

## **EXPLANATORY NOTE ON SDG ACCELERATION FUND**

This explanatory note provides some of the key elements of the SDG Acceleration Fund. Full terms of reference for the SDG Acceleration Fund are here: <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/AL100>

The SDG Acceleration Fund, within which the earthquake recovery window is located, is established with the overall objective to support catalytic actions aims to support priority areas of SDG achievement in the framework of the National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015-2020 and the Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development 2017-2021 (PoCSD)

Actions financed by the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund aim to a) result in an evidence-based understanding – by the Government and the general public - of Albania's progress towards achieving the SDGs through its national strategies and the EU integration process and (b) accelerate the rate of achievement of SDGs so that all are attained by 2030.

The dedicated Earthquake Recovery Window will be used to track all contributions for earthquake recovery aligned to the PDNA and in collaboration with Government to support their reconstruction and recovery efforts to “build back better”. Supplemental reporting will be done specifically dedicated to the Earthquake Recovery Window. Funds can be contributed simply to the Earthquake Recovery Window or earmarked for specific sectors or recovery programmes as outlined in the “UN Support to Albania Earthquake Recovery” and/or in line with further discussion with the Government of Albania and the UN. All activities will be included in UN Joint Workplans for 2020-2021.

The Albania SDG Acceleration Fund is administered by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) in New York of UN Development Programme in accordance with its financial regulations and rules.

This fund is governed by the Joint Executive Committee, co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and the Deputy Prime Minister, Government of Albania, the latter demonstrating clear ownership over the Fund- to provide strategic guidance and monitoring on the allocation and execution of the funds. Roles and responsibilities are described below.

### **The GoA-UN Joint Executive Committee**

The One UN Joint Executive Committee is co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and the UN Resident Coordinator. The JEC meets at least once a year with the participation of Ministers, Prime Minister’s Office and UN Country Team members and reports to the GoA Strategic Planning Committee.

The One UN Joint Executive Committee is responsible for:

- Assessing overall progress against planned outcomes and their contribution to NSDI II priorities and related SDGs;
- Ensuring alignment and coordination between PoCSD 2017-2021 results and strategies and those of the NSDI II including sector programmes;
- Conducting an annual PoCSD review and proposing and endorsing modifications;
- Advise and assist the Outcome (results) groups and output working groups, as required;
- Allocate financial resources of the SDG Acceleration Fund, based on performance-based allocation criteria.
- Ensuring the issuance of an Annual Progress Report on all Fund activities

## **The Resident Coordinator**

The overall management of the SDG Acceleration Fund from the UN is led and coordinated by the Resident Coordinator in consultation with the Participating UN Organisations. The Resident Coordinator is responsible for:

- Strategic leadership of the SDG Acceleration Fund on the basis of the PoCSD;
- Mobilizing resources for the SDG Acceleration Fund in collaboration with Participating UN Organisations;
- Signing the Standard Administrative Arrangements with Donors and the Memorandum of Understanding with Participating UN Organisations;

## **Workplanning and Accountability-**

Activities are planned via Joint Work Plans, co-signed with the Government, which describe at a strategic level all the work of UN agencies in Albania, irrespective of source of funds. Earthquake recovery activities will be included in the 2020-2021 workplans. Workplans can be adjusted during implementation with the agreement of Government and UN partners.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation of the activities financed by the SDG Fund follow the Joint Work Plans and any supplemental activity documents. Fiduciary monitoring of the SDG Acceleration Fund follows the UN Standard Monitoring and Evaluation procedures.

## **Audit**

Auditing is subject exclusively to the internal and external auditing procedures provided for in the financial regulations, rules and directives of the respective Participating UN Organisations.

The activities of the Administrative Agent and the Resident Coordinator are subject exclusively to the internal and external auditing procedures provided for in the financial regulations, rules and directives of UNDP.

## **Procurement**

The procurement processes which take place with funding received from the SDG Acceleration Fund, follow the financial regulations, rules and directives of respective UN Agency recipient of funds.

## **Financial Management**

The Multi Partner Trust Fund Office (of UNDP) in New York serves as the Administrative Agent (AA) of the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund.

The Administrative Agent's responsibilities include the following:

- Receive contributions from donors that wish to provide financial support to the Fund;
- Subject to availability of funds, disburse such funds to each of the Participating UN Organizations in accordance with decisions from the Joint Executive Committee
- Consolidate financial statements and reports, based on submissions provided to the Administrative Agent by each Participating UN Organization; and submit the consolidated financial statements and reports and the consolidated narrative progress reports provided by the Resident Coordinator's Office to each donor that has contributed to the Fund Account, and to the Joint Executive Committee;

For a full description of the Administrative Agent's functions, please see the full Terms of Reference of the Fund which can be found on this web page: <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/AL100>