Annex 1: Quality Criteria for UNDAFs

There are five criteria to assure the quality of UNDAFs during design and implementation: a) relevance and strategic focus, b) principled, c) effective, d) efficient and e) sustainable. These criteria define expectations to be considered in programming, and provide common standards for assessing the quality of UNDAF implementation, based on evidence from monitoring. Evaluations are expected to use the same criteria to independently assess the quality and performance of the UNDAF.

Below, each of the quality criteria is rated on a scale from 1 to 5: A ranking of "5" means that the quality criterion has been fully met; "1" means that it is not reflected at all. This quality ranking should be undertaken as a self-assessment during preparation of the UNDAF as well as during the Peer Support Group appraisal to ensure that criteria are met.

QUALITY CRITERIA	DETAILED DESCRIPTION	RANKING (1-5)
Relevance and strategic focus	1. The UNDAF supports national sustainable development priorities, and supports the localization, implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.	
	2. The UNDAF supports and contributes to internationally agreed sustainable development goals and regional sustainable development priorities.	
	3. The UNDAF priorities are underpinned by a theory of change based on available evidence and disaggregated data, including evaluations from earlier programme cycles.	
	4. The UNDAF addresses immediate, underlying and root causes of poverty and inequalities, fosters inclusiveness, and reduces inequalities and discrimination to ensure no one is left behind.	
	5. The UNDAF builds upon a holistic and objective country assessment of the current situation, evidence of the UN system's comparative advantage, evidence-based approaches and potential future risks.	
	6. The UNDAF adequately considers the likelihood of crisis, instability, conflicts, serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law, and who might be affected.	
Principled	7. **Leave no one behind** (a) The UNDAF addresses the promise to leave no one behind and appropriately captures the situation of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, including through measures targeted at reducing inequalities. (b) The UNDAF addresses the needs of groups affected by inequalities and discrimination. (c) Target groups/areas are clearly identified based on evidence, prioritizing marginalized and vulnerable groups, and those considered to have been left behind. (d) The theory of change clearly explains why these groups will be targeted.	
	8. **Human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment** (a) The UNDAF contributes to the realization of human rights and the use of a human rights-based approach. It supports the capacity of both rights-holders and duty-bearers. (b) The UNDAF supports the country to respect, promote and implement its obligations and commitments under international law, including human rights instruments, international labour standards, environmental or climate-related agreements, and the recommendations of the Universal	

	Periodic Review, treaty bodies and other supervisory bodies. (b) The UNDAF addresses inequalities and discrimination. (c) The UNDAF integrates gender dimensions, such as gender-based violence and discrimination, and promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.	
	9. **Sustainability and resilience** (a) The UNDAF is designed to advance social, economic and environmental sustainability; reduce conflict and disaster risks; and build resilience. (b) The UNDAF takes into account political, security and human rights risks, and takes preventive steps. (c) The UNDAF aims to build the resilience of societies and systems through developing capacities, taking into account social and environmental safeguards. (d) The UNDAF promotes environmental dimensions of sustainable development, considers the impact of climate change and other emerging issues at global and country levels, and highlights groups most likely to be affected, including in terms of gender dimensions.	
	10. **Accountability** (a) The UNDAF involves inclusive and participatory consultations with relevant stakeholders (e.g., non-governmental stakeholders, including groups affected by inequalities and discrimination) to foster broad ownership of the country programme and meaningful participation. (b) The UNDAF promotes social and political arrangements that strengthen the accountability of all stakeholders. (c) The UNDAF contains clearly articulated results (outcome level), indicators for measuring progress, and budgetary resources that reflect UN contributions based on the system's comparative advantage in the country.	
Effective	11. **Results-focused programming** (a) The UNDAF supports the use of evidence and disaggregated data, including data collection and analysis from national institutions, partners, civil society organizations and marginalized groups. (b) The UNDAF applies a results-based management approach, such as through clear results chains, and has a plan for monitoring and evaluation.	
	12. **Risk-informed programming** (a) The UNDAF identifies risks and defines risk management to ensure timely and effective programme delivery. (b) The UNDAF rigorously assesses and mitigates social and environmental impacts to ensure that the country programme does not cause harm to people and the environment.	
	13. **Development, humanitarian and peace building linkages** *The UNDAF demonstrates coherent response across development, humanitarian and peace building agendas, underpinned by human rights, in crisis and post crisis settings:* *(a) UN joint multi-dimensional conflict and risk analysis was undertaken, where appropriate.* *(b) The CCA considers multi-hazard risks, human rights, humanitarian and peacebuilding dimensions in a holistic way, as well as existing coping and response capacities and resilience systems.* *(c) When appropriate for the context, the UNDAF has collective outcomes articulated based on joint analysis and multi-year planning, building on the comparative advantages of a diverse group of partners.*	

	(d) *In contexts where UNDAFs and HRPs exist side by side, direct links are made between the UNDAF and Humanitarian Response Plans/Refugee Response Plans to ensure complementarity, sequencing of development and humanitarian activities and compatibility of results frameworks*	
	14. Coherent policy support (a) The UNDAF enhances policy coherence at the country, regional and multilateral levels, leading to action (policies and programmes) that build upon and reinforce each other. (b) The UNDAF promotes issue-based approaches to support joint/inter-agency programming.	
	15. Partnership (a) The UNDAF considers the development partnership landscape within countries to tap the full potential of partnerships, including with the private sector. (b) The UNDAF considers the development of transboundary national partnerships at the sub-regional, regional and global levels, including through promoting the use of South-South and triangular cooperation.	
Efficient	16. The UNDAF underpins UN transparency and accountability to the beneficiaries of assistance, including through clear mechanisms for accountability.	
	17. The UNDAF considers available resources and realistic resource mobilization targets, accompanied by a resource mobilization strategy/action plan.	
	18. The UNDAF demonstrates a complementary and coordinated approach by the UNDS, including consideration of joint programming and common positions on situations of concern.	
	19. The UNDAF's proposed/planned programming activities are cost-efficient, providing "value for money."	
	20. The UNDAF adequately explores opportunities for harmonizing joint communications and business operations to support UNDAF programming.	
Sustainable	**21. Capacity development** (a) The UNDAF supports the capacity development of national and subnational institutions, civil society organizations and other stakeholders, including agencies and bodies in charge of statistics and data utilization. (b) The UNDAF provides for the systematic assessment of capacity needs and assets to inform capacity development strategies.	
	22. There are explicit links to national plans to ensure UNDAF results respond to national priorities.	
	23. The UNDAF recognizes different programming contexts and diversity among UNCTs, and considers options for operational modalities accordingly.	
	24. The UNDAF supports and encourages innovation, learning, and knowledge gathering and transfer.	