>98</sup> Seen through a South-South lens, the capacity assessment process presents an opportunity to identify capacity assets that a particular country could offer to other developing countries and the capacity gaps that could be filled by other developing countries. For UNDP, the audit of NGO or nationally implemented projects can be assigned to the national Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) only on the condition that the institution has a demonstrated capacity to carry out the audits in an independent manner. To this effect, the Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) has made available on its Intranet site guidance on the assessment of SAIs along with a questionnaire that will need to be properly completed, signed and communicated to OAI to support that due diligence has been exercised prior to opting for having such audits undertaken by the national SAI. Please refer to OAI Intranet site for further details.

of consultants and providers of development services, and access to the support provided by the network of UN specialized agencies, funds and programmes. The UN system agencies shall appoint staff and consultants for programme development, programme support, technical assistance, as well as monitoring and evaluation activities.

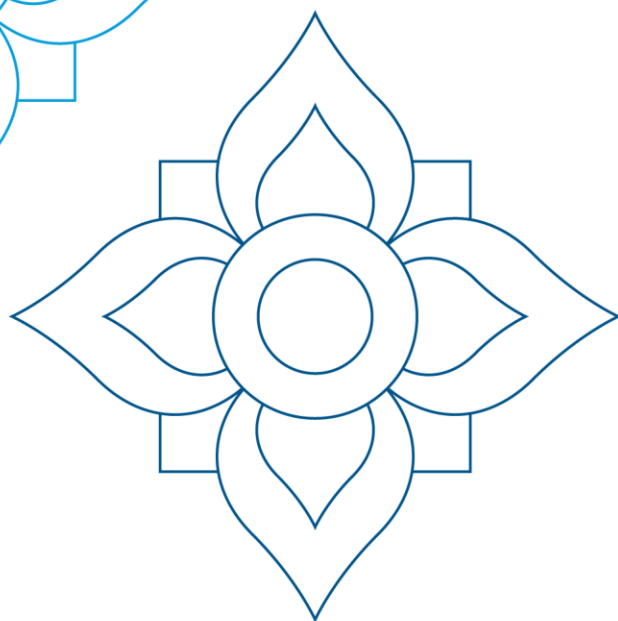
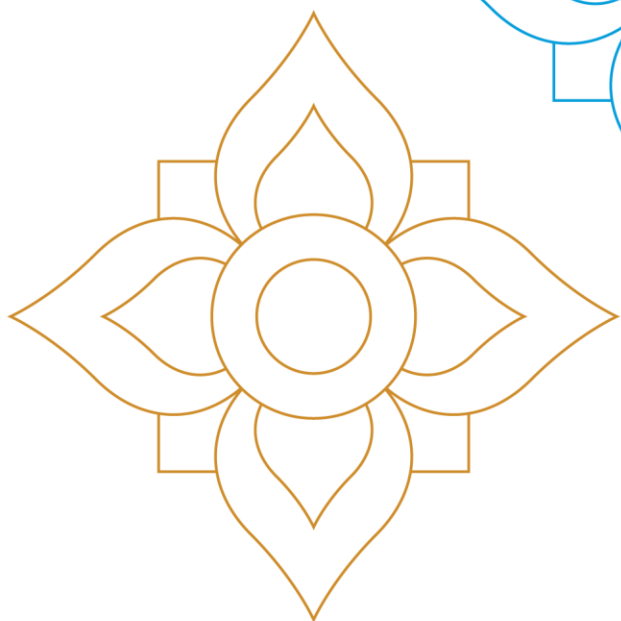
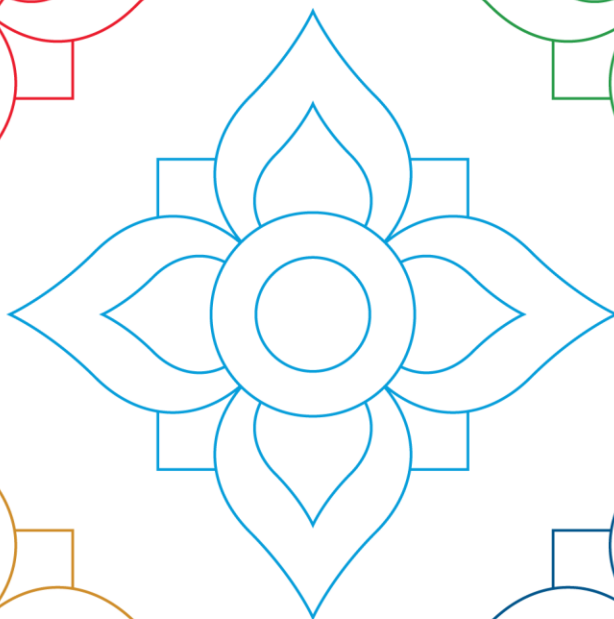
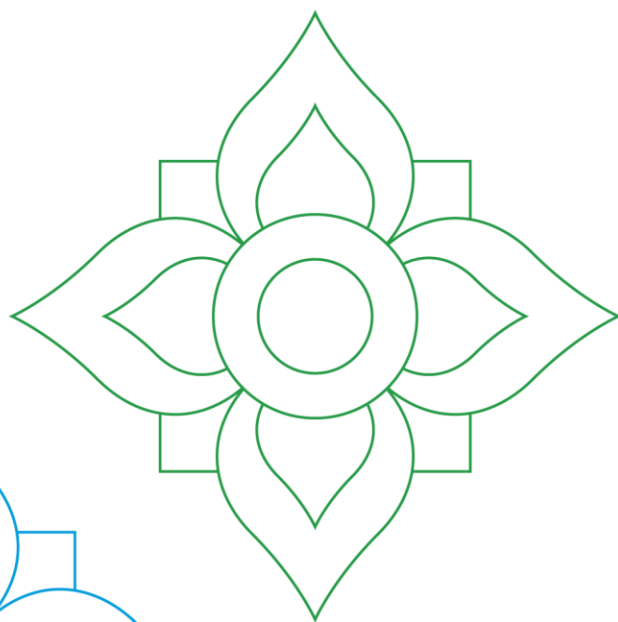
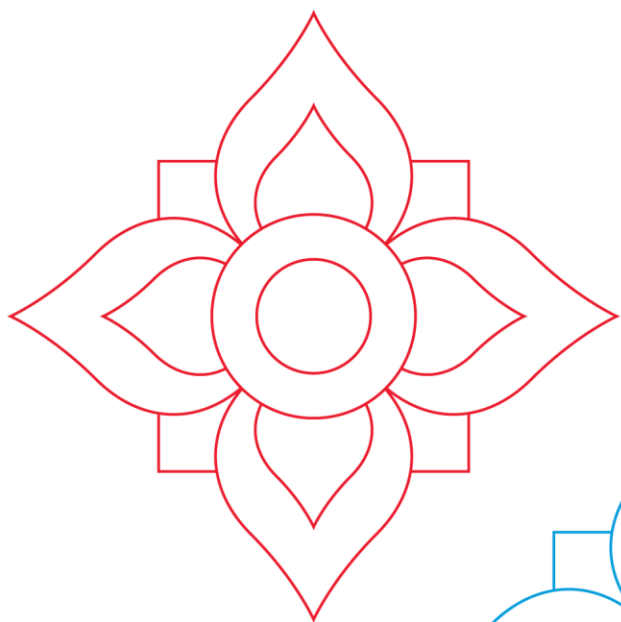
Subject to annual reviews and progress in the implementation of the programme, the UN system agencies' funds are distributed by calendar year and in accordance with the Cooperation Framework. These budgets will be reviewed and further detailed in the workplans and project documents. By mutual consent between the Government and the UN development system entities, funds not earmarked by donors to UN development system agencies for specific activities may be re-allocated to other programmatically equally worthwhile activities.

The Government will support the UN system agencies' efforts to raise funds required to meet the needs of this Cooperation Framework and will cooperate with the UN system agencies including: encouraging potential donor Governments to make available to the UN system agencies the funds needed to implement unfunded components of the programme; endorsing the UN system agencies' efforts to raise funds for the programme from other sources, including the private sector both internationally and in Thailand; and by permitting contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations in Thailand] to support this programme which will be tax exempt for the Donor, to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Implementing Partners agree to cooperate with the UN system agencies for monitoring all activities supported by cash transfers and will facilitate access to relevant financial records and personnel responsible for the administration of cash provided by the UN system agencies. To that effect, Implementing Partners agree to the following:

1. Periodic on-site reviews and spot checks of their financial records by the UN system agencies or their representatives, as appropriate, and as described in specific clauses of their engagement documents/ contracts with the UN system agencies'
2. Programmatic monitoring of activities following the UN system agencies' standards and guidance for site visits and field monitoring,
3. Special or scheduled audits. Each UN organization, in collaboration with other UN system agencies (where so desired and in consultation with the respective coordinating Ministry) will establish an annual audit plan, giving priority to audits of Implementing Partners with large amounts of cash assistance provided by the UN system agencies, and those whose financial management capacity needs strengthening.



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