

# PROJECT STATUS REPORT

## Africa – Kazakhstan Partnership for SDGs

### 1.0 Project Summary

The Africa – Kazakhstan partnership for SDGs was a two-year project which started in October 2015 and was targeted at supporting African countries in its domestication and implementation efforts on SDGs and Agenda 2063, following their adoption in 2015 and 2063, respectively.

To this end, Kazakhstan and UNDP partnered with 45 African countries to ensure improved capacities and strengthened regional dialogue through a series of targeted capacity building initiatives and interventions such as supporting the participation of African relevant ministries in key development policy dialogues and events; building capacities to rollout the implementation of the SDGs at the regional and national levels; and supporting on-demand country initiatives as well as preparing for a longer term “Africa-Kazakhstan” South-South partnership for SDGs.

With a total budget of US\$2.1 million dollars, the project was planned to run for a year (Oct 1, 2015 – December 31, 2017) with the main objectives of feeding into Outcomes 4 and 7 of the Regional Programme and UNDP’s Strategic Plan, respectively<sup>1</sup>. The following are the specific outputs for the project:

- i. Regional domestication and financing for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- ii. South-South and triangular cooperation and partnerships established and/or strengthened for development solutions.

### 2.0 Implementation Status

In order to guide implementation, a number of activities/inputs were planned under each of the 2 main outputs of the project; with a relatively higher number of activities under Output 1.1 – *Regional domestication and financing of the SDGs*. This is in line with the major thrust of the project and priorities for the African region.

Overall, the project met almost all of the goals that it had set out for itself with slight programming adjustments that were made along the way. The table below shows activities that were programmed, with Annex 1 showing detailed information on implementation of each output and deliverable.

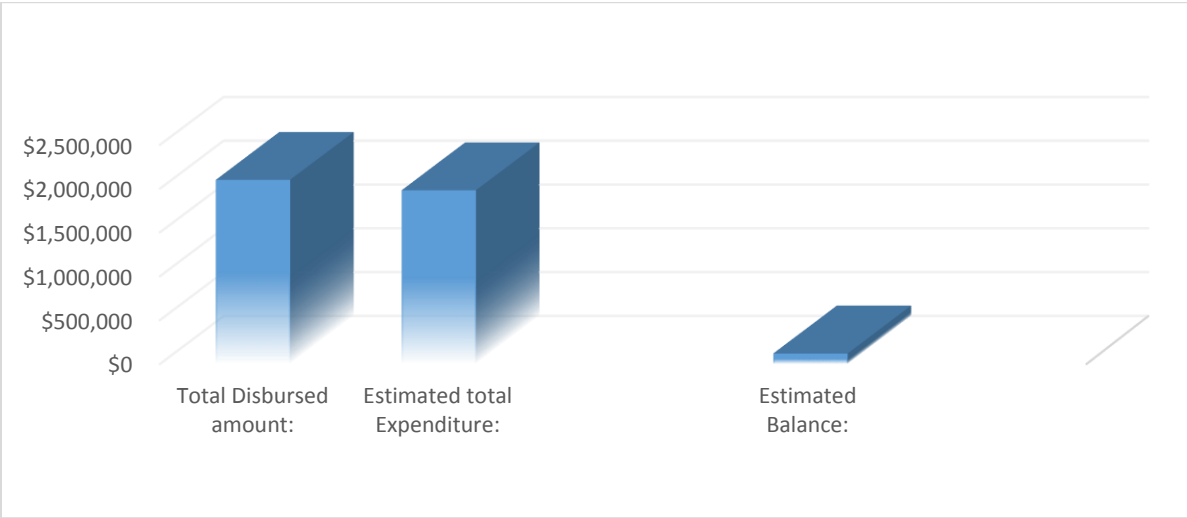
**Table 1.1**

Outputs	Activities
<b>Output 1</b> Capacities of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and relevant Ministries and Agencies strengthened to	i. Facilitate participation of African officials from 45 countries in COP 21 (December 2015).

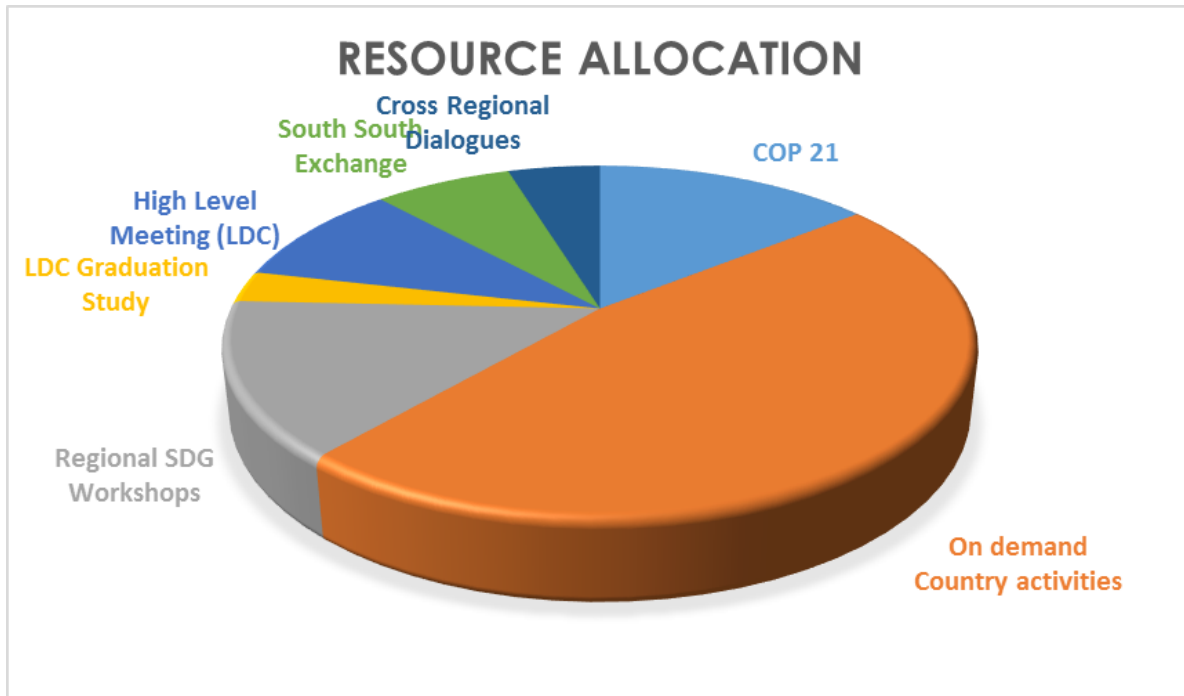
<sup>1</sup> Outcome 4 (RP) and 7 (SP): Development debates and actions at all levels prioritise poverty, inequality and exclusion, consistent with our engagement principles.

engage in global and regional development debates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii. Carry out on-demand capacity building activities and events in beneficiary countries (2 rounds of Micro-grant initiatives in 2016 and 2017).</li> <li>iii. Hold regional workshops on SDG and Agenda 2063 domestication (2016)</li> <li>iv. Conduct an evidence based study on the risks of LDC graduation. (2016)</li> <li>v. Facilitate expert discussions on LDC graduation in Africa (2016).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Output 2</b> Cross-regional dialogue and partnerships strengthened between Africa and EICS in support of SDG achievement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Facilitate PR Briefing to African PRs on the UNDP/Kazakhstan Partnership – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Jan 2016. <i>Theme: Enhancing Partnerships for the Achievement of SDGs and Agenda 2063 in Africa.</i></li> <li>ii. Facilitate PR Briefing to African PRs on UNDP/Kazakhstan Partnership – June 29, New York: <i>Theme: Domestication of SDGs and Agenda 2063 at country level.</i> (2016)</li> <li>iii. Promote on-demand capacity building and South-South exchanges on SDG implementation/achievement: Training for African Diplomats, June 2016; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. (2016)</li> <li>iv. On demand Capacity Building and South-South Exchange on Economic Structural Transformation and Diversification in the context of SDGs, 14-17 November 2017; Astana – Kazakhstan.</li> </ul>
Periodic Review/Board Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Programme for an annual review of the project and Board meeting before the end of the project.</li> </ul>

**Summary of Project Finances, allocation and utilization (2017):**



## Snapshot of resource allocation per budget line



### 3.0 Deliverables and Milestones<sup>2</sup>

#### Deliverables in 2016:

**Under Output 1:** Capacities of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Relevant Ministries and Agencies strengthened to engage in global and regional development debates. The following actions were undertaken and achieved:

- i. Participation of 24 African Countries at COP 21 in Paris (with a total of at least 70 participants) with an expenditure of about \$291, 624.00. Value addition to COP 21: a Coherent and unified African position. The participation of African countries to the COP 21 increased African voices and strengthened the African position towards the outcomes of COP 21.
- ii. Side Event on the margins of the AU Summit on South-South Cooperation and SDGs. The Side Event was presided over by The Kazak Deputy Foreign Minister, the Ethiopian Minister of Foreign Affairs and the UNDP Regional Service Centre Director. The Under Secretary General of the Office of the Special Advisor for Africa (OSAA) also spoke and actively participated at the event. Overall, it was a successful side-event despite the low turnout of participants due to competing events during the summit with a little over 40 participants.
- iii. Transfer of resources: a total of US\$135,000 was transferred to 3 countries in the Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS) that were not part of the countries covered by the Regional Bureau for

<sup>2</sup> See Annex 1 on the Kazakhstan Regional Project Workplan 2015 – 2017; for further details.

Africa. Djibouti, Somalia and Sudan received \$45,000 each which went towards SDG domestication efforts in those countries. An account of these resources will be provided by the RBAS.

- iv. The project had programmed for a follow-up meeting to COP 21 in DRC (Ministerial Meeting) which took place in March of 2016 in DRC. The meeting took place with UNDP financing (as a partner contribution to the project).
- v. LDC graduation initiative as a platform for knowledge sharing and documentation – 2 activities were undertaken under this initiative, 1) a study and a publication on the risks of graduation in Africa which in progress with an initial draft report produced in May 2016<sup>3</sup>. A Final report of the study is yet to be finalized. The expectation is to have the final draft of the report by March 2018; and b) a High-Level Side Event on the margins of the High-Level Mid-Term Review of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) which took place in Antalya, Turkey (28 May, 2016)<sup>4</sup>. The side event gave a lot of visibility to the Kazakhstan Government and the partnership it has with UNDP for peer learning and South South exchange on LDC graduation. Up to 45 countries attended the event. Distinguished guests included the UNDP Regional Director of Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, The Deputy Foreign Ministers for Kazakhstan (Minister Ashikbayev), Foreign Affairs Minister for Benin, Deputy Foreign Minister for Liberia, other selected ministers from Africa and Senior Government Representatives from the invited countries.
- vi. 2 Regional SDG Implementation Workshops in Africa: – the workshops were held successfully in Johannesburg, South Africa (15-16 June, 2016) and Dakar, Senegal (21-22 June, 2016) as part of the regional roll out of 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and Agenda 2063 as the global and continental priorities for Africa. They sought to a) popularize the two agendas through Ministries of Foreign Affairs and ministries and agencies responsible for the implementation of SDGs in Africa; b) support implementation through national development planning and strategies; and c) seek to highlight the role of SSC in the implementation and achievement of the two ambitious agendas. Senior public officials responsible for SDG roll-out from Ministries, Representatives of the UN Country Teams, Civil Society Representatives, the African Union Commission (AUC) and representatives of the Kazakhstan Government in South Africa and Egypt were all part of the two workshops. A total of 160 and 105 participants in Johannesburg and Dakar respectively attended the workshops. See Annex 5 and 6 for further details.
- vii. On-demand (in-country) Capacity Building (1<sup>st</sup> Round of the Micro-grant): A total of 43 African countries received support in specific areas of demand to promote SDGs Mainstreaming/high level policy dialogue as well as for other forms of capacity building, beyond SDG domestication directly. On-demand country support has been mainly on organizing outreach, training and workshops on SDG domestication, implementation and mainstreaming at country level; conducting needs assessments and costing for SDG training and towards renting or purchasing of equipment and services needed for SDG related events at the country level. In some cases, these resources went towards specialized training and conferences on SDGs in general. Implementation

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<sup>3</sup> See Annex 2 for the Draft Report on the study.

<sup>4</sup> See Mission Report and Programme of events. Annex 3 and 4.

on this activity started in late April through small grants of \$12,500 - \$15,000 per country. Up to \$500,000 was planned for this activity to support the activities that were identified by Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Planning.

- viii. South-South Cooperation: a training Workshop for diplomats was organised in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia under the theme “Strengthening Bilateral and Multilateral Diplomacy in the context of Sustainable Development Goals”. The workshop was a collaborative effort between the Kazakhstan Government and UNDP, with direct logistical support from UNDP RSC from 7 to 8 June, 2016. The main objectives of the workshop were as follows: to strengthen the role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in facilitating the implementation of the SDGs by deepening diplomatic capacity and promoting the use of South-South Cooperation. The specific objectives were to a) Share experiences on how international diplomacy (bilateral and multilateral) is shaping socio-economic transformation and human advancement within Africa and in Kazakhstan and how this could be used to leverage the implementation of the SDGs; b) Discuss how the civil service system could help rollout and implement the SDGs agenda in Africa and Kazakhstan; c) Promote a platform for development exchange among African and Kazakhstan diplomats to support mutual exchange of ideas and practical solutions to emerging development challenges.
- ix. Events in New York – a briefing on the UNDP-Kazakhstan project with African Permanent Representatives. Objectives of the collaboration and project, including priorities for 2016 was done in March (March 28) led by the Kazakh Mission. The briefing took advantage of Minister Ashinbeyev (Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs) who was in NY on that day. The briefing which took place during a working lunch mobilized at least 75% of the African PRs in New York.
- x. A second meeting also took place on 29 June 2016 in New York, under the theme Domestication of SDGs and Agenda 2063 at country level; highlighted further the UNDP/Kazakhstan partnership as part of SSC for effective SDG implementation. The meeting was led by the Kazakhstan Mission in New York.

## Deliverables in 2017

- xi. 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of On-Demand Micro-grants to countries: In 2017, 37 African countries received the **2<sup>nd</sup> Tranche of On-Demand Capacity Micro-Grants** to strengthen capacities of relevant government agencies and ministries tasked with the domestication, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the SDGs at national and sub-national levels. The 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche of the on-demand microgrants supported capacities in four main areas: *1) strengthening National Dialogues on integrating the SDGs into national plans and budgets; 2) Development of national communication strategies on SDGs for Advocacy and Sensitization; 3) Support to strengthening of national statistical systems; and 4) Preparation of national monitoring frameworks including the preparation of baseline SDGs reports.*

Overall, results on the implementation of **2<sup>nd</sup> Tranche of On-Demand Capacity Micro-Grants** have been quite satisfactory and resounding. Building on previous national dialogues on SDGs from the

1<sup>st</sup> round; some countries developed practical guidelines and solutions to steadily mainstream SDGs into national development plans, strategies and budgets. Drawing on lessons learnt from Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), others scaled up their stakeholder engagement efforts to particularly raise awareness on SDGs among youth and women, to ensure they are fully engaged and involved in decision-making and implementation processes as integral partners in local development. Some grant recipients went on further to conduct SDGs data collection exercises to develop a timely understanding of gaps in national statistical systems and strengthen their capacities for data production and SDGs mainstreaming accordingly. In collaboration with UNDP, other countries also undertook Rapid Integrated Assessments (RIA) of their National Development Plans (NDPs); to ensure alignment between SDGs and national development strategies/priorities. These processes have substantially contributed to policy making and practical dimensions of SDG implementation in Africa, without which the results could not have been achieved. The foundations that have been laid will have far more reaching implications for Africa's development and the achievement of the SDGs. In total, the project disbursed a total of \$940, 646 for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the On-demand country microgrants. See [Annex 7](#) for more details on the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the on-demand country initiatives.

- xii. Symposium on Promoting South-South Development Exchange on Economic Diversification and Industrialization in Africa in the Context of the SDGs<sup>5</sup>: The symposium was organised by UNDP in partnership with the Kazakhstan Government and the Astana Civil Service Hub with the purpose of promoting a development policy exchange for African countries on programmatic and strategic imperatives that can help countries transform their economies towards industry, job creation and inclusive growth. The development exchange was particularly important for Africa, considering the continent's recent economic performance, which stands in sharp contrast to the past decade, when growth averaged 5% until 2012. By 2015, Africa's growth had decelerated to 3% and further to 1.6% in 2016.

The symposium, which attracted participation of senior government officials in the Ministries of Finance, Economic Planning, Foreign Affairs, Ministries of Trade and Industries focused on identifying and showcasing good examples from countries in the global south that have successfully transformed their economic structures. The workshop emphasized the need to ensure that development in Africa is anchored on diversified and industrialized economies to ensure resilience and growth that is inclusive to ensure reductions in poverty and inequalities within the continent and push Africa towards a sustainable development pathway. At the end of the 4-day meeting, which included a study tour to three industries at the special economic industrial zones, participants had:

- A better understanding of the benefits of diversification and industrialization for sustainable growth by stakeholders.
- A better understanding of existing opportunities, partnerships and collaboration with South-South partners.
- Shared ideas, lessons and policy advice on economic diversification and industrialization.

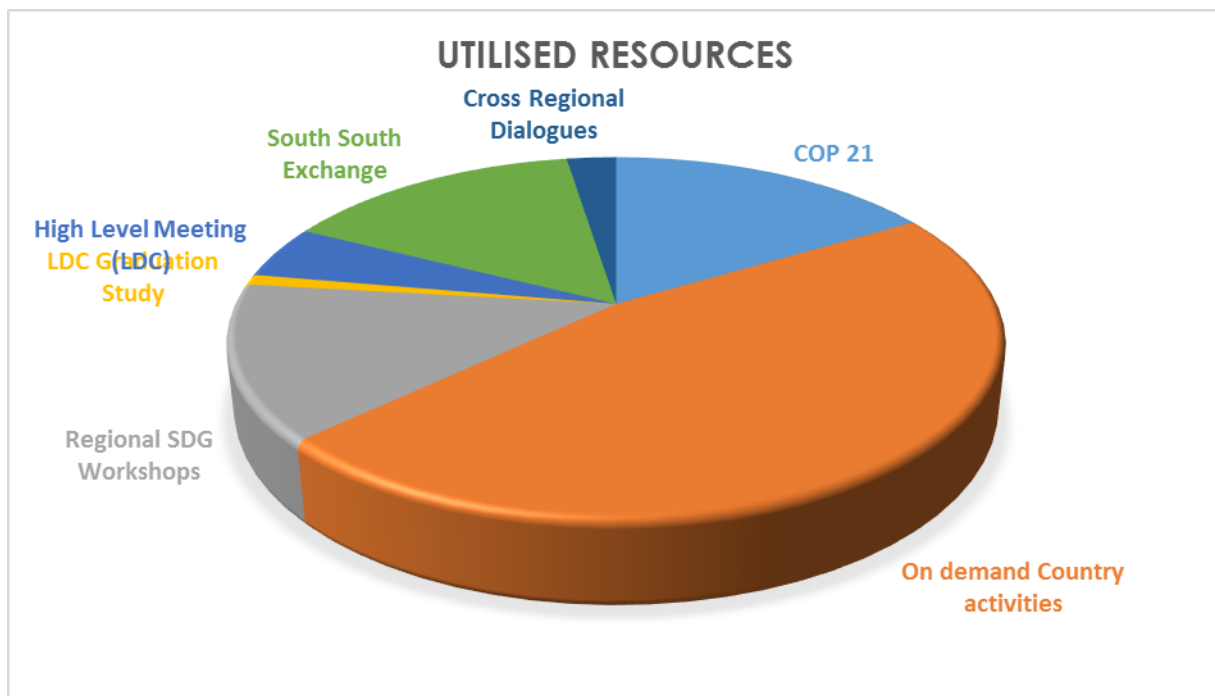
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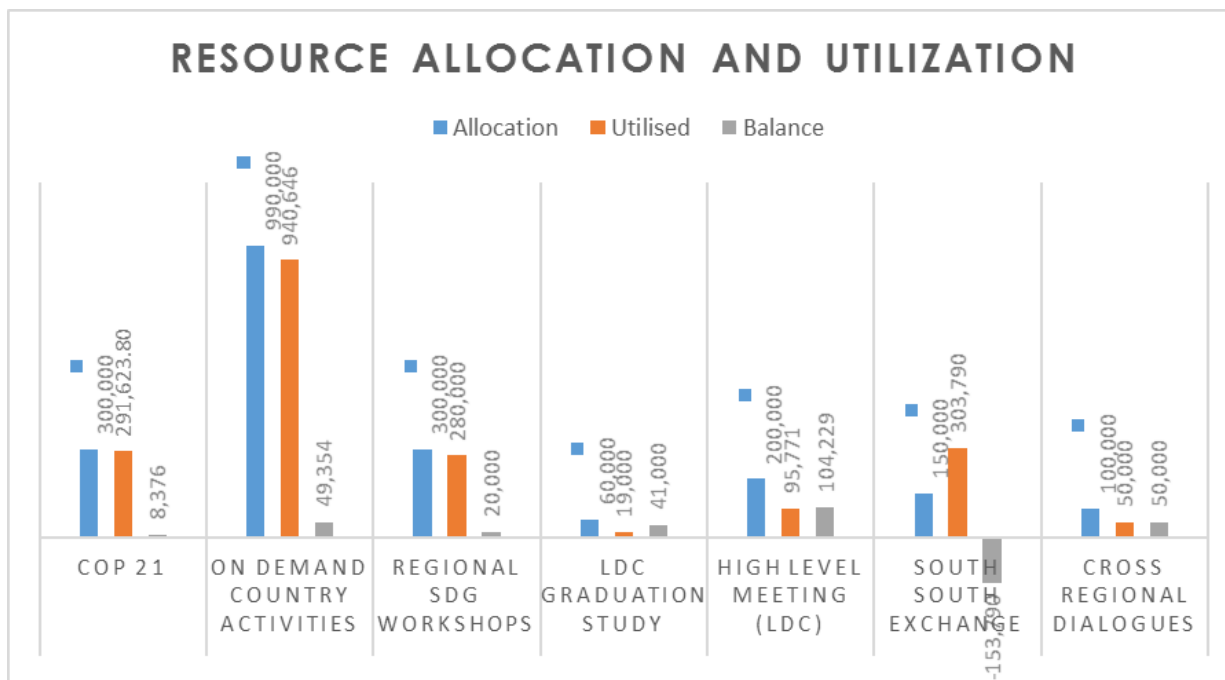
<sup>5</sup> Refer to Annex 7 for a full report on the Symposium.

xiii. By December 2017; a total of \$1,980,830.80 had been spent out of the total of \$2,100,000 received at the start of the project in December 2015 and 2016. Due to adjustments that were made to the budget lines as well as co-financing from UNDP on certain activities; there is a small balance yet to be utilized which will mostly go to management costs (8% of the total project amount) and the final project evaluation (approximately 5% of the total).

## 4.0 Financial Expenditures\*

### Snapshot of Financial Expenditures per Budget Line





\*Please note that this is a preliminary financial report pending the closure of the 2017 UNDP account.

## 5.0 Main Outcomes

The resources provided through this partnership were timely as they have helped Africa lay important foundations for effective SDG achievement. The partnership has facilitated the following critical processes on the continent:

- i. Raised awareness on the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the continental agenda (Agenda 2063) at the regional, national and local levels – to achieve full ownership at all levels in Africa;
- ii. Helped to define national priorities in the context of the SDGs and Agenda 2063;
- iii. Facilitated regional priorities to support country implementation. To this end, RBA in collaboration with its 46 programme countries has since drafted a regional programme that would support SDG implementation in Africa from 2018 – 2021.
- iv. Defined implementation frameworks that would support such ambitious and integrated agendas through the identification of gaps and priorities that would propel individual countries achieve the SDGs and Agenda 2063;
- v. Facilitated needs assessments (financial and institutional) that would support SDG achievement;
- vi. Facilitated a continental discussion on LDC graduation in Africa;
- vii. Initiated a continental discussion on economic structural transformation and diversification; and
- viii. Expanded opportunities for South-South Cooperation and learning for African countries in the context of structural transformation and sustainable development.



## 6.0 Follow Up

- i. Building on this Partnership: the activities that have been implemented at the regional and country levels, have produced overwhelming first level impacts on SDG implementation in Africa. The project and partnership has laid important foundations for SDG domestication and achievement through the national dialogues; gap analyses and the strategies that have been developed with support from this project. UNDP and the Regional Bureau for Africa will continue to support its countries in the region to ensure that structural impediments are removed, economies transformed in order to put Africa on a sustainable development path. As such a longer term regional project is envisaged to respond to the different challenges and needs that a lot of the African countries have identified in order to fully implement the SDG agenda and graduate from the Least Development Country Status by 2030. In view of this reality, a second phase of this partnership would be ideal in the broader context of the Regional Programme.