





## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

The Issue-based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change (IBC) was established in March 2020 to promote coordinated support to all member States in Europe and Central Asia in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to support Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) on environmental and climate change issues. The IBC is co-chaired by UNECE, UNEP and UNESCO and its membership includes 15 other UN agencies. One of the requests of RCs towards the IBC was to support UNCTs in better mainstreaming of environment and climate change considerations across the processes for the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCDF, or simply CF).

Responding to the request, the IBC has initiated the elaboration of the Guidance for Integrating the Environment and Climate Change in Processes for United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (further referred to as *mainstreaming guidance*). This gap analysis complements the mainstreaming guidelines. It briefly summarizes the analysis of the extent to which the actual Common Country Analyses (CCAs) and CFs integrate the issues of environment and climate change.

The following documents and approaches were applied to guide the gap analysis elaboration:

- Selected UNSDCF companion package documents: UNSDCF Internal Guidance, Cooperation Framework Companion Package, Guiding Principles Cooperation Framework Companion Piece, and the Consolidated Annexes to the Cooperation Framework Guidance (version from 2019), which contains the proposed outlines for the CCA and CF elaboration.
- Model Approach to Environmental and Social Standards in UN Programming
- Strategic Environmental Assessment

## 2. OBJECTIVE

The gap analysis has been elaborated to inform UNCTs on the extent to which environment and climate change considerations have been integrated in the (actual) CCAs and CFs, through:

- Identifying a set of criteria to be used in assessing whether environment and climate change are integrated comprehensively in CCAs and CFs
- Identifying good examples of incorporating environment and climate change in CCAs and CFs
- Analysing gaps and identifying common challenges in incorporating all relevant environmental and climate change issues in the CCA preparation, including in collection, use and analysis of data and information for the CCA preparation (both from the country data repository and from data and statistics available at regional level)
- Undertaking an overview gap analysis of the CCAs and CFs, using the UNSDCF companion guidance, to assess whether environmental degradation and climate change and its root causes are sufficiently examined, including in non-environmental analysis, and whether the drivers of environmental change and their impact on natural resources are sufficiently identified, as well as sustainable consumption and production and infrastructure
- Assessing whether the regional and subregional trends and priorities are adequately considered while respecting national priorities, in particular whether transboundary environmental concerns, including related to water, air and pollution are well identified and analysed

## 3. SCOPE AND APPROACH

### Approach

A desk review of 13 available CCAs<sup>1</sup> and of 10 CFs<sup>2</sup> for the years 2021-2025 was done to prepare the gap analysis.

### Scope

In this gap analysis the term “environment and climate change” covers the following thematic areas, adapted from the Model Approach to Environmental and Social Standards in UN Programming<sup>3</sup>:

- Biodiversity, ecosystems and sustainable natural resource management
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Pollution prevention and resource efficiency

While respecting national priorities, the gap analysis will assess whether transboundary, subregional and regional perspectives of these thematic areas, including related to water, and air pollution, are identified and sufficiently analysed in CCAs and CFs.

Following the main principles of an effective mainstreaming, the level of integration of environment and climate change considerations in non-environmental analysis (in CCAs) and non-environmental strategic priority areas, outcomes and outputs (in CFs) will be examined.

The gap analysis does not assess to which extent the process of CCAs and CFs preparation allowed for proper mainstreaming since the reviewed documents do not contain or include only very limited information on how the documents were prepared.

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<sup>1</sup> CCAs of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

<sup>2</sup> CFs of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

<sup>3</sup> [https://unemg.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/INF\\_10\\_Brief\\_Model\\_Approach.pdf](https://unemg.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/INF_10_Brief_Model_Approach.pdf)

## 4. CRITERIA/CHECKLIST FOR MAINSTREAMING THE GAP ANALYSIS

Two key aspects were assessed when **analysing the CCAs**:

- Whether the country situation description provides sufficient information on all named aspects of environment and climate change (biodiversity, ecosystems and sustainable natural resource management; climate change mitigation and adaptation; and pollution prevention and resource efficiency), including the relevant regional, subregional and transboundary factors and trends.
- Whether there is sufficient analysis of how the environmental and climate change trends and challenges are affected by and affect other, non-environmental aspects of country development context (politics and governance, economic growth, employment, poverty and inequality, etc.)

The following criteria were used to respond to the questions above:

### a) *Country situation analysis includes:*

- Information on environmental and climate change, trends and challenges influencing achievement of the Agenda 2030, including on relevant regional, subregional and transboundary factors and trends
- List of key national priorities and commitments under the SDG framework and other key international norms and standards, including global and regional multilateral international agreements in the area of environment and climate change
- Information on existing and needed country policy and legal framework, institutional capacity and coordination mechanisms to address environment and climate change related risks and challenges to the availability of environment and climate change related data
- Financial landscape: information on public and private financing for environment and climate change is included in assessment of SDG financing

### b) *Synergies, impact and risk analysis include:*

- Analysis of the environment and climate change related risks that could impact country development, including the underlying drivers of risks, vulnerabilities and needs
- Analysis on how the environmental and climate change trends and challenges are affected by and affect other, non-environmental aspects of country development context (politics and governance, economic growth, poverty and inequality, etc.), and progress towards achieving the Agenda 2030

As for the **CF documents' analysis**, the following aspects were assessed:

- Whether the support for environmentally sustainable development and addressing climate change is reflected in the UNCT vision, Theory of Change and strategic priorities
- Whether the aspects of environment and climate change are sufficiently considered in the results framework of the CF at different levels (outcome, output, indicators)
- Whether the CF implementation, monitoring and evaluation plan demonstrates that there are mechanisms in place and there is a capacity to implement, monitor and evaluate measures supporting environmentally sustainable and climate responsive development

The following criteria were used to respond to the questions above:

c) *In the formulation of the UN visions and strategic priorities for the country:*

- Aim to support environmentally sustainable development and addressing climate change (not necessarily using this wording) is reflected in at least one of the CF's strategic priorities
- Theory of Change for strategic priorities considers potential impact of the environmental and climate change challenges identified in the CCA (or vice versa), and/or include elements that enhance opportunities to address those challenges

d) *In the results framework:*

- Focus of at least one outcome is on supporting environmental sustainability and addressing climate change
- Environment and climate change are reflected in the relevant non-environmental outcome statements, either through explicit reference to environment and climate change or modifying adjectives indicating environmentally sustainable and climate change sensitive approach
- Theory of Change for the relevant or selected non-environmental outcome considers potential impact on the environmental and climate change challenges (or vice versa), and/or include elements that enhance opportunities to address those challenges
- For the relevant non-environmental outcomes, outputs for addressing environment and climate change related challenges and/or for enhancing environment and climate change related opportunities are defined
- Indicators to measure progress in addressing environmental and climate change challenges, including for the relevant non-environmental outcomes and outputs, are defined

e) *In the UNCT configuration and the CF implementation, monitoring and evaluation plan:*

- UNCT demonstrates its capacity and assets, and outlines implementation strategies and strategic partnerships that will support implementation of the environment and climate change related outcomes and outputs
- UNCT includes results or working groups (or other entities) in the governance mechanism, with the role to support the implementation and monitoring of the environment and climate change related interventions, including within the non-environmental outcomes
- Surveys and reports that monitor progress in the area of environment and climate change are included in the monitoring and evaluation plan

## 5. BRIEF SUMMARY NOTES AND FINDINGS

The integration of the environment and climate change, including as a cross-cutting aspect, at the stage of UNSDCF design is extremely important. CCAs need to identify the key country-specific environment and climate change challenges and opportunities and analyse their role in the overall country development. This supports a well-informed process of setting the country development priorities and solutions during the CF design. Outcomes and outputs identified in the CF present a framework for future interventions in the form of programmes or projects; therefore, they should be formulated in a way that they create an enabling environment for, or promote the actions that support, environmentally sustainable and climate responsive development.

The level of mainstreaming is, besides the other factors, determined by the structure of the strategic document preparation, the structure of the document itself and the intended level of detail of the prepared document. Both CCA and CF, following their pre-defined structure, present a suitable entry point for mainstreaming. The effectiveness of that process is then identified by the extent to which CF outcomes, outputs and indicators reflect upon the environment and climate change dimensions of development, as well as in the proposed implementation, monitoring and evaluation arrangements.



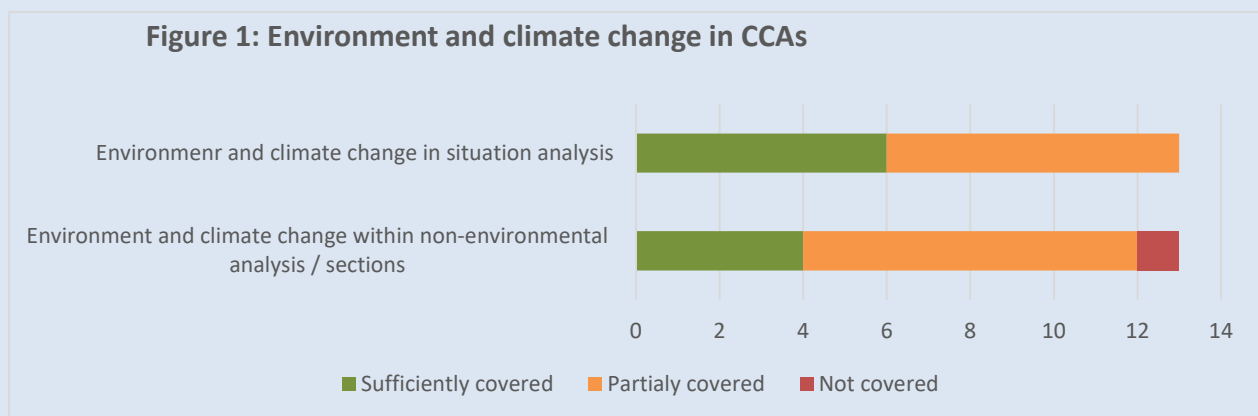
## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN CCAs

Overall, it may be stated that, positively, all 13 reviewed CCAs treat the area of environment and climate change equally as other development areas and sectors. Some of the CCAs sufficiently cover all the key aspects of environment and climate change (such as air pollution, land degradation, extreme weather events, etc.), while others focus only on selected issues. Mutual relations with socio-economic development and human well-being are relatively well understood and captured. However, as shown in Figure 1 below, environment and climate change dimensions are insufficiently considered in the non-environmental sections of CCAs. In most of them the linkage is recognized but only at a general level. For instance, it is stated that the economic growth or agricultural production may be influenced by the environment and climate conditions, but it is not explained how.

More information could be provided on environmental governance, such as the status and enabling environment for environment and climate change mainstreaming (at policy, legal, regulatory, capacity-building and awareness-raising levels), for access to information, public participation, etc.

As for information on transboundary aspects, neither CCAs, nor CFs provide sufficient information. It is better in CCAs though these provide more information on the policies and regulatory processes addressing transboundary issues, such as the respective UNECE conventions, than on the actual transboundary issues and their impacts. Transboundary issues are almost not mentioned in the formulation of outcomes and outputs in the CFs. It is understood that this is most probably due to the fact that the CFs become country planning documents and it is difficult to reflect upon implications of transboundary issues in them.

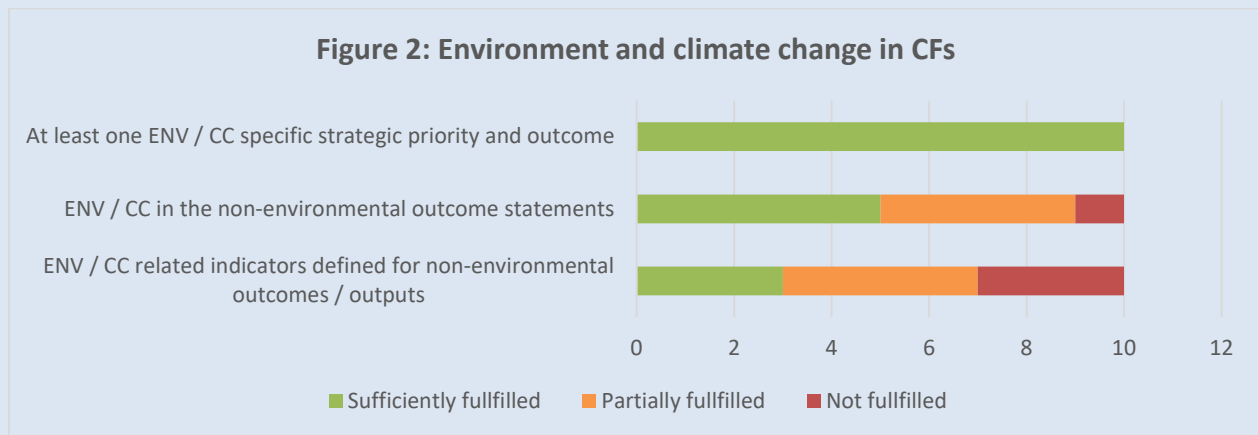
It is mentioned in several CCAs that there is insufficient information on some aspects of the environment due to non-existing or inadequate monitoring and data analysis systems. There is no other information on how the information on environment and climate change was collected; therefore, it was not possible to assess the gaps in collection, use and analysis of data and information for the CCA preparation (both from the country data repository and from data and statistics available at regional level).



## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN CF RESULTS FRAMEWORKS

Review of 10 CFs show that the area of environment and climate change is basically treated as a sector or thematic area in the CFs, with at least one outcome and several outputs devoted explicitly to this sector. These outcomes and outputs are supported by usually very well-defined indicators and targets. This, on the other hand, leads to the fact, that, unlike gender equality being treated more as a cross-cutting issue, environment and climate change are not that much reflected in the so-called “non-environmental” CF outcomes and outputs (see Figure 2). Even in some cases, where the formulation of an outcome refers to, for instance, green economy or resilient development, the area of environment and climate change is not being reflected at the level of an output and/or indicator. This may be, besides the other factors, due to a challenge faced in defining outcomes and outputs in general.

In general, outcomes and outputs focused on economic development tend to refer to environment and climate change more than those focused on governance (rule of law, policy making, etc.) or on provision of services such as health and education.



## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN CF IMPLEMENTATION AND M&E PLANS

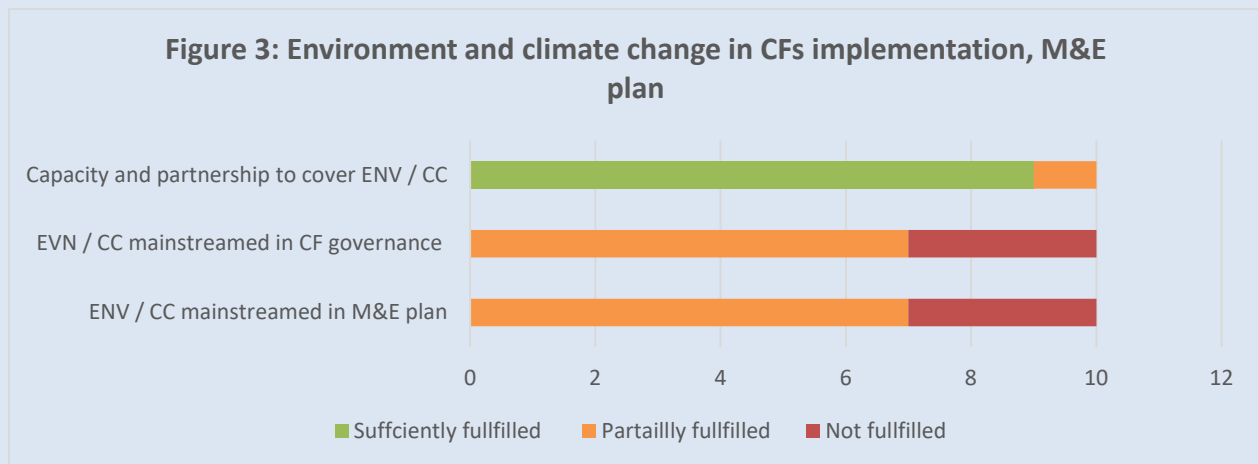
Almost in all 10 reviewed CFs the UNCTs clearly demonstrate that they have capacity and will establish and maintain partnerships to support implementation of the environment and climate change related outcomes and outputs (see the top green bar in the Figure 3 below).

As a sector, the environment and climate change are assumed to be very well covered in the CF implementation, monitoring and evaluation, considering the fact that most UNCTs plan to establish an environment and climate change-specific Result Group within the CF governance mechanism.

However, in none of the reviewed CFs is there an indication that either the proposed governance mechanism, process of Joint Workplan (JWP) development, or monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan would support consideration of environment and climate change dimensions within the work of non-environmental Result Groups and within

an implementation and M&E of the non-environmental outcomes and outputs (see the absence of the green bars for the respective indicators in Figure 3 above). This does not necessarily mean that there may not be an intention to treat environment and climate change also as a cross-cutting element, just that CFs do not explicitly refer to such plans.

Moreover, in the CFs' M&E plans, several UNCTs commit to assess the adherence of the results to the Cooperation Framework Guiding Principles. UNCTs refer for instance to the application of the gender and human rights markers but none of the teams mention the UN/UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES)<sup>4</sup>. That is in spite of the fact that, for instance, UNDP requires adherence to the SES for all project activities (exemptions listed in the SES guiding documents) implemented using funds channelled through UNDP's accounts, regardless of implementation modality.



<sup>4</sup>

<https://unemg.org/modelapproach/>;  
<https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/operations1/undp-social-and-environmental-standards.html>

## 6. CCAs GAP ANALYSIS

### COUNTRY SITUATION ANALYSIS

All the reviewed CCAs have the section introducing the country context in the area of environment and climate change, as required by the UNSDCF guidance. **Information on different aspects of environment and climate change** is also included in the section Progress towards SDGs. However, only 6 out of 13 CCAs provide information on all the named aspects. The best covered theme is climate change and natural disasters and hazards, whereas themes such as air or water pollution, or ecosystems and biodiversity are not included in all CCAs. The level of detail provided for each topic also differs; in some CCAs there is only a simple reference to the environment and climate change aspects, while in the others references are supported by quantitative data (for instance on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, biodiversity density; SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions, etc.).

Only some CCAs include data on **sustainable consumption and production** in describing the status of the environment. CCAs of very few countries (*Belarus, Georgia and Uzbekistan*) provide information on the aspects of **environmental governance**, such as provisions for environmental impact assessments, public participation in environmental decision making, and transparency in environmental matters.

CCAs of seven countries include information on **the transboundary environmental and climate change issues**, such as water management, climate change and disaster risk reduction, biodiversity protection, waste and energy. In two CCAs there is no reference to transboundary environmental and climate change issues at all while the remaining CCAs provide more information on transboundary policies and programmes than on transboundary issues as such.

#### GOOD EXAMPLES:

**Azerbaijan CCA on sustainable consumption and production:** Increased demand for food, water, energy, driven by industrialisation and population growth, has resulted in doubling domestic consumption per capita between 2000 and 2015. Moreover, the material footprint per capita has grown from 5 tons per capita in 2010 to 6.3 tons per capita in 2017. Similarly, toxic waste and pollutants have grown in size over recent years.

**Albania CCA on transboundary issues:** The World Bank has found the Western Balkans to be emerging as one of the planet's warming hot spots due to climate change, with a risk of more frequent heatwaves and a significant increase in summer temperatures, and a decline in rainfall, increasing the risk of wildfires. Researchers predict increased flood risks, particularly along the Danube, Sava and Tisza rivers. Economic growth in the region is dependent upon climate-sensitive natural resources, implying high costs with regard to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Pollution across the region threatens the health of people, causes damage to the economy, puts pressure on already strained economic resources and threatens the loss of resources in the future. The Adriatic Sea and its coastline are polluted by plastic waste and other pollutants entering from the rivers and coastal cities.

Five CCAs list the **priorities in the environment and climate change** area formulated within the key national development strategies and policies. The rest do not include those at all or refer just to the priorities in the nature-based sectors, such as agriculture and tourism, without reference to their environmental sustainability or climate change sensitivity. As for the **commitments under international norms, standards and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)**, reference is made mainly to the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and to the UNECE transboundary conventions related to air, water, industrial accidents, environmental assessment, etc. Very few CCAs list the actual (quantitative) commitments under these standards and agreements (2 CCAs do not list any relevant commitments).

### GOOD EXAMPLE:

**CCA Kazakhstan on national priorities and commitments under MEAs:** The major strategic documents in Kazakhstan are the Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy and the Strategic Development Plan to 2025. The government is keenly promoting several flagship policy areas, notably increasing renewable energy supply, improving water efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Under the Paris Agreement, Kazakhstan pledged an unconditional 15% reduction in GHG emissions by 31 December 2030 compared to the base year and a conditional 25% reduction in GHG emissions by 31 December 2030 compared to the base year, subject to additional international investments, access to a low carbon technologies transfer mechanism, green climate funds and flexible mechanisms for a country with an economy in transition. At a Ministerial Roundtable in 2018, Kazakhstan committed to restore 1.5 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by 2030 under the Bonn Challenge and an additional 300,000 hectares subject to funding support.

Information on **gaps and challenges to address environment and climate change issues** in particular is included either in the CCA section Gaps and Challenges towards Achieving the 2030 Agenda (in 5 cases) or scattered through the environment-related sections. Examples of the pronounced gaps and challenges are the absence of reliable data related to environmental targets, the lack of government-wide coordinated efforts to address complex emerging sustainable development issues, climate and environmental considerations not being mainstreamed within the policies and strategies, a low level of alignment with the EU respective acquis

(in countries where relevant), etc. A list of the key relevant **policy, legal and institutional frameworks** is to a greater or lesser extent included in all CCAs.

## GOOD EXAMPLE:

**CCA Georgia** refers to the environment and climate change areas in the section **Gaps and Challenges towards Achieving the 2030 Agenda**: Policy makers and data producers recognize considerable data gaps, especially in relation to urban development, quality of urban infrastructure, housing, urban poverty and homelessness. Specific information gaps have been identified by different actors. They include information in the area of agriculture and environment, such as data on productivity of agri-businesses, income and expenditure of agricultural holdings, climate-related information, and information on forest and water resources. The availability of data at municipal level is minimal, which mostly relates to limited budgets.

In the section **Financing Landscape and Opportunities**, the CCAs of three countries only, include information on public and private financing in particular for environment and climate change. *For instance, in the CCA of Turkey, IPA I, IPA II<sup>5</sup>, GEF and Green Climate Fund are mentioned as actual or potential financing sources.*

## SYNERGIES, IMPACT AND RISK ANALYSIS

**Environment and climate change-related risks** are named in the Risks Analysis section of almost all reviewed CCAs. Only five CCAs could be considered as good examples, where identification of a particular risk is supported by quantitative data (available mainly for economic losses from climate related events); different types of risks are described, including their drivers, vulnerabilities and needs; or where risks posed by other non-environmental development areas on environment and climate change are identified (*e.g., in the CCA of Uzbekistan and North Macedonia*).

None of the CCAs includes sex-disaggregated data when describing the key environment and climate change challenges and their impact. One of the reasons may be the lack of such country-specific data in general as some of the CCAs point out. Five of them highlight the impact on vulnerable groups, including women, children and disabled people, especially in relation to climate change and the related natural disasters. However, they do not specify why and how these groups are being affected. Some of those mention the problem of discrimination against women when it comes to land and other resources ownership and management.

In the **non-environmental sections** of the chapters the *Country Context, Country Progress towards the SDGs, and Leaving No-one Behind*, almost all CCAs refer to environment and climate change, but rather briefly or only in general terms, without

<sup>5</sup> EU Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance

providing detail on how these affect or are affected by other aspects of socio-economic development. Only four CCAs describe more comprehensively the relevance of environment and climate change for achieving the non-environmental SDGs, mainly those related to **ending hunger and achieving food security, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production**, to a lesser extent also in relation to a good health and well-being, industry, innovation and technology or peace, justice and strong institutions. In the sections devoted to **human rights or to gender equality** in particular, very little attention is paid to how these could affect or be affected by the environmental degradation and climate change. One of the exceptions is the CCA of Albania (see the Box with good examples below).

## GOOD EXAMPLES:

### **Georgia CCA comprehensively describing the risk posed by climate change on agriculture:**

By 2050, climate change in Georgia is expected to raise temperatures within a range of 1.3 to 2.8 degrees Celsius, limit the availability of potable water, and increase the frequency and magnitude of extreme weather events. All of these can have significant negative impacts on the agricultural sector and threaten food security. Prevalence of Severe Food Insecurity, which allows to measure the severity of food insecurity at household and individual levels, is at 8.9% in Georgia, second highest in the region after Albania. Based on the 2014 census, 41.7% of the population lives in the rural areas, 43% of the total workforce is engaged in agriculture, and 43% of the total territory is designated as agricultural land. Climate change would likely cause losses in yields due to an increase in the size of drought-prone regions, and degradation of agricultural land because of heightened soil salination and increased evaporation intensity.

### **Turkey CCA refers to environment and climate change in reporting on several non-environmental SDGs:**

- SDG 9: 'TUBITAK and UNIDO continues GCIP (Global Cleantech Innovation Programme) for the establishment of supportive innovation ecosystem for SMEs to promote affordable and scalable solutions to leapfrog to cleaner, more resilient economy.'
- SDG 11: 'The municipalities in South-East Turkey collectively host over 1.3 million refugees, or over 20 percent of their pre-crisis population. This increase in population has led to the consumption of 70 billion litres more water and the generation of 1 million tons of additional solid waste per year.' It refers to the fact that municipalities hosting refugees do not receive any additional income to deal with those and other migration related challenges. problems.
- SDG 12: 'Big attention is paid to the 'national campaign on 'zero waste' inaugurated in 2019, which aims to minimise the generation of all kinds of waste at source as well as to raise overall recycling rates from an estimated 13% at present to 35% in 2023, compared to 45% in the European Union.' Data are provided also on the management of chemicals and hazardous waste, packaging, and the whole section is devoted to a tourism industry that 'competes with agriculture for land, but at the same time simultaneously adds to the demand for agricultural produce'. It mentions the Green Star certificates that have been awarded to environmentally friendly accommodation facilities since 2008.

### **Albania CCA highlights the human rights and environment and climate change nexus:**

The CCA includes "integration of environmental and climate considerations into the national regulatory framework and taking into account the vulnerabilities and needs of women, children, youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities and members of other marginalised groups in developing policies on climate change and disaster risk management" as one of the country commitments in the area of human rights. The CCA includes the sub-section called 'Human rights, good governance and the environment nexus' focusing mainly on the rights to be informed, to participate in decision-making and to have access to justice in environmental matters, embedded in the UNECE Aarhus Convention.



## 7. CFs GAP ANALYSIS

### FORMULATION OF THE UN VISIONS AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR THE COUNTRY

In the **Theory of Change** chapter UNCTs basically in all reviewed CFs include an improved situation in environment and climate change as one of the desired changes by 2030, while also naming them as one of the challenges or risks that may hinder the achievement of a desired change in other aspects of sustainable development.

All 10 reviewed CFs include the aim to **support environmentally sustainable development and addressing climate change** as one of the **UNCT's strategic priorities** for the country. In some of them a strategic priority is to explicitly address environment and climate change, in others the element of environment protection and addressing climate change is part of the more broadly formulated priority aiming to promote green and sustainable development or growth.

### GOOD EXAMPLES:

**Armenia CF underscores interlinkages between the economy and environment and climate change in the Theory of Change:** 'In order to ensure the environmental sustainability of economic development, a focus on circular economy, low-carbon energy production, sustainable mining and land use are identified as crucial drivers. Land, air and water pollution not only affect the environment and people's health, but also land and water productivity (see issues related to land salinization, overgrazing, lower lake water levels, etc).'

**Kazakhstan CF links environment / climate change with gender in the Theories of Change for gender equality and women's empowerment:** 'If women have equal access to and control of new sources of energy and economic resources and are resilient towards climate change and other shocks and global challenges, then women can fully realise their equal participation which contributes to inclusive economic growth and the achievement of higher living standards for all people in Kazakhstan.'

**Georgia CF Strategic Priority:** 'Human well-being' encompasses material well-being, health, education, social protection, voice, access to a clean and safe environment and resilience that transforms Georgia towards sustainable development.'

**Turkmenistan CF Strategic Priority 4:** 'Rational use of natural resources, environment protection, addressing universal climate change'.

## RESULTS FRAMEWORK ANALYSIS

As expected, each CF Results Framework includes an **outcome** explicitly focused on supporting environmental protection, sustainable use and management of natural resources and addressing climate change. In CFs of four countries the Results Frameworks are defined only at the outcome level, i.e., the outputs are not identified. All the other CFs contain well formulated environment and climate change-related outputs with well-defined indicators and targets, often indicating the links with the non-environmental sectors (*e.g., annual mean levels of fine particulate matter PM10; pesticides per hectare, adoption of updated regulations for WASH in schools and health facilities, mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution*).

All reviewed CFs integrate a gender dimension in the description of the environment and climate change-specific outcome. Most of them include a commitment to integrate gender equality into local and national strategies on climate change adaptation, environment and natural resource management and disaster risk reduction and management. On the one hand they aim to ensure that the impact of climate change specifically on women, and vulnerable groups, is considered in such documents and processes. On the other hand, they want to strengthen women's role in natural resources management. In all CFs those outcomes are supported by the gender-specific or sex-disaggregated indicators.

In 4 out of 10 CFs environment and/or climate change is reflected in at least one **non-environmental outcome statement**, either through explicit reference to environment and climate change or modifying adjectives indicating an environmentally sustainable and climate change sensitive approach. In some cases, the environment or climate change dimension is mentioned in the narrative of the non-environmental outcome Theory of Change.

In only two CFs do UNCTs refer to the environment and/or climate change (directly or indirectly) in the formulation of **outputs within the non-environmental outcomes**.

In the CFs of three countries (that do not include the output level in the Results Framework), the **non-environmental outcomes** are supported by **the indicators enabling to measure progress in addressing environmental and climate change challenges**.

## GOOD EXAMPLES:

**CFs of Armenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina refer to environment in the outcome statement focused on education and skills development:**

- CF Armenia Outcome 3: 'People exercise their talents and skills, benefitting from age-appropriate, life-long learning, inclusive and quality education in an enabling and **safe environment**'
- CF Bosnia and Herzegovina Outcome 2: 'By 2025, people benefit from more inclusive and higher quality educational programmes focused on 21st century skills for enhanced employability, well-being and active participation in society'. It also refers to climate change in its Theory of Change definition: 'The authorities in BiH and the UN system will explore Technology Innovation Labs to increase the connectivity of classrooms and create platforms for collaborative problem solving for sustainable development challenges in BiH, such as **climate change**.'

**Georgia CF includes climate change related output and indicator within the non-environmental outcome:** Outcome 4: 'By 2025, conflict affected communities enjoy human rights, enhanced human security and resilience'. This also includes the 'Output 4.2: Socio-economic conditions, **community resilience** and self-reliance improved with programmes benefiting conflict affected communities, particularly those left behind'. Results in this output will be measured also by the 'Indicator: 4.2.3 Number of people with improved community **resilience against climate-induced multi-hazard natural disasters**'.

**Kazakhstan CF non-environmental outcome will be monitored through environment and climate change related indicators:**

- 'Outcome 1.2. By 2025, all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable are empowered with knowledge and skills to equally contribute to sustainable development of the country'. This also includes the **Indicator** 'Number of teachers trained on education for sustainable development (ESD) including gender equality and human rights'.
- 'Outcome 3.1. By 2025, all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from inclusive, resilient, and sustainable economic development with improved productive capacities, skills and equal opportunities for sustainable and decent jobs, livelihoods, and businesses'. This also includes the **Indicator** 'Area of irrigated land on which water-saving technologies are used (drip irrigation, sprinkling)'; the **Indicator** 'Change in water use efficiency over time'; and the **Indicator** 'Availability of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) national action plans or SCP mainstreamed as a priority or a target into national policies'.

## ANALYSIS OF THE UNCT CONFIGURATION AND THE CF IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

Following the requirements of the guidance of the CF preparation, all but one reviewed CFs include the section on **partnerships** for each outcome, including the one focused on environmental sustainability and climate change. Besides partnering with the traditional stakeholders such as environmental authorities at different levels, civil society active in the area of environment and climate change, academia, etc., more and more emphasis is placed on cooperating with the private sector, which could bring with it the financial resources, innovation and vast networking.

**The capacity of the UNCTs** to implement interventions within the environment and climate change related outcomes and outputs is indirectly described by the statements on the UNCT comparative advantage. Most of the recent surveys of development partners in the respective countries refer to climate action as one of the areas where the UN has a demonstrated comparative advantage.

All the UNCTs will establish **Results Groups** to oversee the implementation and monitoring of the interventions within each of the CF pillars and outcomes. In addition, several CFs refer to the creation of thematic groups, mainly to advise on the areas of gender equality, human rights, youth but not on environment or climate change. *Only the UNCT of Georgia plans to form the Disaster Management Country Team (DMCT) to promote coordinated inter-agency emergency preparedness and response, and the UNCT in North Macedonia “may also assign the CF-related tasks to the already existing thematic groups for the purpose of mainstreaming cross-cutting and guiding principles across CF and individual outcome areas.”*

UNCTs in almost all reviewed CFs commit to ensure that the independent **CF evaluation** will also assess the results that uphold the Cooperation Framework Guiding Principles. Several CFs refer to the application of gender equality or human rights markers but there is no commitment indicated to apply the UN/UNDP SES.

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

Besides being addressed as a “sector” the area of environment and climate change should be treated as a cross-cutting element and should be considered throughout the process of analysis, assessment and planning of all the other “non-environmental” development areas, priorities and solutions. Applying such an approach would guarantee that UNCTs propose and support only such interventions that are in line with the global, national and local environment and climate change goals. It would also enable UNCTs to identify interventions where inaction in the area of environment and climate change could jeopardise sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the achieved development results.

UNCTs should express their commitment to mainstreaming environment and climate change at the very beginning of the UNSDCF process planning and ensure adequate expertise, time and resources are allocated within the process of the CCA and CF design.

As mentioned above, environment and climate change and their links with the other development priorities are relatively well analysed and reflected in the CCAs and CFs. However, the aspect of mainstreaming should be better reflected in the CF implementation, monitoring and evaluation plans, where it is currently missing. The consideration of the mainstreaming element, when establishing CF governance mechanisms and setting up monitoring and evaluation frameworks, is essential if UNCTs are to integrate the environment and climate change in practice and on a systematic basis.