**Country Plan for the proposed country consultations in Turkmenistan**

**To Understand How Best To Implement the proposed new post-2015 goals and targets, 2016-2030**

**1. Background**

A. Key global processes for identifying the **focus** of the next global goals and targets 2016-2030

The post-2015 consultations process arose out of the need to define the next global development framework once the Millennium Development Goals adopted in 2000 comes to an end in 2015. That process started with a High Level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly conducted in September 2010 that reviewed MDG targets implementation process and agreed on an action plan to accelerate progress towards the full achievement of the MDGs by 2015. At the same time, the High Level Plenary Meeting called on the UN System to lead to international discussions on a post-2015 development agenda.

In 2011, in his Annual Report to the UN General Assembly “*Accelerating progress towards the MDGs: options for sustained and inclusive growth and issues for advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015”*, the UN Secretary General laid out the broad principles of the post-2015 process that included a broad based, open and inclusive dialogue with all stakeholders, including civil society actors, on the post-2015 agenda.

Building upon the recommendations of the Report, the UN system set out several processes that went along simultaneously to each other focusing on defining the priorities for the next global development framework after the end of MDGs.

First, the UN Secretary General convened the High-Level Panel (HLP) of Eminent Persons co-chaired by President of Indonesia, President of Liberia, and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. The results of the consultations within this Group were reflected in the Report “A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development”, which proposes 12 goals and 6 cross cutting issues.

Second, in January 2013, as a follow up to the agreements reached at the Rio+20 Conference held in June 2012, the UN General Assembly established the Intergovernmental Open Working Group (OWG) co-chaired by Permanent Representatives of Hungary and Kenya to the United Nations. It has conducted eight sessions so far and has preliminary agreed **19 focus areas** around which the Sustainable development Goals could be developed.

Third, the United Nations facilitated 11 regional/global consultations with academia, media, private sector, employers and trade unions, civil society, and decision makers to discuss thematic and cross-cutting issues. In addition to this processes, the UN were asked to facilitate the national consultations on the post-2015 agenda. The objective of the country consultations was to stimulate discussions amongst national stakeholders, and to garner inputs and ideas for a shared global vision of “The Future We Want”. The global process started in 2013 and involved more than **1 million people from 88 countries** round the world. The findings from the global country consultations process were summarized in the Report prepared by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) **“A million voices: the World We Want”**.

B. Relevance to the National Context and Ongoing Discussions on the post-2015 development agenda.

Turkmenistan actively participated in the process of post 2015 national consultations. Over 1800 people, including children, youth and women, NGOs representing vulnerable groups, farmers and entrepreneurs, civil servants and members of the parliament expressed their aspirations and vision for what the post-2015 development agenda should address. The findings of the National Report titled “The World We Want. Post-2015 National Consultations in Turkmenistan” were reflected in the “Million Voices” report. In addition, the Turkmen children attended a side event in New York during the 68th session of UNGA and the Turkmen delegation participated in the Regional post-2015 consultation in Istanbul led by UNECE and UNDP, and hosted by the Government of Turkey. The Government, in turn, reiterated on several occasions the importance of post-2015 consultations helping to shape national priorities for the long-term.

The UNCT used the momentum around the global post-2015 process to advocate for a) greater access to national verifiable data for use in international reports and b) the need for stronger systems for collection and analysis of data. To this end, the UNCT undertook a number of activities in 2013 to highlight importance of these issues. These have resulted in the Government’s agreement to develop a new national MDG report (the last one was submitted back in 2003), disclose national data that previously was used only for Government’s internal use to assess their availability and quality for MDG and HDI indicators.

Because the current MDGs were not integrated in the national development programmes, the UNCT has been promoting that the Government integrates the post 2015 global development targets into existing or future national plans and strategies.

C. Area of Consultations for Turkmenistan

It has become widely recognized that a number of developing countries had many challenges in the implementation of the MDG goals and targets (2000- 2015). Arising out of this, the United Nations would like to understand more why this happened and to understand how the next development goals can be implemented more effectively. In light of this, the United Nations are piloting consultations with a small number of member states around the world (about 42 ) to ask their views on how best to implement the next post 2015 goals and targets. Each country will discuss ONE of the six topics listed below:

1. Localizing the post-2015 development agenda
2. Helping to strengthen capacities and build institutions
3. Participatory monitoring, existing and new forms of accountability
4. Partnerships with civil society and other actors
5. Partnerships with the private sector
6. Culture and development

Given Turkmenistan’s successful contribution to the country consultations process, the United Nations are requesting Turkmenistan to engage again in another pilot to discuss HOW to implement the new post 2015 goals and targets, once they are adopted by the UN General Assembly.

Turkmenistan has been asked to consider to roll out consultation for the topic of “**How Best to** **Strengthen Capacities and Build Effective Institutions”** to implement the Post 2015 goals and targets. Some of the pilot countries are conducting consultations with many groups at national and sub – national levels on their particular topic.

**2. Objective of the Inclusive Dialogue**

The **objective** of the proposed consultations is:

1. To engage countries in discussion on how best to implement the new post-2015 goals and targets. This is done in order to assist nations to implement the post 2015 goals and targets more effectively, with a particular emphasis on the topic “Helping to strengthen capacities and institutions”.
2. To understand how the United Nations agencies in Turkmenistan can assist the Government to integrate relevant Post 2015 goals and targets into their National and ministries’ plans and assist them monitor progress over the years 2016- 2030.
3. To understand how the United Nations can assist the government in the area of strengthening capacities and effective institutions for the implementation and monitoring of those post 2015 global goals and targets that are relevant for Turkmenistan.
4. To contribute to the global discussions on how best to implement and monitor the Post 2015 goals and targets, by hearing the voices of a select number of countries around the world.

**3. The key contents for exploration**

Taking into account the country context and recent UNCT achievements in the area of data access, dissemination and quality, the UN country team proposes that the consultations in Turkmenistan focus on understanding:

1) the challenges with integration and implementation of MDGs;

2) ways and means through which the target groups could develop, improve or strengthen their capacities, systems and mechanisms in order to adopt the post-2015 goals and targets, integrate them into the existing and future national and sector strategies and plans, set up proper baselines to implement, monitor implementation, coordinate data collection and report on the progress of post-2015 goals and targets; and

3) the type of support from the UN system required to respond to the needs.

**4. Methodology**

The consultations will be carried out by an independent national consultant agreed by both parties. She/he will conduct individual meetings with each of the identified main stakeholders to conduct face to face discussions by asking a set of questions prepared for each of the target groups in advance. He/she will update the participants about the global post-2015 processes and use brainstorming sessions to collect different views, identify findings and draw conclusions.

She/he will also write a report which will be agreed by both the Government and UN Agencies before submission to the United Nations in New York.

* **The proposed target groups for consultations in Turkmenistan**

The UNCT proposes that the consultations be conducted with the following four groups as follows:

1. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2. Ministry of Economy and Development (MoED) & National Institute of Strategic Planning and Economic Development of Turkmenistan (NISP)
3. The Ministries of Health and Medical Industry, Education, Labor and Social Protection of Population, Interior, and Nature Protection
4. State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan (SSC)

**Justification for choosing the four targeted groups**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA): is proposed as the body to be consulted who can represent the government’s view on the willingness of the government to adopt the new relevant Post 2015 goals and targets into the states national plans and their willingness to discuss aspects around the topic on “**How to** **Strengthen Capacities and Build Effective Institutions”** for the implementations of these goals and targets. In addition, MOFA is the coordinating body for all the United Nations work in Turkmenistan. The consultations will be *at deputy minister level together with heads of departments*. The focus of the discussion could be on how TKM will go through a process of adopting the goals to be part of the state’s national priorities.

The Ministry of Economy and Development (MoED) and the National Institute of Strategic Planning and Economic Development of Turkmenistan (NISP): are proposed as these are the institutions responsible for the development the state’s national strategies and plans. The consultations will be with *the deputy minister/deputy director and head of departments*. The discussions would focus on how they could integrate the goals and targets into the existing national strategies such as: The National Programme of Socio-Economic Development of Turkmenistan for 2011-2030; National Programme of President of Turkmenistan for improving social and living conditions of the population of villages, towns, cities in districts, districts, and district centers till 2020; Strategy of economic, political and cultural development of Turkmenistan till 2020, and any new national strategy to be developed. The discussion will also focus on how they can strengthen their capacities and systems to do this work effectively.

A sample of line ministries: is chosen as they are a sample of the implementers of the state plans. In addition, the ministries of Health, Education, Labor and Social Protection of Population, Interior, and Nature Protection, all have ongoing programmes with the UN agencies in Turkmenistan. The consultations would be with *the deputy ministers and head of departments* to discuss how they could integrate the post 2015 goals and targets into their ministries strategies and plans. The consultations would include discussions on how they could implement and monitor the progress of the relevant goals and targets and how they could coordinate their efforts with the SSC. They will discuss how they could establish baselines, collect data on progress being made and analyze it. The discussion will also focus on how they can strengthen their capacities and systems to do this work effectively.

The State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan (SSC): is chosen because they are the national body responsible for collecting and analyzing key state statistics. In addition, many UN agencies are supporting and working closely with SCC. The consultations with the SSC could focus on how it could establish a baseline for the proposed 2015 goals and targets so it can effectively monitor the relevant goals and targets on behalf of the state. The discussion would also cover how they could coordinate with monitoring efforts done by other line ministries. They would also discuss how they would report the status of progress to the Cabinet of Ministers and international bodies. The discussion will also focus on how they can strengthen their capacities and systems to do this work effectively.

**Proposed questions for each target group**

The proposed questions for the *Ministry of Foreign Affairs* at deputy minister and head of department level could include the following:

1. **MDGs:**
2. Did the government of TKM agree to adopt the MDG global goals into national strategies in 2000?
3. Did the government have a specific programme to implement and monitor the MDG?
4. What lessons did TKM learn from the implementation of the MDGs?
5. How useful was the MDG goals and targets in assisting the development of Turkmenistan?
6. **Post 2015 Goals and Targets:**
7. Is the government of Turkmenistanplanning to formally adopt the relevant post 2015 goals and targets when approved by the General Assembly in September 2015? If yes, how might this be done?
8. Is the government planning to set up a mechanism to oversee the implementation of the new Post 2015 country consultation?
9. What and whose capacities can be strengthened to implement the post 2015 goals and targets?
10. What systems could be strengthened to implement and monitor the progress of the new goals and targets?
11. How might civil society become involved in the implementation of the post 2015 goals and targets?
12. Will the government of Turkmenistan take part in the global discussions on negotiating the final global goals and targets?
13. Would the government of Turkmenistan like to share their experience as being an active partner on piloting consultations around the post 2015 country consultations?

The questions for the *Ministry of Economy and Development (MoED) and National Institute of Strategic Planning and Economic Development* of Turkmenistan (NISP) at deputy minister and deputy director level and heads of departments could include the following :

1. **MDGs:**
2. Were MDG goals and targets integrated into national strategies and plans?
3. Was there a specific strategy or plan for MDG goals and targets?
4. What lessons did your ministry/institute learn from the implementation of the MDGs?
5. **Post 2015 Goals and Targets:**
6. Is the MOED and NISP planning to integrate the relevant post 2015 goals and targets when approved by the General Assembly in September 2015 into the existing national strategies of National Programme of Socio-Economic Development of Turkmenistan for 2011-2030; National Programme of President of Turkmenistan for improving social and living conditions of the population of villages, towns, cities in districts, districts, and district centers till 2020; Strategy of economic, political and cultural development of Turkmenistan till 2020?
7. How difficult will it be to integrate these relevant goals and targets into existing strategies?
8. What and whose capacities in your institutions can be strengthened to integrate the post 2015 goals and targets into national strategies?
9. What systems in your institutions could be strengthened to ensure that national strategies will adopt the relevant goals and targets?
10. Is your ministry planning to set up a mechanism to oversee that line ministries will integrate the relevant new Post 2015 goals into their ministries strategies and plans?

The questions for the *Ministry of Health, Education, Labor and Social Protection of Population, Interior, Nature Protection* at deputy minister level and heads of departments, could include the following:

1. **MDGs:**
2. Were the relevant MDG goals and targets integrated into your ministries strategies or plan?
3. Was your ministry able to implement any MDG goals or targets?
4. What challenges did your ministry face in the implementation and monitoring of the relevant MDGs? How could this be improved for the post 2015 goals and targets?

**2.** **Post 2015 Goals and Targets:**

1. Is your ministry planning to integrate the post 2015 relevant goals and targets when approved by the General Assembly in September 2015 into your ministries’ existing national strategies and plans?
2. How difficult will it be to integrate them into existing strategies and plans?
3. What capacities can be strengthened to integrate the relevant post 2015 goals and targets into your strategies and plans?
4. What capacities and systems can be strengthened to implement the relevant post 2015 goals and targets related to the mandate of your ministry?
5. What capacities and systems can be strengthened to monitor progress of the relevant post 2015 goals and targets related to the mandate of your ministry?
6. How do you plan to engage civil society in the implementations of the relevant goal and target related to your mandate?
7. What capacities and systems can be strengthened to establish a reporting mechanism on the progress in the implementation of the post 2015 goals and targets?

The questions for the *State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan (SSC)*, at deputy director level and heads of departments, could include the following:

**1. MDGs:**

1. Were MDG goals and targets integrated into your institution’s strategies or plan?
2. Was your institution able to regularly monitor any MDG goal or target?
3. What challenges did your institution face in the monitoring of the MDGs? How could this be improved for the post 2015 goals and targets?
4. Did the institute have a specific programme for monitoring the MDGs?

**2. Post 2015 Goals and Targets:**

1. Is your institution planning to integrate the relevant post 2015 goals and targets when approved by the General Assembly in September 2015 into your institutions existing national strategies and plans?
2. How difficult will it be to integrate them into existing strategies and plans?
3. What capacities can be strengthened to integrate the post 2015 goals and targets into your plans?
4. What capacities and systems can be strengthened to monitor the post 2015 goals and targets related to the mandate of your institution?
5. What capacities and systems can be strengthened to monitor the line ministries’ role in monitoring post 2015 goals and targets?
6. Is the institute planning to establish a baseline for monitoring the post 2015 goals and targets? How challenging might this process be?
7. What capacities and systems can be strengthened to establish a baseline to monitor the post 2015 goals and targets?
8. What capacities and systems can be strengthened to establish a reporting mechanism to monitor the post 2015 goals and targets?

* **How to ensure an inclusive dialogue**

The UNCT will seek the approval of the Government for this process with participation of the Ministries at the level of Deputy Minister/Deputy Director and heads of department of the ministries and institutions indicated above. In addition, when the discussions in the target groups are over, the UNCT will arrange a round table discussion to which all those who took part in the consultations, members of the Parliament, representatives from academic institutions and NGOs will be invited. They will be briefed about the process and outcomes of the consultations. The participants of the round table will have an opportunity to provide their feedback and comments to the draft report to be shared with them before the round table. To ensure awareness of the consultations, TV and news coverage of some of the meetings will be provided.

Products to be developed from this consultation for use nationally

A national report on the outcomes and findings of the consultations will be developed, shared with the stakeholders that participated in the event and endorsed by the Government of Turkmenistan and UN agencies. It will be then sent to the United Nations in New York.

Partnerships to be built around this dialogue

The dialogue will contribute to deepening trustworthy cooperation with the indicated Government agencies, national Parliament and NGOs in implementation of the post-2015 goals and targets in the country.

Innovative tools and models of engagement to be used

During the consultations with the identified target groups, the UNCT will use infographics and data visualizations on the post -2015 process. Additionally, the partners will be requested to post their views on the online platform of UNDP website at: <https://plus.google.com/+UNDPTurkmenistan> open to general public

**5. Roles and responsibilities**

a. *National partners*

**The Ministry of Foreign Affairs** will be responsible to facilitate getting the Government approval for the second round of post-2015 consultations in Turkmenistan, forwarding the UN invitations to the relevant targeted institutions and making sure that their staff actively contribute to the discussions. It will also host a discussion of the consultant with its own representatives as well as provide its venue for the round table.

**The Ministry of Economy and Development, National Institute of Strategic Planning, Ministries of Health, Education, Labor and Social Protection, Interior and Nature Protection,** and **SSC** will nominate their staff to participate in the consultations as well as encouraging their active participation in the process, including posting articles and stories to the local newspapers and online platform. They will provide their premises for the discussions.

b. *UNCT*

The **UNCT** will be responsible for logistical arrangements, preparation of necessary materials for the consultations, recruiting a national consultant for discussions, organizing the round table, providing quality assurance for the national report, and sharing the report with the national stakeholders and HQ.

c. *HQ Teams*

The **HQ teams** will provide assistance and guidance in shaping the second round of consultations in Turkmenistan

**6. Timeline**

The post-2015 discussions on “**How to** **Strengthen Capacities and Build Effective Institutions” for the effective implementation of the post 2015 relevant goals and targets,** will start in early May and end in July 30th to allow the report to be written in August.

**7. Resources**

Resources will be needed to prepare a banner, materials and handouts for participants, arrange water and stationery during the discussions and recruit an independent national consultant to facilitate the dialogues and write a report.

**8. Reference Materials**

- “The World We Want”, the report on post-2015 national consultations in Turkmenistan

- Report by the UNSG: “A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium - Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015”

UNDG Report “A million voices: The world we want”

* Background note “Continuing Inclusive Dialogue on the post-2015 Development Agenda, February 2014
* Concept Note for an inclusive dialogue on the Post-2015 development Agenda: How to strengthen capacities and build effective institutions, 6 March 2014.