

Technical Support Facility for the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions

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1. Background

In September 2021, the United Nations Secretary-General launched the “Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions,” with the ambition of bringing together member States, international financial institutions, social partners, civil society, and the private sector 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. As outlined in the UNSG’s Policy Brief “Investing in Jobs and Social Protection for Poverty Eradication and a Sustainable Recovery,” the implementation of the Global Accelerator is supported practically through a Technical Support Facility (TSF) that would bring together relevant expertise from across the United Nations development system and other partners, and provide backstopping to an estimated USD 600 million portfolio of development cooperation activities complemented by other international financial support, in particular for countries in special situations.¹ The following terms of reference describe various arrangements, roles and responsibilities for the initial establishment of the TSF and its subcomponents, as designed to perform the functions ascribed to it by the UNSG.

2. Mandate of the Technical Support Facility (TSF)

The TSF is responsible for supporting the implementation of the Global Accelerator. The TSF is comprised of a **Coordination Team** that oversees the management of all TSF activities, a **Hub of Experts** at global and regional levels from various agencies, and a **portfolio of national development cooperation activities**, including joint UN programmes (UNJPs), in pathfinder countries.

At the onset, TSF operations (strategic thinking, tools development, missions, organisation of meetings, fundraising actions, communication tools) will be supported by agencies’ core funding and staff time. It is therefore important that agencies committing to the TSF also secure seed money and work months.

3. TSF Coordination Team

3.a) Composition

The TSF Coordination Team is composed of UN Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies whose mandates are in-line with Global Accelerator, and may also include relevant bilateral partners, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, workers’ and employer’s organizations subject to approval. Organizations can request to join the Coordination Team. Such requests are reviewed by existing members of the Coordination Team and are accepted on a case-by-case basis, including on the basis of prospective members making appropriate commitments.

¹ <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/secretary-generals-policy-brief-investing-jobs-and-social-protection-poverty-eradication>

Entities who are member or are interested in joining the Coordination Team are expected to nominate a dedicated focal point for the TSF Coordination Team from their respective agencies, and to commit to actively support the coordination and operations of the Global Accelerator.

Contributions may include some or all of the following:

- Partake in global and local advocacy campaigns to promote the Global Accelerator
- Deliver or coordinate the production of products identified in the work plan of the coordination team of the TSF – this includes for instance tools development, partnership development, resource mobilization, communication, country support, high level events, among others.
- Provide routine updates to their Executive Boards and Governing Bodies on progress made in promoting the Global Accelerator and request budget allocations
- Mobilize resources for implementation in Pathfinder countries
- Provide dedicated staff time to support for the Coordination Team to attend meetings, contribute to institutional documents, as well supporting revision of the work plan and leading in at least one work plan area, among other duties.
- Provide dedicated expertise to the Hub of Experts in requisite areas of technical support.
- Provide annual financial contributions to the TSF for ad hoc costs relating to the functioning of the Global Accelerator (e.g., for regular functioning, global communication, and advocacy resources, etc.). This contribution will be administered by the ILO.

As of January 2023, the Coordination Team includes ILO, UNICEF and UNDP.

3.b) Responsibilities

The Coordination Team is responsible for:

- Planning, coordination and oversight of Accelerator activities, including coordinating technical support to countries as needed, 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. Support to countries will be done following agencies HQ/RO/CO accountability frameworks and as a support to existing regional initiatives such as Issue Based Coalitions (IBCs) and other regional structures to avoid duplication and promote coordination.
- Resource mobilisation: Development and implementation of a resource mobilisation strategy with a strong focus on supporting work within pathfinder countries and the UN system's technical support.
- 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 level 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.
- Constitution of the selection committee of the Joint SDG-F Window on Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection for Just Transitions to be comprised of a group of

experts from within and outside the Hub of Experts to lead the review of national project proposals received.

- Results consolidation among Accelerator-supported projects to monitor investments from countries and 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.

The direction and implementation of the Global Accelerator will be led at the national level, using and building on existing coordination structures. As needed, the Coordination Team supports national teams under the leadership of UN Resident Coordinators, to secure political buy-in and to develop a national roadmap for the Global Accelerator and its implementation. In line with the country engagement guidelines developed by the TSF, this can include the following:

- National dialogues in pathfinder countries led by country counterparts for the purposes of sensitization, preparation, and priority-setting for Accelerator-supported interventions, including support for the establishment of national advisory groups where appropriate and as a function of pre-existing coordination structures. These groups will also monitor investments from countries and development community in universal social protection, job creation and just transition.
- Diagnostics, research, and analysis, including the conduct of specific analysis and data generation in response to country requests during the dialogues, also drawing from regional and international good practices.

4. TSF Hub of Experts

The goal of the Hub of Experts is to provide countries necessary technical support to complement existing employment and social protection expertise at country level. This includes expertise in key topics for Accelerator operations (just transitions, the care economy, formalization, financing, and other priority areas). It is important to note that agencies providing support via the Hub of Experts will have different modalities for the provision of technical support in countries, including those with decentralised regional structures as well as those with a higher proportion of HQ based expertise. In many regions there are strong existing mechanisms to undertake this work, which will continue to provide this support as part of the broader Hub of Experts modality. It is the responsibility of the Coordination Team to build an understanding of existing structures and expertise within the system and facilitate as required access of countries to system experts which draws from staff of members of the Coordination Team and other organizations, responding to country needs and bringing the appropriate expertise together to address national issues, while also developing normative guidance to support country joint programmes.

The Hub of Experts will support:

- Responding to country demands from national teams for specialized expertise needed to support in-country project implementation.
- Providing expert review of project proposals submitted to the Joint SDG-F Window on Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection for Just Transitions as members of a selection committee.

- Capacity building through participation in specialized technical and regional workshops and information exchanges, including in South-South learning initiatives.
- Contributing to research publications organized by the Coordination Team on key emerging topics such as ensuring just transitions, developing the care economy, formalization, digitalization, and others.

5. Portfolio of development cooperation projects at country level

The heart of the TSF is at country level, with national teams including UN agencies led by the UN Resident Coordinator. The national teams will lead the development of an engagement strategy and plan of action, and develop an associated portfolio of development cooperation activities taking the following potential formats:

- Projects launched under the auspices of the Global Accelerator in pathfinder countries, including those financed by the Joint SDG-F Window on Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection for Just Transitions
- Other interventions, including existing programmes, that have been reviewed and (re)aligned to the Global Accelerator's M&E framework

6. Reporting

Through the activities of the Coordination Team and the Hub of Experts, the TSF is responsible for establishing a monitoring and reporting framework for the Global Accelerator, carrying out periodic reviews of the Global Accelerator's activities and providing annual global updates and consolidated results to the EOSG, the principals of the participating TSF agencies, and the Global Accelerator's Global Advisory Group. This includes results on all three tracks of the Accelerator: the integrated policy track which should lead to institutional changes and impact on people and decent job creation as well as just transitions for all; the financing track which should lead to more domestic resource mobilization for jobs, social protection and just transitions, complemented by international solidarity; and the coordination/cooperation track which should lead to effective national dialogues and political commitment in countries to prioritize, plan and deliver on the Accelerator's ambition.

7. Modification and expiration of the TSF

The stipulations contained in these terms of reference take effect from 1 February 2023 and remain in effect until the expected date of completion of all Global Accelerator operations 30 June 2031.