**Concept Note**

**Workshop on the rollout of the Zimbabwe National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) – Integrating the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

1. **Background**

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) embody the strategic vision and aspirations of all countries for the future of development. Its implementation will require comprehensive actions at the global, regional and national levels, as indicated in General Assembly Resolution 70/1 entitled *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. The 2030 Agenda states that “Cohesive nationally owned sustainable development strategies, supported by integrated national financing frameworks, will be at the heart of our efforts [to achieve the SDGs].[[1]](#footnote-1) The Agenda also provides that it is the prerogative of each country to determine how the SDGs and their targets will be incorporated in national planning processes, policies and strategies. Countries are encouraged to put in place ambitious national responses to the overall implementation of the Agenda, which “can support the transition to the SDGs and build on existing planning instruments, such as national development and sustainable development strategies, as appropriate”.[[2]](#footnote-2)

In response to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, countries are reviewing and adapting their policy and institutional frameworks. Good practices, lessons, gaps and challenges are already emerging, and some have been showcased at the High-level political forum (HLPF) on sustainable development, especially in the voluntary national reviews. Zimbabwe, having conducted its first VNR in 2018, presented its second review at the 2021 HLPF.

Zimbabwe’s long-term development objectives are encapsulated in its Vision 2030, which is to be realized through two five-year medium-term developments. The first of these, the National Development Strategy 1: 2021-2025 (NDS1), prepared under the aegis of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, is anchored by 14 National Priorities. While the 2030 Agenda was considered during the preparation of the NDS1, the Government wishes to further integrate the Agenda and the SDGs and AU Agenda 2063 in the rollout of the strategy.

Paragraph 74 (h) of the 2030 Agenda (A/RES/70/1) calls for enhanced capacity-building support for developing countries for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, particularly in African countries, least developed countries, small island developing countries, landlocked developing countries and middle-income countries. Paragraph 74 (i) of the same resolution specifically calls for the active support of the United Nations system and other multilateral institutions in capacity building activities in these countries on the implementation of the Agenda.

Recent intergovernmental resolutions have underlined the importance of mainstreaming the Agenda into national plans and strategies, with a view to accelerating transformative change. Thus, the Political Declaration adopted at the 2019 SDG Summit pledges, among other things, to “mainstream the 2030 Agenda into our national planning instruments, policies, strategies and financial frameworks” and to “equip domestic institutions to better address interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs between the Goals and targets through a whole-of-government approach that can bring about transformative change in governance and public policy and ensure policy coherence for sustainable development”.

The strategic framework for UN DESA foresees “providing assistance in translating policy frameworks developed in United Nations conferences and summits into programmes at the country level and supporting Member States in building national capacities and in particular supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals”.[[3]](#footnote-3) Among other things, DESA aims to: continue to support the implementation of the decade of action for the SDGs and to build the capacities of public institutions for accelerating Goal implementation

1. **Target Group**

The capacity building programme will target the officials of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, focal points from line ministries, parliamentarians, and relevant stakeholders. The Resident Coordinator’s Office and members of the UNCT, which have supported the preparation of the NDS1, are participating actively in this capacity building activity.

1. **Nature of Demand**

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development of Zimbabwe requested support from UN DESA to provide capacity building training to facilitate the integration of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs into the implementation of the National Development Strategy 2021-2025 (NDS1). The request covered both a workshop and related support, as well as a study tour for purposes of gaining exposure to integration practices in other African countries.

1. **Strategy**

The workshop forms part of project activities are being prepared in accordance with the needs of the government, in coordination with the RCO and with the support of UNCT. DESA’s assistance has also been included in the joint offer of the Government of Zimbabwe’s trilateral partners, the African Development Bank, World Bank, and the United Nations Country Team, in response to a request from the government.

The main project activity will consist of a five-day workshop, bringing together technical staff from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, which took the lead in preparing the NDS1. Other participants will include focal points from line ministries and relevant stakeholders. The workshop will explore the alignment between the 14 national priorities, the SDGs and AU Agenda 2063, as well as interlinkages among them. The implementation of the NDS1 foresees the creation of sector working groups around the National Priorities, which offer platform for mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda and AU Agenda 2063.

1. **Objective:**

The objective of the workshop is to enhance the capacity of ministry and other government officials to integrate the 2030 Agenda and SDGs and AU Agenda 2063 into the implementation of the NDS1. In this regard, the aims of the workshop are:

* To mainstream and align NDS1 implementation to the 2030 Agenda and AU Agenda 2063;
* To acquaint planners and SDG technical team on the possible areas to enhance partnerships during the implementation of both NDS1 and 2030 Agenda;
* To acquaint the participants with the knowledge on the roles played by the various contributing partners to the targets and outcomes of both NDS1 and 2030 Agenda; and
* How to package communicate key message to suit the diverse groups covered by NDS1 and 2030 Agenda

1. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, para. 63. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

   , para. 78. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Proposed programme budget 2021, Section 9, A/75/6 (Sect. 9). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)