



GLOBAL
ACCELERATOR



Joint SDG Fund Window on Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection

Investment
Strategy



1. Background

1.1 Introduction

Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions was launched by the UN Secretary-General in September 2021 in response to the multiple crises facing the world. It offers a shared vision from the UN system, international financial institutions (IFIs), development partners, the private sector and employers' organisations, civil society, and workers' organisations to help countries create 400 million decent jobs, including in the green, digital and care economies, and to extend social protection coverage to the 4 billion people currently excluded.

Three complementary and mutually supportive areas of work are envisaged under the Global Accelerator:

1. the in-country development and implementation of **integrated and coordinated employment and social protection policies** and strategies that facilitate just transitions;
2. the **establishment of national financing frameworks** and the mobilization of public and private domestic and international resources to invest in universal social protection and inclusive, environment- and gender-responsive employment interventions with a view to creating quality jobs; and
3. the **improvement of multilateral cooperation** on jobs and social protection for just transitions, including with international financial institutions, development banks, and the private sector.

A joined-up effort of this scale and nature is critically needed to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities, and thus pave the way for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The Global Accelerator's overall implementation strategy, which was built on a series of thematic roadmaps, was endorsed by the Deputy Secretary-General in July 2022 and provides the framework for the Window Investment Strategy. All documents are available here.

A UN-wide Technical Support Facility (TSF) coordinated by the ILO supports the implementation of the Global Accelerator.

1.2 Rationale for the Thematic Window

In line with the objectives of the Global Accelerator, the Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection Window will seek to promote and create synergies between integrated policy solutions, increased investments, and improved multilateral cooperation on decent jobs and universal social protection for just transitions.

It will bolster Joint UN Programmes in pathfinder countries, involving UN agencies, relevant ministries, public institutions, social partners and civil society as well as IFIs, the private sector, and development partners which will support

1. **The development of integrated and well-coordinated national public policies and strategies** and related implementation structures that promote and lead to the effective

creation of decent work in tandem with building and maintaining universal and sustainable social protection systems, and that enable just transitions for all;

2. **The establishment of national frameworks for adequate and sustainable financing of social protection and employment interventions**, through national investments that can be complemented with external sources where needed;
3. **The strengthening and/or creation of ownership and consensus** among all relevant national actors and their partners (ministries, social partners, public institutions, civil society, UN partners, development partners, IFIs, and private investors) and enhanced multilateral cooperation on decent jobs and social protection for just transitions; and
4. **The development and dissemination of new knowledge on employment and social protection for human-centered recovery**, for achieving the SDGs, and for better management of ecological, technological, and other transitions of national economies.

The foundations for the investment strategy for this new Window are also premised on the following elements:

1. **A policy review and consultations** (with UN Resident Coordinators, UN agencies, government officials, social partners, development partners and IFIs, etc.) in 10 countries where the UN Inter Agency Task team¹ identified “readiness” potential. This policy review aims at further informing the selection of pathfinder countries, based on the initial analysis conducted by the ILO and other UN agencies, as well as identify entry points to operationalise the Global Accelerator, with a potential to achieve substantial results within the next three to four years. The review has revealed for instance that employment and social protection are recurring themes in the UNDAF-UNSDCFs, with different levels of priority for each national context. However, they are in many cases not closely linked and insufficiently implemented, hence the potential to create better synergies around the two thematic areas and to enhance sustainable resources for their implementation.
2. **Demand and commitment from countries:** The championing of the Global Accelerator principles and approaches at the highest political level will be a key determinant to secure the expected transformative outcomes. It should be noted that a number of countries have already signalled their interest to implement the Global Accelerator at national level to accelerate ongoing and needed reforms.
3. **Policy priorities from development partners:** A review of development partners priorities and funding trends, together with consultations with key donors and IFIs to ensure the required leveraging of different sources of financing is ongoing.
4. **Lessons learnt from previous investments of the Joint SDG Fund**, in particular on Integrated Social Protection and SDG Financing. These lessons point to:
 - a. **a strong efficiency of the programmes in relation to the results they have achieved.** A balanced mix of interventions for the development or adaptation of strategies, policies, or legal frameworks for social protection, coupled with cross-ministerial delivery structures and associated capacity development led to results at scale for end beneficiaries;
 - b. **limited fiscal space for proper social protection policies to be put in place.** This supports the Global Accelerator’s approach to integrating

¹The Inter-Agency Task Team was created after the launch of the Accelerator and was comprised of 15 UN agencies. It supported the development of [six thematic roadmaps, the Implementation strategy of the Global Accelerator](#) as well as the identification of potential pathfinder.

- financing strategies and the promotion of formal and productive employment to boost domestic resources for social protection;
- c. **country ownership and championing is key for sustainability.** In some countries, there was limited mobilisation of national partners and limited institutionalization that would ensure the required scaling up and sustainability after the end of the Joint Programmes. This calls for a high-level commitment at government level and the strengthening of enabling governance structures, something that the Global Accelerator will be able to secure;
 - d. **the required technical support to design quality proposals was often limited and the two-year time limit on programme operations was often cited as insufficient to bring the results to scale and ensure capacity for continued progress by governments after the end of the Joint Programmes;** which is why this Window will consider a longer duration for the Joint Programmes.
 - e. **Lack of integration between social protection and employment,** which is an integral part of the Global Accelerator on Decent Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions and will therefore be a key component of all the new Joint Programmes.

2. Overall strategic approach

2.1 Window objective

The overall objective of the Joint SDG Fund Window on Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection is to provide catalytic funding for joint UN action at the country level in building national capacities to develop integrated employment and social protection policies, implement, monitor and evaluate them through well governed institutions, ensure that they contribute to just transitions, and mobilize more domestic and international resources to create decent jobs and expand social protection. It will constitute a critical funding stream to support the roll out and implementation of the Global Accelerator in a selected number of countries.

2.2 Expected Results

The Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection Window will support the design and implementation of the Accelerator's approach for the country, based on specific entry points adapted to the national situation. The programme design and implementation will be placed under the leadership of the UNRCs, with involvement of at least two UN agencies. It will receive guidance from the TSF coordination team, and specialized support from the hub of experts of the TSF. Programme design and implementation will involve relevant ministries, public institutions, social partners and civil society, together with IFIs, private sector, and bilateral cooperation agencies. Based on a tripartite national dialogue, stakeholders will agree to implement the Theory of Change of the Global Accelerator through tailor made and

country specific entry points and use a common M&E framework to monitor the interventions and consolidate results and impact.

The Joint Programmes that will be funded at country level will support some of the outcomes of the Global Accelerator’s results framework, as per the table below:

Table 1. Global Accelerator’s results framework

Medium and long-term outcomes	Indicators
<p>Creation of decent and productive jobs in the green, care and digital economies that improve the fiscal space and options for (re-)distributive policies</p>	<p>Quantitative and percentage increase in decent jobs in targeted sectors (defined by a set of indicators which covers both job quantity and quality), disaggregated by age, sex and other relevant dimensions</p> <p>Change in informal employment as a proportion of the total, by sector and sex (SDG 8.3.1) and, where possible, by age and disability status</p> <p>Change in the number of learners benefiting from lifelong learning opportunities, by sex</p>
<p>Increased coverage of social protection. Legal and effective</p> <p>Increased level of social protection benefits</p> <p>Enhanced fiscal space and adapted design and operation of social protection systems, together with complementary policies to support the inclusive extension of social protection (both contributory and non-contributory mechanisms)</p>	<p>Percentage increase in population covered by social protection (with some sex disaggregation), including children, people with disabilities, migrants</p> <p>Percentage of population with increased level of benefits</p> <p>Percentage net increase in resources (domestic and Official Development Assistance (ODA)) allocated directly to social protection and employment programmes</p> <p>The national social protection system has defined and prepared adaptation protocols (e.g. in terms of coverage, benefits, financing, administration) for responding to shocks</p>
Intermediate outcomes (GA outcomes)	Indicators
Pillar 1. Integrated national strategies and policies	
<p>1. Countries have strengthened institutional capacities, efficiency, governance and accountability frameworks to support the design and implementation of integrated policy and programme packages.</p>	<p>Management information systems and administrative processes and tools designed, implemented or improved</p> <p>Financial governance improved through the adoption of actuarial or public finance management recommendations</p>

	<p>Policies are aligned with international labour standards</p> <p>Tripartite and gender-balanced representation in the boards of social security institutions and skills development institutions introduced or strengthened</p> <p>Complaints and appeals mechanisms designed, implemented or improved, ensuring the participation of social partners, young people, women and other members of the community</p>
<p>2. Specific policy measures /legal frameworks which support decent job creation and social protection are adopted and enforced.</p>	<p>Number of analytical reports and national tripartite dialogue processes leading to the adoption of a common road map and adequate and sustainable financing strategy</p> <p>An integrated employment and social protection policy adopted and implemented, which includes measures to promote decent jobs, care, digital accessibility, and pathways to formalization; and/or specific strategies focused on green jobs, care, digital accessibility</p> <p>A law or decree adopted, with the means of implementing it (adequate and sustainable financing)</p>
<p>3. Policy decisions are based on improved and accessible labour market information and social security data, analysis, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems.</p>	<p>National statistical and/or labour market information system is designed, implemented and improved</p>
<p>Pillar 2. Integrated financing</p>	
<p>1. SDG-aligned financing flows for job creation and social protection are enhanced, diversified, more effective and more sustainable.</p>	<p>A national financing dashboard developed with baseline, financing gaps and investment needs, and sources and levels of financing linked to integrated policies under Pillar 1</p> <p>Employment and social protection addressed by Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs)</p> <p>Annual discussions on jobs and social protection between ministries of labour, finance and climate/green economy, social partners and other relevant stakeholders organized at country level</p>
<p>2. A significant share of ODA-supporting jobs and social protection for just transitions is progressively aligned with the GA's nationally defined road map and financing strategy.</p>	<p>Percentage increase in the share and/or levels of ODA allocated towards social protection and employment programmes</p>

<p>3. Countries have strengthened institutional capacities for increased domestic resource mobilization (e.g. sustainable budgeting, fiscal reforms, earmarked taxes, reinforced inspection) and investment measures (e.g. wage subsidies, tax incentives).</p>	<p>A domestic resource mobilization strategy formulated and implemented</p> <p>Percentage increase in domestic resources allocated for social protection or the creation of jobs, including in green, care and digital</p> <p>Tax to GDP ratio</p>
<p>Pillar 3. Enhanced multilateral cooperation</p>	
<p>3. The UN system and development partners align their relevant programmes with the results framework of the Global Accelerator.</p>	<p>In each country, number of GA and aligned programmes in the common results framework of the Global Accelerator</p> <p>Number of countries with UNSDCFs aligned with GA national plans</p> <p>Number of countries with UN-International Monetary Fund (IMF) collaboration on Article IV and social spending frameworks</p> <p>Number of countries having UN-World Bank alignment with the GA</p> <p>Number of countries having UN Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) alignment with the GA</p>
<p>4. Conducive and operational coordination and governance platforms are established /strengthened for more effective implementation, reporting and results.</p>	<p>Number of inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholder coordination meetings at national level (minutes)</p> <p>Number of countries contributing to a consolidated/global financing dashboard with baseline, financing gaps and investment needs, and sources and levels of financing</p> <p>Number of meetings of participating governments and other partners at the global/regional levels organized (minutes)</p> <p>Number of global/regional meetings of ministers of finance and labour organized (minutes)</p>

Furthermore, The Window's overarching goals will contribute to the main two outcome areas of the Joint SDG Fund:

- Outcome 1: Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievements
- Outcome 2: Additional financing leveraged to accelerate SDG achievements

These outcome areas enable the Joint SDG Fund to focus on UN development system reform and SDG acceleration. The combination of integrated transformative policies and leveraged financing will help countries build the case and trigger actions to scale up policy

solutions and fiscal support, which are needed to attain the SDGs. RCs, UNCTs, and partners will leverage the Fund's investments to crowd in the additional finance needed to make policy shifts and SDG acceleration a reality. The outcome areas will also operationalize a systems approach to sustainable development that emphasizes the interconnections between sectors and goals and the interdependence of the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social, and environmental – as well as the importance of integrated, sustainable, and innovative financing to underpin the transformations. When applying the indicators at the country level, it is recommended for the UN country teams to use relevant UNSDG output indicator framework aligned with their Cooperation Frameworks that correspond to the Global Accelerator result areas.

2.3 UN value added

With the support of the Global Accelerator's TSF, and based on the experience of the previous funding to social protection and jobs of the Joint SDG Fund, the UN provides several distinct advantages as a partner:

- 1. Policy coherence and aid effectiveness:** The Global Accelerator leverages a global joint commitment and a shared vision from the UN system, the World Bank, IFIs, development partners, the private sector, employers and workers organizations, to support Pathfinder countries accelerate their reforms towards the creation of decent jobs and universal social protection for just transitions, in line with national priorities and development plans. This commitment and partnership approach is translated and articulated at the country level through a national roadmap, developed on the basis of a co-construction approach. It aims at addressing fragmentation through a more streamlined and coordinated approach among development partners, under a common results framework which is owned by the government. It will boost national and international commitments, accelerate the mobilization of international financial support for countries and secure coherence in policy advice and aid effectiveness on the level and nature of investments in social protection and jobs for just transitions.
- 2. On-demand access to dedicated specialised expertise:** Pathfinder countries who want to benefit from the support of the TSF will have access to experts within the UNCT and UN agencies, complemented by the support provided by the TSF Coordination team and a dedicated hub of experts, specialised in the field of social protection, decent job creation, financing and just transitions. The functions of the TSF are detailed in section 3.1 below.
- 3. Upholding a LNOB approach with a strong gender dimension:** Employment, economic, labour, and social protection policies as well as the institutions and structures that support or develop them, continue to lack full capacity for gender transformation, entrenching major structural barriers. They also need to provide urgent responses to all those who are currently left behind, including young people. The consequence is that labour market and social protection gaps are increasing, and women, especially those more vulnerable to exclusion and discrimination, are left further behind. Through their normative and technical mandates, UN agencies support governments in developing comprehensive and gender transformative legal, institutional and policy frameworks, including social protection, and macroeconomic and sectoral policies that create more equal societies. This requires adopting an approach based on rights and entitlements enshrined in the law.

3. Funding pathway

The Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection Window is expected to be launched in 2023 for a minimum of four years of operations with a targeted funding envelope of USD 120 million. A target of approximately USD 20 million the first year would be needed to launch the first round that would increase every year. Fundraising will continue throughout the four years of the Window to allow for consequent funding rounds and additional replenishments and disbursement tranches.

Annually, the Window should fund an average of 7-8 new national Joint Programmes, in order to support approximately 30 countries throughout the four years of the Window. Each year, all interested countries will have the opportunity to send short expressions of interest, which will be reviewed and scored, and those with the most potential will be asked to develop full-fledged Joint Programme documents. At this stage it is not envisioned to have seed funding available for those who do not meet the criteria. The final number of countries selected for funding will depend on a) the total amount of funds available and b) the quality of the proposals received. The country selection process is detailed below and the list of criteria under Annex A.

It should be noted that this proposal is based on the lessons learned from the Joint SDG Fund's Integrated Social Protection portfolio, which amounted to 101M (69M through the Joint SDG fund and 32M through co-funding) for 35 Joint Programmes, which was based on, typically, 2 M per country to be spent over a 2-2.5-year period. In most countries, the period was considered too short and the funding insufficient to produce transformative results. Thus, this Window Investment Strategy proposes to expand the timeframe up to three years for implementation and increase the funding per Joint Programme.

The table below describes the anticipated multi-year funding approach:

Table 2. Multi-year funding approach

	Number of countries	Total tentative budget available (USD)	Tentative length of Joint Programmes
Funding round 1	5-7	2-5 million per JP	3 years
Funding round 2	8-10	2-5 million per JP	3 years
Funding round 3	10-15	2-5 million per JP	3 years
Funding round 4	TBD	TBD	TBD

Once resources are secured, a specific resource allocation strategy will be developed. For each funding round, UN entities, Government agencies, and other partners a level of co-funding might be required for Joint Programmes at the country level, while other related

funding and financing initiatives will be leveraged to ensure catalytic impact and results at scale.

3.1 Country selection process

General principles

The Window will operate through a series of funding rounds; the primary focus of the Window will be funding Joint Programmes with the potential for catalytic effects in a limited time period. Each funding round may have a more specific approach, which will be presented in the description of the funding round.

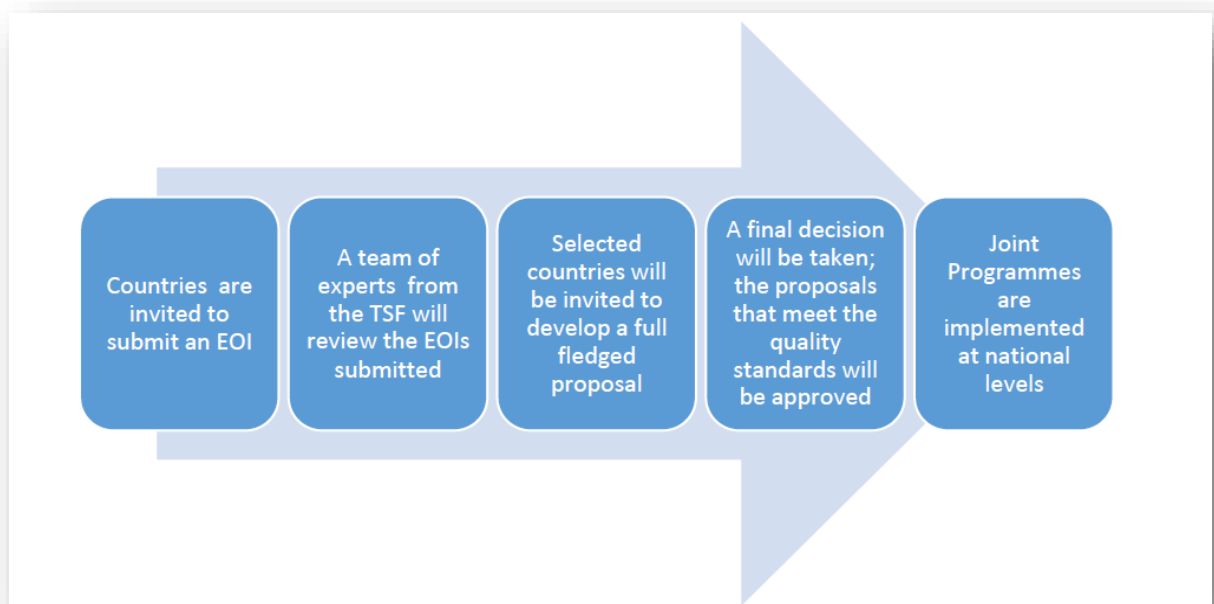
While the Window will be open to all RCs and UNCTs (whether in countries identified as pathfinder or not), the first funding rounds will have a defined limited scope with a view to demonstrate the proof of concept in countries with an advanced pathfinder country status (see below).

UNCTs will be invited to submit a reasoned and substantiated Expression of Interest (EOI) for a Joint Programme (approximately three pages). EOI will need to meet certain selection criteria that would include those from Annex A and other that will be determined for a specific funding round so that submissions will be easily scorable.

After submitting the EOI, the countries that meet the selection criteria and have the most promising submissions will be ranked. Depending on the amount of resources available, selected countries will be invited to develop full-fledged Joint Programme documents. Upon successful quality assurance and after approval by the Operational Steering Committee of the UN Joint SDG Fund, they will receive the funding.

In cases where countries EOI have ranked highly but did not receive funding due to the limited funding available in a specific round, these countries will be included in the pipeline. When additional funds are available, they will not be required to prepare a new EOI but directly move to the development of full-fledged Joint Programme documents.

Figure 1. Country selection process



Articulation of the Window country selection process with the Global Accelerator pathfinder countries.

The Global Accelerator implementation strategy seeks to identify pathfinder countries (based on the criteria mentioned under annex A) which are committed to expanding social protection, decent jobs and promoting pathways for just transitions in partnership with UN Agencies, guided by the theory of change and the monitoring framework. A number of countries have already expressed interest in becoming pathfinder or have been identified as potential candidates and consultations have been initiated in this regard. There are two broad categories:

1. Advanced stage pathfinder candidate countries:

These are countries where the engagement with the government and other partners on the Accelerator is already well developed and has (or is in the process of being) translated into a high-level commitment.

2. Early-stage pathfinder candidate countries:

These are countries in which the engagement with the government and other partners is at its initial stage or has not started yet. The preparation of the expression of interest for the Window would be an opportunity for UNRCs and UNCTs to initiate a dialogue with the government and assess the readiness of countries to commit to the principles of the Global Accelerator.

In both cases however, it is the soundness of the expression of interest and its potential for achieving transformative results, in line with the specific criteria of each funding round, that will be decisive in the final selection.

All Joint Programmes will be developed and implemented with technical support provided through the TSF of the Global Accelerator and in support of Global Accelerator national roadmaps, under the coordination of the UNRC and implemented by PUNOs (Participating UN Organizations). Furthermore, Joint Programmes will be designed based on quality standards established by the Fund and aligned with the new UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) Joint Programme Guidance Note.

3.2 Role of the Technical Support Facility of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions in Supporting the Window

The TSF of the Global Accelerator is composed of an interagency coordination team, experts within UNCTs and UN agencies, and a hub of experts specialised in the field of social protection, decent job creation, financing and just transitions. **As such it is a key facility which reflects and promotes better UN integration and coherence.**

Within the broader Global Accelerator, the TSF Coordination Team is responsible for:

- Planning, coordination and oversight of Accelerator activities, including the planning of country engagement and support to countries, the recruitment and/or assignment of key experts to the TSF's global Hub of Experts, the continuous development of a development cooperation portfolio, the development of partnerships with agencies and development

banks that wish to align their programmes to the Accelerator, and global monitoring and evaluation of the Accelerator.

- Resource mobilisation: Development and implementation of a resource mobilisation strategy.
- Communications, and visibility to sensitize and raise awareness among development professionals and national counterparts surrounding the Global Accelerator's level of ambition and planned activities, as well as its potential and eventually achieved impacts.
- Elaboration and operationalisation of the overall M&E framework at global and national levels testing its suitability and fitness for use or adaptation in pathfinder countries and ensuring operability with a results monitoring tool to track timely and accessible inputs into the M&E framework and related reporting.
- Results consolidation among Accelerator-supported projects to monitor investments from countries and the development community in universal social protection, job creation and just transition and to monitor progress toward the achievement of SDG and other target indicators, including through the annual publication of results.
- Knowledge management and dissemination including periodic events that facilitate the cross-country exchange and expertise, and development of publications related to emerging themes in Accelerator operations such as formalization, taxation, financing, and the extension of social protection.

Under this Window, the TSF will support the technical review committee to be composed of a group of experts from within and outside the Hub of Experts to lead the review of national project proposals for Joint Programmes received. It will also provide technical support to joint programmes, promote learning and knowledge management.

The UN Joint Programmes funded by the Window will be an integral part of the portfolio of programmes implemented as part of the Global Accelerator. They will therefore be supported by its TSF, in close coordination with the UNRC and the UN agencies involved in the implementation of the joint programme.

For the purpose of coordinating the technical support by the Technical Support Facility, dedicated funding will be provided from the overall Window envelope. These resources will be used to undertake technical review of proposals, analyze reports as well as ensure learning and knowledge management. The TSF will submit regular updates to the Joint SDG Fund Operational Steering Committee on the use of that funding and the progress on the technical support to the Window.

4. Window strategic framework

4.1 Cross-cutting drivers

All Joint Programmes will contribute to mainstreaming gender equality, reducing inequalities and decent work deficits, and ensuring just transitions, in line with the overall strategy of the Joint SDG Fund.

Gender equality: Mainstreaming gender equality involves fully integrating gender perspectives and women's empowerment in all programmes. We know that sufficient

investments in the care sector will facilitate the creation of decent jobs, entrepreneurship opportunities, the provision of quality services to older persons, children and people with disabilities, and reduce the unpaid care burden carried by family members, particularly women, while facilitating women's effective labour force participation.

Inequalities: Some groups, such as women, youth, migrants, and people with disability are found in more vulnerable situations in all parts of the world. Addressing deep-rooted structural issues in the labour market, such as informality, un- and under-employment, education and skills gaps, and migration and displacement, along with the factors that drive poverty, inequality, exclusion and the vulnerability of specific population groups should be targeted in the Joint Programmes.

Just transitions: Integrated policy and financing frameworks are needed to achieve just transitions. The transitions towards greener and more digital economies involve a paradigm shift towards more inclusive and sustainable societies. This shift necessitates a more holistic approach and work across different disciplines and thematic areas. The transitions come with a large potential for job creation and social and economic gains, but proactive measures are needed to ensure that these transitions leave no one behind and that they do not come with negative effects that fall disproportionately on the most vulnerable.

Reducing decent work deficits: Investment in employment, social protection, formalization policies and just transitions are indispensable to ensure a human-centred recovery and just transition. Therefore, reducing decent work deficits (i.e. absence of sufficient employment opportunities, denial of rights at work, inadequate social protection and shortcomings in social dialogue), should be an integral part of the Joint Programmes.

SDG Data: The Fund recognises the need for data and statistics that are accurate, timely, sufficiently disaggregated, and accessible to monitor and fully implement the SDGs. Joint Programmes will support investments in, and better use of, data for the SDGs and strengthen national capacities for high-quality and trustworthy data from national statistical systems leveraging digital technologies. They may also enhance capacities of, and support reporting by public and private sector partners to provide robust data and concrete measurements on SDG impact.

4.2 Window offerings

As mentioned before, the Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection Window **will support countries in pursuing policy priorities that have the potential to create strong leverage for a human-centred recovery and inclusive structural transformation.**

The Window **will help overcome implementation bottlenecks and address fragmentation through policy advisory and technical support along with capacity strengthening, contributing to the achievement of long-lasting policy and institutional changes across the policy cycle.**

These integrated approaches will use several entry points and follow multiple logical chains of development and impacts. The Window will support the following offerings, articulated around the three pillars of the accelerator:

1. Integrated and evidenced-based national policies and strategies

To ensure that integrated policies are at the centre of the Joint Programmes, it requires:

- Diagnostics and policy appraisals on universal social protection, labour market and economic policies that support the design of integrated programmes for just transitions to facilitate: (i) the transition from informal to formal enterprises and employment; (ii) the green and energy transition; (iii) transitions from crisis and emergencies to development; (iv) other life and work transitions (e.g. skills development and employment for youth; labour market participation of women; development of the care sector).
- Development, implementation and upscaling of integrated strategies and programmes with a focus on overcoming implementation bottlenecks and areas where there is an argument for integration.

The integrated policies and strategies will aim to support workers and enterprises through investments, skills development, social protection to make these transitions “just”. This requires the development and strengthening of institutions (labour market, social protection, enterprise incubators) that can provide the necessary support during these life and work transitions.

2. Integrated financing, combining domestic resources and international financing support

Support to existing or new financing strategies, which can mobilize additional domestic and international resources and support better use of existing resources to increase social protection coverage and decent work, as well as promoting just transitions will be key. The Window will develop a range of financing options to increase fiscal space along three tracks:

- Taxation and fiscal policies, in articulation with supporting the formalization of employment and enterprises;
- SDG-aligned private investment promotion, through leveraging existing successful practices and improving the social and economic dividends of investments; and
- An international development cooperation track. It will support the mobilization, alignment and streamlining of ODA and concessional financing, including in relation to debt relief initiatives and securing social spending floors.

To further develop domestic resource mobilization capacities and finance large-scale social protection and employment support programmes for all, the Joint Programmes under this Window will support reform measures and institutions that improve taxation and fiscal policies, that enforce obligations in terms of tax and social security payments among enterprises and citizens, and that implement formalization strategies for enterprises and jobs.

3. Enhanced multilateral cooperation

Improved dialogue and coherence among national policymakers, ODA partners, UN agencies, the IMF, IFIs, social partners, the private sector, civil society, and academia, to boost national and international commitments, coordinate and mobilize international financial support for countries and secure coherence in policy advice on the level and nature

of investments in social protection and jobs. The mobilisation of the private sector through the UN Global Compact and International Organisations of Employers as key stakeholders in the creation of decent jobs and universal social protection for just transitions will be ensured. Through its partnerships with IFIs and multilateral development banks the Global Accelerator will facilitate a stronger coherence and effectiveness between policies and concessional financing operations.

4.3 Alignment with other Windows of the Joint SDG Fund

The Window will ensure alignment and synergies with other thematic priorities and windows of the Joint SDG Fund, which are:

- I. Food Systems Transformation
- II. SDG Localization
- III. Solutions for Internal Displacement
- IV. Climate action and energy transitions
- V. Digital transformations
- VI. Transforming education

The Window on Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection will operate in coordination with other Windows, and their technical expert groups, meaning that they should facilitate synergies in their objectives, strategies and operations, in particular at the country level.

The Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection Window will improve decent work and access to social protection in sectors of the economy that are relevant to other thematic areas for SDG transformation (food systems transformation, climate action and energy transition, digital transformation, transforming education); it will also provide concrete solutions to reduce internal migrations caused by a lack of economic opportunities (e.g., by promoting the creation of jobs and access to social protection) thereby also facilitating broader local economic development.

Conversely, the other windows would harness opportunities for cross fertilization and leveraging specific policy and financing interventions related to other transformative priorities that would bring positive impacts on jobs and social protection. For example, programmes that would look at including farmers in Food Systems Transformation, could also look at the quality of the employment created and their access to social protection. Similarly, programmes focusing on Digital transformation, should also assess, minimize and compensate for the possible negative social impacts with regard to decent jobs and social protection in the broader digital economy.

The key synergies between the windows will be further specified in the description of funding rounds and operationalized at the country level through the design and implementation of Joint Programmes.

Annexes

Annex A. Generic country selection criteria

These criteria are considered as a general prerequisite for country selection across funding rounds. They will be supplemented with specific criteria for each funding round.

	Criteria	Possible indicators
1	Countries in need of support (Countries in fragile situations, compounded by the ongoing food, energy and finance crisis)	Countries with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high informality (at least 60%) • high youth unemployment/high underemployment/high NEET rate for young women • low levels of social protection coverage (SDG 1.3.1 below 45%) • high share of people living in extreme poverty • high level(s) of income inequality
2	Countries with active implementation of employment and social protection policies and strategies	Countries that are formulating or have adopted strategies and policies on social protection and employment, and/or have started their implementation through tripartite social dialogue
3	The ambition of working on an integrated approach , involving several ministries and social partners, including to facilitate the transition to formal and decent jobs	Countries that have a dedicated inter-ministerial initiative or board involving social partners, which has leverage for change; and Countries that are formulating or have adopted or are implementing integrated approaches on jobs and social protection
4	Commitment to ambitious climate action with just transition policies	Countries that have or are developing national policies and integrated strategies for a just transition, leading to the creation of decent jobs, including policies for employment creation, reskilling, social protection and through social dialogue
5	Commitment to increasing domestic resources for social protection and jobs	Countries that have sought to increase domestic resources for social protection and jobs over the past 10–20 years, have demonstrated a political commitment to extend social protection coverage and have also shown commitment to further increasing domestic resources according to national capacities
6	One UN collaboration on social protection and employment	Social protection and employment are part of the UNSDCFs; and UN joint projects are ongoing on social protection and employment; and Major UN programme on building social protection floors

		for all is present in the country
7	One UN engagement on domestic resource mobilization	UN agencies are discussing with ministries of finance about fiscal space for social protection and jobs based on analytical work around costing and financing, and ministries of finance have increased fiscal space for social protection during the past decade; or UN agencies and several ministries are involved in INFF processes
8	Partnerships with EU, IFIs, regional development banks, and development partners (potentially interested in increasing ODA)	UN agencies have Country Teams financed by donors/partners; or UN agencies are engaging with IMF on securing fiscal space for social protection
9	Potential: countries have the potential to achieve some institutional results and impact in the next four years (2022–25)	The political and economic context is conducive to policy continuation and expansion of social protection and formalization
10	National tripartite commitment	Relevant ministries (labour, social affairs, finance) and social partners have been consulted and are willing to join the Global Accelerator (in addition, they may have shown similar will to engage in UN initiatives through their membership of USP2030, CA4JI, Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, and other networks)

Annex B. Overview of Joint Programmes Approaches

In line with the Joint SDG Fund mandate in supporting UN development system reform and the need to facilitate an integrated approach to SDG acceleration, this Window will provide funding through the modality of Joint Programmes. Under the common umbrella of the UN Cooperation Framework, Joint Programmes support the development and implementation of national priorities for coherent action towards systemic change, transformative results at scale, acceleration of the SDGs, and facilitation of UN Development System reform.

As mentioned in the UNSDG Guidance Note on Joint Programmes, “a Joint Programme is appropriate if it identifies and builds on complementarities and brings together the added value of its partners in addressing complex development challenges. It requires a commitment from participating organizations to work together. Its design should ensure components that build on each other, clarity on the roles and responsibilities of each partner, and mutual accountability on the delivery of development results²”. Joint Programmes bring together expertise and reinforce UN Country Team capacity and facilitate national ownership and strategic partnerships with development partners and IFIs, jointly implementing the programmes.

² Available online: UNSDG [Guidance note on Joint Programmes](#) (2014)

The Window funding will be limited to Joint Programmes that meet the following criteria:

1. Requires RC leadership in design and coordination of joint programmes at the country level
2. Directly contributes to the results and theory of change in the Cooperation Framework and to enhancing UNCT coherence
3. Is multi-sectoral in nature, creates cross-sectoral impact, and contributes to accelerated progress on several SDGs
4. Requires pooling of expertise, knowledge, and networks from two or more UN entities
5. Leverages engagement of diverse stakeholders, including government, private sector, and civil society, and promotes a systems approach to designing, developing, and implementing solutions, and therefore benefits from the convening authority of the RC; and
6. Facilitates systemic and catalytic results to scale SDG action in line with priority goals of the UN Secretary-General and UN Sustainable Development Group

Moreover, Joint Programmes supported through this Window will also be required to ensure the following:

7. Implemented by two or more UN entities (PUNOs: Participating UN Organizations), one of which will have the role of lead agency, to ensure an integrated and coherent approach to producing transformative results based on national priorities;
8. Roles and responsibilities of each partner are clearly defined, based on an analysis of the comparative advantages of each partner and their role in the broader UNCT, and operationalized through Joint Programme management arrangements (e.g. JP Steering Committee);
9. Adequate support (resources, time, and willingness to work together) for the Joint Programme from all key stakeholders involved (including the government) and adequate PUNO capacity (including technical expertise, geographical presence, and logistics, human resources for collaboration, capacity to innovate and scale up); and
10. Clear alignment with the Global Accelerator's Theory of Change and Results framework, and operational linkages with the TSF Coordination team and Hub of experts.

Typically, Joint Programmes are managed by Joint Programme Steering Committees, or a related mechanism comprising of UN RC, UN entities involved in implementation, government representatives, and other local and international partners, as well as the TSF. To the extent possible, existing structures will be prioritized to anchor Joint Programmes, and its management arrangements at the country level streamlined to avoid fragmentation and duplication of structures and processes. Day-to-day coordination of technical aspects of Joint Programmes is the responsibility of the lead agency. It is expected that one implementing UN entity agency takes the lead in the Joint Programme implementation, depending on the allocation of roles and responsibilities amongst UN entities taking part in the Joint Programmes, and the broader organization of the UN Country Team.

Throughout the programme cycle, the Joint Programmes and the Window will be supported by the TSF. It should be noted that through the technical support of the TSF, the Joint Programmes will have access to timely and quality technical support that will decrease the need to resort to national/international consultants to implement the Joint Programmes.

Management Arrangements

Details on management arrangements for with Window will be presented in the Terms of Reference of the Window, but, typically, this will include dedicated funding for: a) Technical review and selection of proposals, b) Support to technical design of high-quality Joint Programmes (focusing on Theories of Change and Results Framework), c) Technical analysis of Joint Programme results, including regular monitoring and evaluation technical briefs and Annual/Final Joint Programme Reports, d) Ensuring technical alignment with the broader global agenda in the focus of the Window; and e) Other support to Joint Programme implementation, including strategic communication, learning, strategic events and knowledge management.

Further information on policies, requirements, programme cycle, and best practices that will be applied for Joint Programmes in this Window will be based on the Joint SDG Fund Operational Guidance aligned with the UNSDG Guidance Note on Joint Programmes.



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