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**Joint National - United Nations Steering Committee**

**UN Development Assistance Framework (2019-2023)**

**Draft Terms of Reference** *(from Jan.2019)*

**Background and purpose**

The Joint Steering Committee (JSC) is a high-level forum between the Government of Lesotho (GoL) and the United Nations system which reviews and guides the strategic direction of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and its associated Joint Work Plans (JWPs), providing high-level oversight and support. The JSC comprises the Heads of UN Agencies and Senior Government officials from key line ministries and is chaired by the Minister for Development Planning and co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator.

In line with existing Aid coordination mechanisms, the JSC will provide oversight to the implementation and monitoring of the UNDAF, considering other national review processes, notably, the UNDAF Annual Results Report and the GoL National Development Plan II Annual Reviews. Additionally, the JSC will guide policy dialogues on global and national development agendas including Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) adopted by the Third Conference on Financing for Development, among others, with a view to developing an informed country position.

The main objective of the JSC is to institutionalize an annual review and planning mechanism, through which the GoL and the UN Country Team (UNCT) can monitor progress in the implementation of the UNDAF through:

* Technical reviews of progress
* Collaborative work planning processes; and
* High level review and oversight
* Policy dialogue and consultations

The meetings of the JSC will take into consideration reports received from technical reviews and financial reports from the implementation of the UNDAF and the National Strategic Development Plan II review processes.

**Expected role of the Joint Steering Committee**

* Provide regular and continuous leadership to the GoL-UN coordination and cooperation in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness
* Ensure alignment with existing, broader national coordination mechanisms in order to avoid duplication of existing mechanisms and to keep transaction costs to a minimum
* Provide guidance and recommendations on priority actions to be undertaken to meet the outcomes and expected results of the UNDAF
* Proactive provision of proposals to Government and development partners for the effective implementation of the UNDAF, including joint resource mobilization
* Facilitate open discussion in updating UN positioning in the country and emerging challenges
* Ensure strong sharing of information to promote the replication of successful models, approaches and lessons learned from the implementation of the UNDAF
* Facilitate effective consultation among the UN, Government, development partners, civil society, private sector, academia, youth as appropriate for building partnerships and coherence across various programmes and sectors.

*UNDAF/One Programme/One Fund:*

* Oversee the implementation progress of the UNDAF/One Programme and monitor the alignment of the UNDAF/One Programme with national priorities as defined in the UNDAF and in the SDGs
* Monitor the work of the Outcome Results Groups (ORGs), ensuring they perform within their mandate while remaining aligned to the UNDAF in line with national priorities, and undertake evidence-based programming
* Provide strategic overview of UNDAF Joint Work Plans
* Serve as a forum for the consideration of issues that may impede the implementation of the UNDAF and propose ways to address the identified obstacles
* Analyse annual/mid-term/final Outcome reports to form the basis of the UNDAF Results Reports
* Explore opportunities for various funding and resource mobilization mechanisms including One Fund, Trust Funds and other to support resource mobilization efforts for UNDAF.

**Leadership, Accountability and Participation**

The JSC is chaired by the Minister of Development Planning and co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator. Participation will be limited to GoL and UN [UNCT agreement will need to be made on format of wider stakeholder participation in UNDAF also in line with the new UNDAF guidance, options include separate multi-stakeholder engagement forums “Friends of UN reform” or other]:

* Representatives from the Prime Minister’s Office, Ministry of Development Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance at the PS level
* Representatives from key line ministries
* Heads of UN Agencies resident in Lesotho

UN Agencies non-resident in Lesotho

* Representatives of development partners, CSOs, UN Youth Advisory Panel, private sector, academia can be invited as observers.

**Decision-making**

The Steering Committee makes decisions by consensus, which shall then be duly recorded. Prior to presenting their position on a significant issue to the Joint National/United Nations Steering Committee, its UN members must ensure it’s in line with their Agencies’ regulatory requirements – and endorsed internally. In the exceptional cases where a consensus cannot be reached, the co-chairs are empowered to make a final decision.

**Occurrence of Meetings**

The JSC will remain operational throughout the life of the UNDAF and its implementation phase with meetings held at least once per year, in the first quarter of the calendar year. Adhoc or thematic based meetings may be convened with engagement of the technical and advisory groups when needed at any other time in consultation between the co-chairs to discuss specific issues, resolve constraints and bottlenecks.

**Key Deliverables**

* UNDAF Annual Results Reports / One UN Country Results Reports (annual)
* Finalized UNDAF Joint Work Plans (bi-annual)
* UNDAF Mid-Term review and evaluation (per cycle)
* “Delivering as One” priorities and stocktaking report (per cycle)

**Secretariat**

The Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO) and Government of Lesotho (Ministry of Development Planning) will provide secretariat support to the JSC. The costs of organizing meetings of the JSC will be covered through the UN / RCO.