

## Concept Note

### Engagement Facility\_Country Office Kazakhstan

#### I. Rationale

UNDP is running a country programme 2016-2020 in the areas of in the area of economic and social well-being for all, with particular attention to vulnerable groups; environmental sustainability, focused on the sustainable management of natural resources; mitigation and adaptation to climate change; and preparedness for natural and man-made disasters; effective governance, focused on promoting and protecting human rights and strengthening democratic institutions; regional cooperation, gender equality and women empowerment.

Currently the Country Office is running a number of initiatives such as the knowledge week, innovation lab, Gender Equality Seal,

The Country Office is building a new pipeline at the same time in line with the changing national priorities and to respond to the UNDP Strategic Plan, in particular in terms of building new initiatives to spearhead innovations and a platform approach, as well as integrate key principles in our programming, including gender, social and environment standards, results based management and others.

A new 2021-2025 Country Programme is under preparation, requiring analysis and start-up interventions in order to build a new portfolio.

Therefore the CO institutes this engagement facility to provide a rapid and flexible response mechanism to support upstream policy results and test innovations with scaling-up potential in order to finance inputs that are used to conduct the above-mentioned interventions, including but not limited to: expert assignments including in-country missions, knowledge exchange events abroad, communications and advocacy costs, logistics support to events organized to engage partners, providing proven policy expertise, etc.

#### II. Themes and objectives of the Engagement Facility

The Engagement Facility shall contribute to the following priority areas of UNDP work both for CPD 2016-2020 and CPD 2021-2025:

Pillar 1. Responsive and Accountable Governance Systems:

- Enhanced Transparency and Accountability Systems
- Empowerment of democratic & economic stakeholders
- Introduce integrated models for responsive governance

Pillar 2. Inclusive, Sustainable Growth:

- Invigorating 'Emerging' Sectors
- Creating dynamic regions
- Modernization of economy

Pillar 3. Social empowerment towards reduced inequalities:

- Economic empowerment measures for vulnerable groups
- Youth empowerment
- Gender Equality

#### III. Budget

The budget is set up for the period of 2 years: 2019-2020 and totals to 366,306 USD.

The expenses of the engagement facility are counted as CO delivery. It's subject to 8% GMS and cost recovery.

The Annual Work Plans (AWP) shall be made on annual basis to ensure sound planning and management of the resources.

AWP shall be approved by Resident Representative/Deputy Resident Representative.

AWPs shall be subject to the revisions as required in line with UNDP rules and regulations.

The expenses will be made in line with below categories of activities eligible for the Engagement Facility.

Activities should be limited to the following:

<b>Can Fund</b>	<b>Cannot Fund</b>
Consultants, UNVs—local, regional or international	Low-value or micro-capital grants
UNDP staff directly supporting related activities	Activities not consistent with other relevant UNDP policies, including the Social and Environmental Standards
Minor equipment purchases cumulatively not exceeding 10 percent of total annual facility expenditures	Equipment purchases over 10 percent of total annual engagement facility expenditures
Publications	Infrastructure
Workshops, conferences, learning events	Cash transfers to Responsible Parties
South-South and/or triangular cooperation	
Policy, academic or research ties between institutions	
Impact evaluations after project closure	

#### IV. Partnerships

The Country Office will engage its counterparties and key stakeholders among the national partners, IFIs, civil and private sector engaged into the Country Programme implementation.

#### V. Management Arrangements

The Engagement Facility is approved by the Resident Representative who assigns the dedicated Project Manager for the project among the programme staff.

Overall supervision of the project implementation rests with the Deputy Resident Representative.

The Engagement Facility is Direct Implementation Modality managed by UNDP.

A dedicated project is assigned in Atlas with the project type “Engagement Facility”.

No project document required.

TORs (for hiring personnel) and concept notes (for knowledge products, workshops, innovation initiatives, etc.) will be the documentation required to justify and detail the expected results of activities funded by the Engagement Facility.

## VI. Reporting and Quality Assurance

The Engagement Facility is implemented in line with UNDP programming principals and policies. All the reporting is to be made as required: SESP, annual reporting, quality assurance, ROAR reporting.

## VII. Duration

The duration of the present Engagement Facility is 2019-2020. The Engagement Facility might be extended upon the endorsement of the senior management of the Country Office.

Project ID – to be assigned in Atlas