



UN DESA

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

Partnering with countries to build
capacity for the 2030 Agenda



**United
Nations**

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

Accelerating Sustainable Development

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) provides a dynamic interface between the formulation of global policies in the economic, social, and environmental spheres and national action. Its work is guided by the landmark agreements on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), and other global agreements in the economic, social and environmental areas. These agreements provide a universal and transformative vision to tackle the complex and interconnected sustainable development challenges at scale.

Member States, particularly developing countries, have requested the UN system to provide assistance in building the required capacities for translating these global visions into tangible national outcomes. To respond to this demand, UN DESA has adopted an integrated approach to provide effective and efficient capacity building solutions. It addresses the specific challenges of different country contexts, building on its multidisciplinary mandate, expertise, and comparative advantage, and working in collaboration with strategic partners.



Strengthening National Capacities

UN DESA aims at fostering national ownership as a central premise to ensure sustainable development that is people-centric and responsive to national priorities. As a global entity with no country-level presence, UN DESA works in close collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinators and the UN Country Teams to align its support with the ongoing effort on the ground. UN DESA's capacity development assistance is demand-driven in response to the specific requests for support

expressed by governments directly, or through the Resident Coordinators. Based on the type of the request received, the Department will decide to intervene at the global, regional, sub-regional or national levels.

Supporting government capabilities to achieve sustainable development is a key objective. UN DESA focuses on enhancing government capacity to design and implement inclusive and accountable governance mechanisms and institutions for the SDGs, as well as addressing financial and data gaps.

Five Areas of Capacity Development Support

With a focus on the integration of economic, social, and environmental pillars of sustainable development, UN DESA offers capacity development support in five areas deemed crucial for implementing and monitoring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:



Policy Coherence

Strengthening national capacities to formulate mutually reinforcing policies across sectors and government departments, so that policies work together to achieve national development goals effectively.

Assistance involves training government officials in quantitative models and analytical tools to analyse synergies and trade-offs across policy areas and to inform policy decisions.



Social Integration and Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups

Strengthening mechanisms and policies for social inclusion opens important spaces for disadvantaged social groups to have a voice in policy making and implementation, so no one is left behind.

This includes assisting national stakeholders with using tools and methodologies to produce and collect data on vulnerable social groups.



Competent Institutions and integrated, inclusive approaches

Strengthening national capacities to develop effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions equipped to implement the 2030 Agenda.

This includes equipping public servants with the capacities to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Pact for the Future by providing advisory support and developing new cutting-edge methodologies in leadership and changing mindsets, institutional arrangements for policy coherence and anticipatory governance, transparency and accountability, innovation, strategic foresight, digital government, and data governance in countries in special situations.



Evidence-based policy

Building regional and national capacities for data production, collection, disaggregation, and analysis. UN DESA supports modernizing and strengthening national statistical systems for evidence-based policymaking, monitoring, assessment, and reporting related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This includes developing international statistical standards and methodologies in economic, social, environmental, and demographic statistics, environmental accounting, and guidance on geospatial data infrastructure and related standards.



Means of implementation

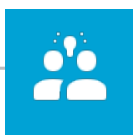
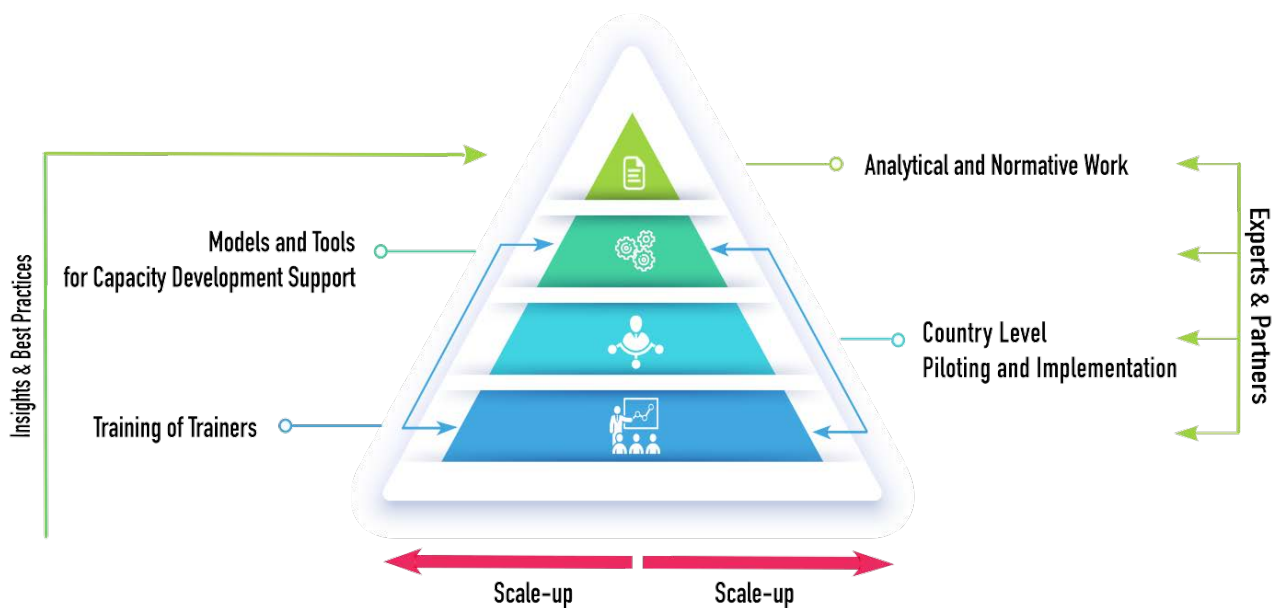
Strengthening national capacity to finance the SDGs.

This includes supporting the development of Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs), financing mechanisms for Sustainable Forest Management, domestic resource mobilisation through taxation, and the effective use of multilateral trade mechanisms such as international support measures for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Delivering Agile and Flexible Support

With its large pool of experts, including dedicated inter-regional advisers, UN DESA focuses its capacity development efforts on developing methodologies, tools and approaches that can assist national policy makers build the necessary capacities to translate the sustainable development framework into concrete policies and plans. As appropriate, these tools, models, and innovative approaches are tested in pilot countries, in collaboration with national authorities and strategic partners, and shared more widely through a combination of global, regional, and sub-regional workshops.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT DELIVERY METHOD



Policy Advisory Services

Through its advisory services, UN DESA works with Member States to identify solutions to pressing development challenges and concerns. Policy advisory services are provided in person or virtually to relevant government entities at their request. They aim to facilitate decision-making processes and often play a vital role in policy and strategy development.



Training and Workshops

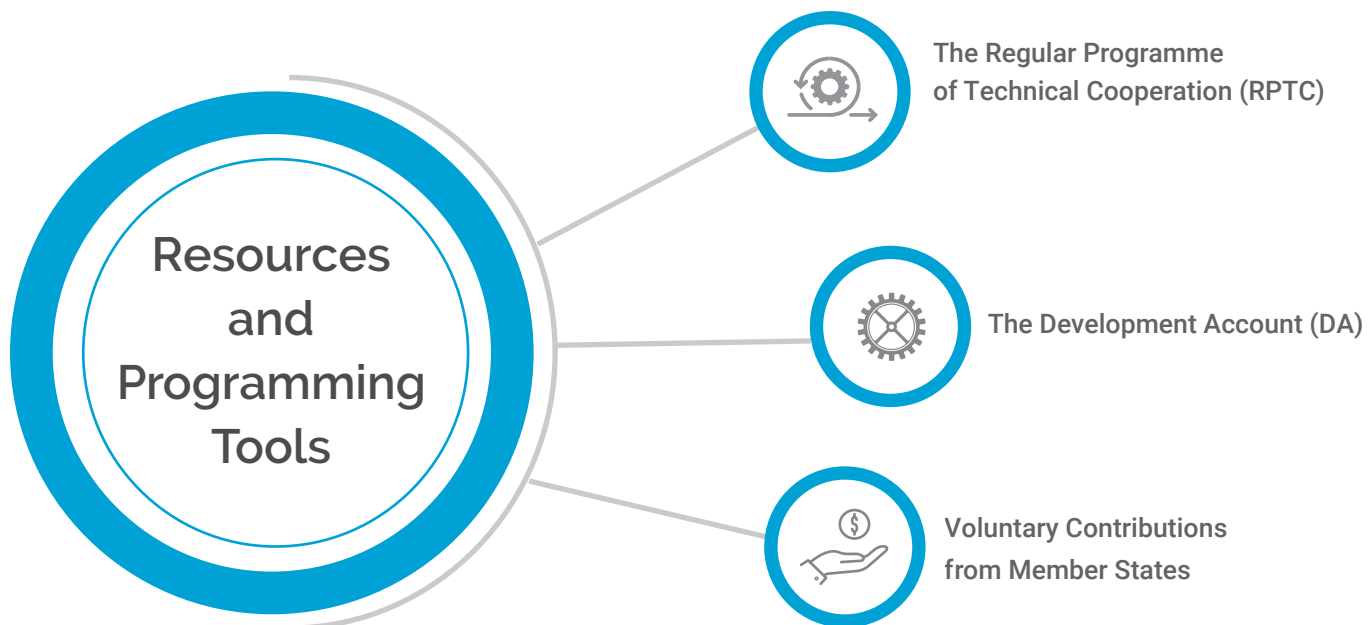
UN DESA organises engaging training sessions and workshops at the national, regional, and international levels to help stakeholders acquire crucial skills and knowledge on sustainable development policies. To facilitate sustained engagement, UN DESA leverages virtual tools to provide peer-to-peer exchange and learning opportunities to complement in-person workshops.



Digital Learning Centre

UN DESA provides additional learning opportunities through its Digital Learning Centre (DLC), an online platform where interested individuals can hone skills essential for advancing the 2030 Agenda. The DLC offers digital capacity building courses, toolkits, and communities of practice accessible anytime and from anywhere.

Leveraging DESA's Programmatic Resources for Capacity Development



UN DESA leverages the **Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC)** and the **Development Account (DA)** to implement its projects and activities. It also relies on **Voluntary Contributions** from Member States to support focused programmes and initiatives addressing developing countries' specific priorities and needs.



The Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC)

The RPTC serves to support developing countries, especially least developed countries, countries with economies in transition and countries emerging from conflict in their capacity-development efforts. It enables entities of the UN Secretariat to respond quickly and flexibly to Member States requests for short-term technical and capacity development assistance. RPTC-funded interventions are also often used to pilot innovative approaches that can be scaled up and can pave the way for longer-term collaboration and capacity development support.



The Development Account (DA)

The DA is a capacity development programme of the UN Secretariat aimed at enhancing the capacities of developing countries in the priority areas of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through national, regional, and interregional initiatives. The DA is funded through the regular budget of the UN Secretariat and is implemented by 10 Secretariat entities, including DESA.



UN DESA Global Network of Project Offices

UN DESA's capacity to deliver support is augmented by a network of Project Offices located in Korea, Japan, Italy, Switzerland, China, and Germany.

- **The United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD)** in Incheon, Republic of Korea, plays a pivotal role in assisting UN Member States to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the SDGs through knowledge sharing, capacity development, policy advice, and research focusing on LDCs, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and Landlocked Developing States (LLDCs).
- **The United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG)**, also in Incheon, Republic of Korea, is tasked to develop public governance capacities in developing countries across Asia and Pacific in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **The UN DESA Office in Rome**, Italy, promotes and coordinates numerous development cooperation initiatives, particularly in human resource development, engaging with Italian and European institutions, civil society organisations, and the business sector.
- **The United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)**, in Nagoya, Japan, strives to promote sustainable regional development by focusing on strengthening planning and management in the context of globalization, decentralization, and growing climate change and environmental concerns.
- **The Internet Governance Forum (IGF)**, supported by its secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland, serves to bring various stakeholder and regional groups together as equals to discuss digital policy issues. The IGF not only facilitates dialogue and cooperation, but also informs and inspires those with policy-making power in both the public and private sectors.
- **The United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC)** in Deqing, China aims to strengthen and advance the geospatial information management capacity development capabilities of Member States, especially developing countries, and to strengthen knowledge sharing and innovative cooperation.
- **The United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE)** in Bonn, Germany, assists Member States and geodetic organizations to coordinate and collaborate to sustain, enhance, access, and utilize an accurate, accessible, and sustainable Global Geodetic Reference Frame to support science, society, and global development.

Special Programmes

Since 1974, UN DESA coordinates the United Nations Training and Fellowship Programme, which promotes strategic human resource development to help countries reach national capacity objectives at all levels. The Programme responds to the needs of Member States for national development and training to address high-priority shortages in advanced professional skills.

UN DESA also manages the Junior Professional Officers (JPO) Programme. The JPO is an international initiative established in 1961 to provide young graduates and professionals with the opportunity to receive on-the-job training in international organisations. Since its inception, UN DESA manages and coordinates the Programme on behalf of the UN Secretariat, recruiting JPOs from competitive pools of highly qualified early-career candidates. Junior Professionals serve for a limited time at the host organizations, gaining valuable insights and contributing to their work.

Requesting Support

UN DESA works closely with governments and Resident Coordinator Offices (RCOs) to identify the most pressing needs of developing countries. Its support is aligned with existing workstreams on the ground working in collaboration with the UN country offices and other strategic partners. Government agencies can express interest in UN DESA capacity development support directly or through the Resident Coordinator Office. UN DESA's response will be in two steps:

STEP 1

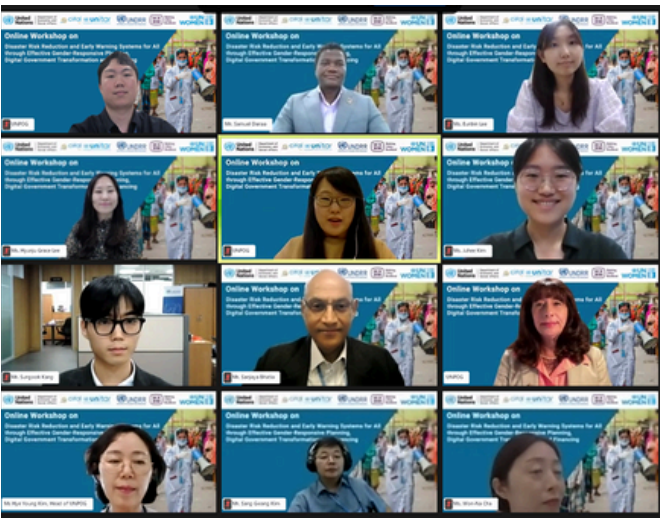
Once a formal request of support is received, UN DESA will collaborate closely with the interested government entity to understand the nature and scope of the request and the needs to be addressed.

STEP 2

Working in consultation with the RCO, UN DESA will determine its comparative advantage vis-a-vis other UN entities working on the ground and define the delivery modality, timeline, and potential strategic partners to ensure that sustainable results can be achieved.



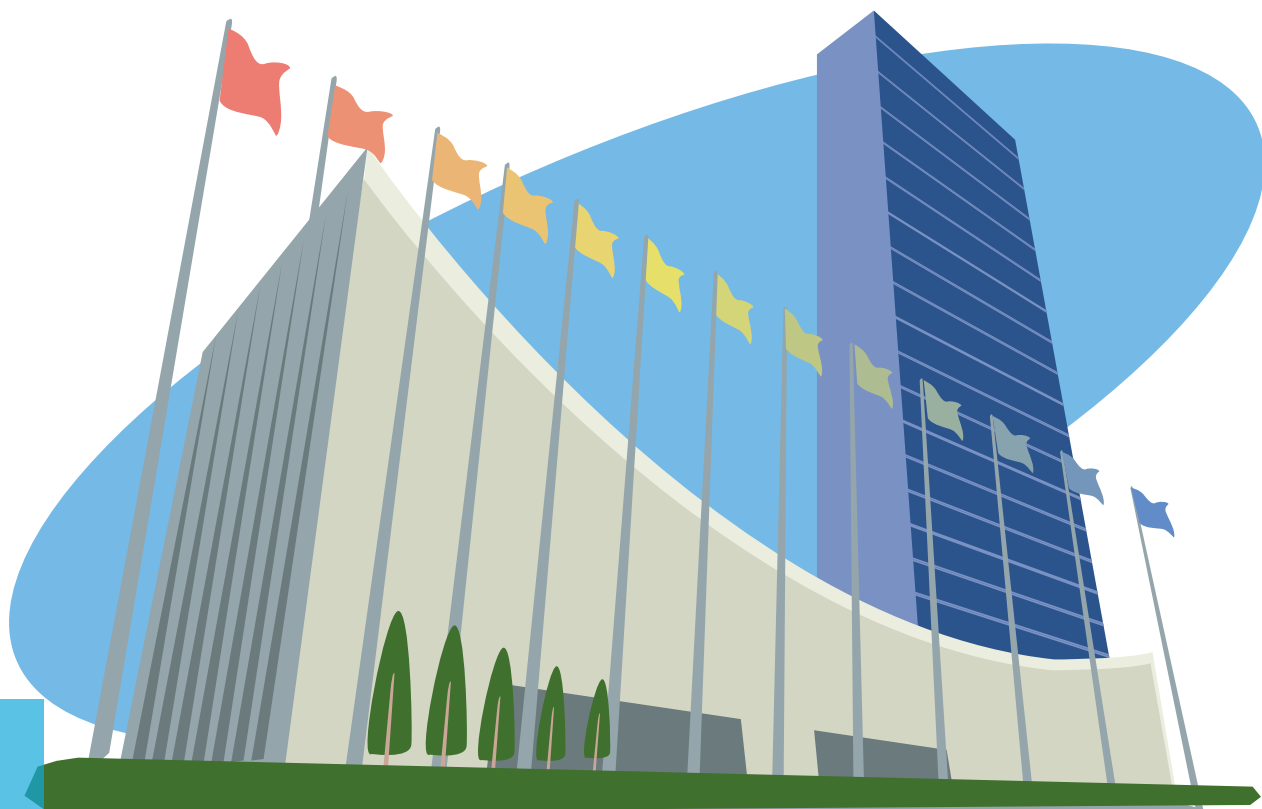






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**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**