

UN VISION 2030¹ Paper

I. BACKGROUND

❖ Why?

- Vision 2030 is a mandatory exercise according to the [UNDAF Interim Guidance](#);
- UNCTs to consider longer-term trends to formulate the UNDAF.
- **Product:** A UN Vision 2030 paper to accompany the CCA and UNDAF;

❖ Objective?

- Support/provide options and tools for RCs/UNCTs to undertake this exercise in the framework of joint programming.

II. DEFINITION

The term "foresight" has become widely used to describe activities such as: critical thinking concerning long-term developments, debate and effort to create wider participatory democracy, shaping the future, especially by influencing public policy.

❖ What? Mandatory Exercise; Evidence-based; 2-4 pages to summarize the results and an UNDAF that takes a longer term perspective and intended to contribute to the broader 15 year goals of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs:

- Opportunity to have the CCA and UNDAF developed in a long term perspective, beyond the UNDAF period;
- Opportunity for synergies with advocacy and communications activities;
- Opportunity for team building within the UNCT and technical teams;
- Opportunity to engage national partners in a longer term analysis and definition of priorities (possibility to join national exercises of this kind);
- Particularly valuable in bringing attention to issues of the environment and sustainability; and the broader global and regional context in relation to the country;
- Strengthened link of UNDSF to SDG targets through 2030 visioning;
- Identify structural changes needed and drivers towards accomplishing the SDGs, assumptions and risks, unearth blind spots and plan for uncertain futures;
- Formally revisited and revised every UNDAF cycle; The UN Vision 2030 and the CCA are developed alongside each other;

❖ How? Consultative, collaborative, and inclusive process.

- Policy coherence across the 2030 Agenda should directly inform the CCA and UN Vision 2030 exercises so that UNDAFs are able to effectively address the interconnected and integrated nature of sustainable development;
- UNCTs are undertaking this exercise in a flexible manner, from foresight (external support may be required) to simpler exercises.

¹ Vision 2030 refers to a time horizon up to the formal completion of the SDG 2030 Agenda.

III. OBJECTIVES

- ❖ **Objective:** Ensure that UNDAF interventions are informed by an in-depth understanding of national development contexts and positioned in a long-term view strategic Development of Vision 2030 in a collaborative and consultative manner;
 - The UN's working assumptions in terms of longer-term development trajectories over the duration of the 2030 Agenda;
 - The role the UNCT envisages for the UN in the country for the duration of the 2030 Agenda;
 - The ways in which the assessment and analysis of the CCA, and the outcomes of the UNDAF, represent logical steps in the longer-term results areas that the UNCT anticipates will define its primary contribution in supporting attainment of the 2030 Agenda in the country including its means of implementation (specifically, data, monitoring and reporting, policy coherence, mobilization of funds, technical assistance, capacity building).

IV. HOW TO DO IT?

- ❖ Plan it from the roadmap;
- ❖ Try to engage in on-going national visioning/planning exercises or take into account existing long-term planning documents;
- ❖ Be bold and try out new methods in planning and implementing!
- ❖ Promote the use of innovations, and methods such as participative foresight, scenario analysis, in preparing UNDAFs;
- ❖ Engage world-class knowledge, facilitators and staff who are open minded and willing to carry out innovative approaches to work;
- ❖ Involve partners from the beginning to have a participatory process
- ❖ Engage the regional Programme Support Group;
- ❖ Do not forget Human-Centered Design hence involve citizens and non-citizens in the process;
- ❖ Look to others experiences and learn from them!

V. TOOLS/INSTRUMENTS

Foresight process:

- [UNESCO Anticipation and Foresight Programme](#) aims to strengthen the Organization's intellectual, ethical and strategic watch function. The Anticipation and Foresight activities are part of UNESCO's mission to be a "Laboratory of Ideas."
- [UNDP GCPSE Foresight Manual](#) features a selection of methods and techniques suited for framing development or policy discussions.
- [UNEP Foresight Process](#) addresses one of the goals of the UNEP Science Strategy: "anticipating the future". UNEP aims to inform the UN and wider international community about these issues on a timely basis, as well as provide input to its own work programme and that of other UN agencies.
- [Foresight as a Strategic Long-Term Planning Tool for Developing Countries](#): document developed to support decision and policymakers in developing countries to maximize the strengths and benefits of national foresight programmes.

Scenario analysis:

A way of structuring thinking about the future; description of a possible future situation, including the path and hypothesis leading to that situation. Important to highlight central elements and to consider the key factors. The [Millennium Institute](#) released a tool of the Integrated Sustainable Development Goals planning model (iSDG). The [iSDG](#) is a comprehensive simulation tool that generates country-specific development scenarios to show the implications of policy on a country's progress towards the SDGs. It covers all the 17 Goals, and facilitates a better understanding of the interconnections of the goals and targets, in order to develop synergetic strategies to achieve them.

VI. AVAILABLE SUPPORT

- ❖ Technical support and facilitation of milestones of the process (UNDG LAC, PSG);
- ❖ Knowledge (tools and methodologies) and best practices from other UNCTs repository (CPN);

ANNEX I. COUNTRY EXAMPLES

UNCT Laos: FutureScaper (digitalized foresight methodology) engaged the UNCT (all staff), International Development Partners, Civil Society, Government, and Public at Large to explore existing development issues and build scenarios around them for the period up to 2021.

UNCT Montenegro: For their 2015 UNDAF, Montenegro's UNCT used foresight to create a light touch, forward-looking process that engaged a wide range of stakeholders (citizens and non-experts).

- ❖ Innovative methods: empowering new voices and online platforms in strategic planning (development of a [game](#), in which the colorful board and numerous cards and tokens were played and used to discuss the futures from the perspective of challenges, opportunities, partners, actions and values).
- ❖ Backcasting (thinking of the present from the future)
- ❖ Innovative approaches makes think out of the box, unveil blind spots and map uncertainties.

Rwanda: [Foresight in the public service environment](#) especially using Foresight to plan large scale development projects as well as planning in urban and rural areas.

Uganda: established a National SDG Task Force, which meets quarterly and is informed by Technical Working Groups, each with representatives from government ministries and agencies as well as the UN, development partners, CSOs and the private sector. Government-led Sector Working Groups provide input into the Technical Working Groups to ensure a link between Uganda's SDG coordination framework and implementing ministries, agencies and partners. Uganda then took integration to an even deeper level – with the alignment of the new NDPII with its new UNDAF, the strategic programme framework that describes the collective response of the UN system to national development priorities

- Rather than having separate country analysis, the UNCT supported the analysis of Uganda's development needs for the NDPII and UNDAF.
- Joint understanding was fostered in the UNDAF design process, in which the Government was involved from the very beginning, to make sure that UNDAF complemented the objectives of the National Development Plan.
- Development of the NDP received extensive support by the United Nations. More than 18 different Government entities and every one of the 19 UN agencies in Uganda were part of the design process.

UN in Indonesia also created a SDG partnership with Radio Elshinta, one of Indonesia's premier and largest radio networks, generating 25 interviews and articles about the SDGs to date. The information is also cross-posted with other Elshinta channels, including Elshinta TV and Elshinta Magazine. Their postings on social media are shared with over 1.6 million followers on Twitter (hashtag #ElshintaSDGs). The UN has entered into a partnership for the SDGs with the most influential daily newspaper, Kompas, and has named a renowned actor and a famous musician as 'SDG movers' to campaign for the SDGs.

ANNEX II. FUTURES WHEEL

It is a method for graphical visualization that lays out the direct and indirect consequences of a decision, event or trend.

Step 1 - Identify the trend and write it in the center;

Step 2 - Identify the possible direct, first-order consequences of that trend;

Step 3 – Identify indirect, second-order consequences;

- After brainstorming all the possible second-order consequences of each of the first-order (direct) consequences, add them to the diagram and repeat this by identifying the third-order consequences, fourth-order consequences, and so on;
- It is useful to color-code each “level” of the wheel, it makes easier to prioritize and analyze consequences once completed the brainstorming;
- Consequences are not necessarily negative;

Step 4 – Analyze implications, what are the key assumptions?

Step 5 – Identify scenarios

- Choose 1-2 series of consequences that seem most plausible as future scenarios
- Describe the scenario: What’s happening? Who will be most affected by the changes? Who will be in a position to influence the changes?
- Role for the UN system: what role could UN system agencies play to take advantage or prevent/mitigate harm? What can UN system do in the mid-term (next 3-5 years) to anticipate, position itself and partners?

