

## MAPS: Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support for the 2030 Agenda, UNDG Concept Note

### Background

At a UN Sustainable Development Summit of September 2015, Member States of the United Nations adopted *The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* with a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at its core. The Agenda strives for a world that is just, rights-based, equitable and inclusive. It commits stakeholders to work together to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection and to benefit all, including women, children, youth and future generations. It is to be implemented in a manner consistent with existing obligations of states under international law. This new universal agenda will require an integrated approach to sustainable development and collective action, at all levels, to address the challenges of our time, with an overarching imperative of 'leaving no one behind' and addressing inequalities and discrimination as the central defining feature.

*The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* speaks to the core mandate and values of the UN System, including promoting and encouraging respect for human rights for all, without discrimination. UN agencies, funds and programmes can broker relevant knowledge and technical assistance on sustainable development challenges, opportunities and solutions. They can also support Member States in identifying and convening key stakeholder groups.

Responding to Member States' request for coherent and integrated support from the UN development system to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) has identified elements in support of a future common approach for effective and coherent implementation support, under the acronym MAPS. (**M**ainstreaming, **A**cceleration and **P**olicy **S**upport)

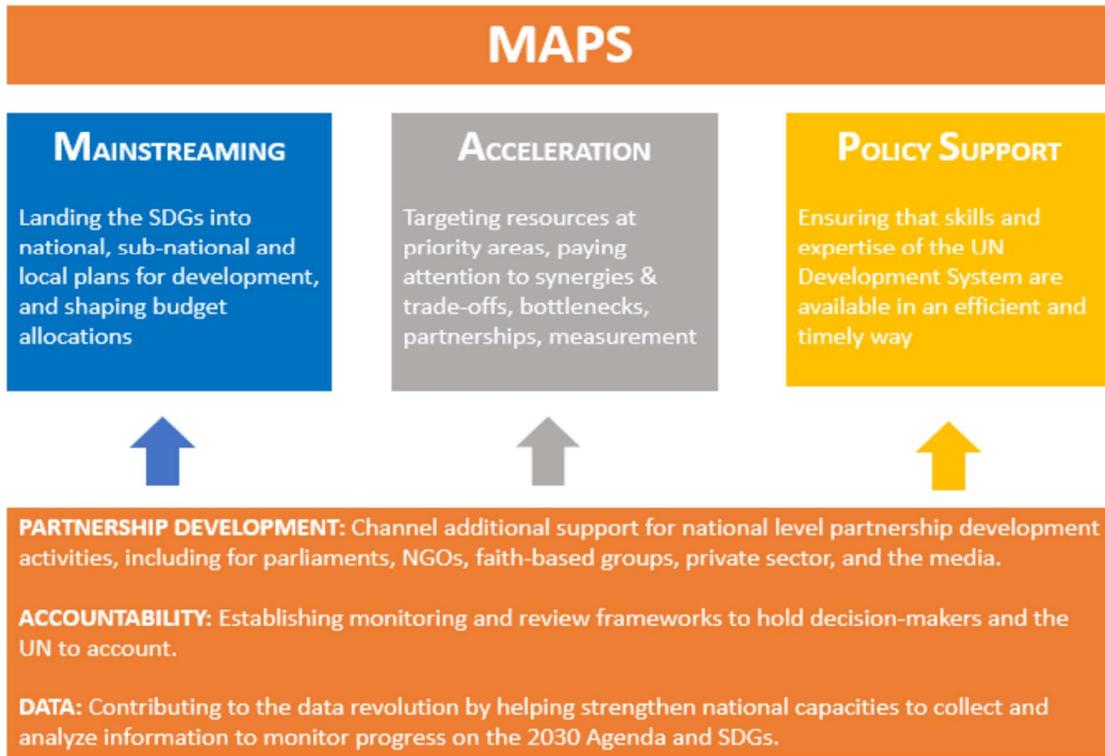
### MAPS, supported by partnership, accountability and data:

MAPS frames the UN development system's support to UNCTs' engagement in the implementation of the new agenda, through their respective UNDAFs. The UNDAF is the strategic framework that encompasses the overall shared results of the UN development system in a country. It articulates the issues around which a UN country team develops and supports its joined-up contribution, and details how a UNCT will work together in a coherent manner to achieve results through advocacy, normative and policy support, technical assistance and operational activities to support capacity development and service delivery.

The MAPS provides a shared resource for the UNCT's substantive engagement with governments and partners on the SDGs, paying special attention to the crosscutting elements of partnerships, data and accountability.

- **Mainstreaming** means landing *The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* at the national and local levels, and integrating into national, sub-national, and local plans for sustainable development; and subsequently into budget allocations; The [Mainstreaming Reference Guide](#) has been designed for UN Country Teams (UNCTs), under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinators (RCs), that wish to support Member States and national stakeholders in tailoring the new agenda to national contexts while protecting its integrity. The guide is intended to spark thinking by UNCTs on how they may wish to proceed.
- **Acceleration** refers to targeting national (and UN) resources at priority areas identified in the mainstreaming process, paying special attention to bottlenecks in reaching the most vulnerable, synergies and trade-offs across sectors (reflecting the integrated nature of the agenda), financing and partnerships, and measurement; and
- **Policy Support** is about making sure that the skills and expertise held in the UN development system is made available in a timely way and at the lowest cost possible.

As elements in support of a future common approach, MAPS brings together the work of the UNDS in support of the 2030 Agenda, and does so in a non-prescriptive way, without precluding other UN initiatives in support of the SDGs, nor restricting how the UNDG provides individual agency support to the SDGs.



## MAPS: A set of tools and shared resources in support of the 2030 Agenda

With MAPS, the UN development system seeks to make available a set of tools, guidance and expertise to governments, civil society and other partners in the areas of mainstreaming, acceleration, policy support, data for SDG monitoring, SDG accountability and partnerships. It does so, guided by the following principles: a) support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda must be demand driven and tailored to specific country conditions and needs; b) it complements and builds on existing capacities and resources available in the UN development system (UNDS); and c) by working together, using more integrated approaches and teamed-up support, the UNDS can help countries deliver with higher impact for progress on the SDGs.

Inter-agency work under the MAPS will seek to:

1. Ensure a common response to the broader agenda-wide requirements and requests for country-level knowledge generation and dissemination on the 2030 Agenda; SD mainstreaming into national plans and budgets; advocacy support to governments and partners; and support to national monitoring and reporting on the SDGs.
2. Strengthen coherence and encourage system-wide learning and knowledge sharing on mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support initiatives undertaken across the UN development system and beyond, globally, regionally and at country level.
3. Develop joint products and initiatives that address the challenges arising from the interconnected and integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda, in the form of analytical and acceleration tools, policy and partner support.
4. Encourage joint work on the sustainable development underpinnings of the global goals, such as on inequality and *'leaving no one behind'*, which can assist governments address these new dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, and in linking global and national development imperatives.

UNCTs will use it to provide a collaborative response to pulling together the data, resources, tools, partnerships and capacities across the system to frame policy products and services to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda in a country-specific context. The shared resource can be updated and expanded based on the policy-practice feedback loop, and lessons learnt.