



Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions Lead UN Agencies in Country-Level Processes Terms of Reference

Objective

These Terms of Reference (TOR) serve as a guide for UN agencies and Resident Coordinators in overseeing the design and implementation of the Global Accelerator in various countries. The objective is to standardize the approach of UN agencies in coordinating, managing, and supporting the implementation of the Global Accelerator, ensuring a consistently high level of quality across all stages and countries. This standardization aims to maximize the Accelerator's potential impact while maintaining alignment with national plans, strategies, and policies at the country level, as well as delivering substantial coordinated support to the pathfinder countries.

The TOR apply to any UN agency that will act as the lead agency in coordinating the roll-out of the initiative in specific countries from the initial engagement stages to the development of a national roadmap and the implementation of it.

Background

Against the backdrop of large coverage gaps in social protection, decent work deficits, and recurring and compounding collective shocks, the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions (GA) launched by the United Nations Secretary-General in September 2021, seeks to fast-track actions to extend social protection to some of the 4 billion excluded people and contribute to creating millions of decent jobs in sustainable and future-oriented sectors. The GA aims to forge concerted action among international partners to strengthen national ownership and a systems approach to social protection and the creation of decent employment to facilitate just transitions. To achieve these objectives, the GA calls for joint actions, integrated policy, programming, and financing.

The implementation of the Global Accelerator is supported practically through a Technical Support Facility (TSF) that brings together relevant expertise from across the United Nations development system and provides backstopping to a portfolio of development cooperation activities in pathfinder countries. The TSF, which is composed of¹ UN agencies, operates at the

¹ As of May 2023, the Technical Support Facility coordination team is composed of ILO, FAO, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women and WFP. The TSF Coordination Team may include 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. New 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.

global, regional, and country levels to facilitate and support the implementation of the Accelerator, leverage existing capacity, and enhance support when needed in UN Country Teams led by the UN Resident Coordinators.

UN agencies play a key role in planning, coordinating and overseeing the Global 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.

The following terms of reference describe the roles and responsibilities of the UN agencies that will lead the Global Accelerator process in any country as designed to perform the functions ascribed to it in line with its overall governance framework. Therefore, it should be read together with terms of reference of the [GA Steering Group](#) and the [Technical Support Facility](#).

Roles and Responsibilities of the Lead Agencies

As the Global Accelerator strives to enhance multilateral cooperation, strong coordination at various levels is essential for its successful execution. While the initiative is led by the government as a whole, the UN plays a critical role in bringing together different stakeholders efficiently and effectively. This responsibility is assumed by the Technical Support Facility Coordination Team at the global level, at the country level specific UN agencies may lead or co-lead the process based on their existing capacity, portfolio volume, and ongoing relevant projects and programs in the respective country. This leading role serves as a catalyst for ensuring robust coordination among TSF members, gathering all relevant stakeholders, overseeing some technical work in the country, and serving as the focal point agency for the government.

The lead agency assumes the following roles and responsibilities in three main areas: process, coordination, and quality assurance.

- Initial Engagement, Design, and Implementation Process:

Lead agencies

- Oversee the subsequent steps of the pathfinder country engagement process.
- Initiate a discussion with representatives of the TSF at global and country levels in countries where there is interest in exploring becoming a pathfinder country.
- Convene meeting(s) with the RC and the UNCT including the representatives of the TSF to brief on possible technical entry points for engagement that are consistent with the focus of the Global Accelerator.
- Spearhead an initial country review taking into account existing research, programmes and lessons learned, to be developed to serve as the analytical foundation for further consultations. The exercise aims to identify priorities through which a country may most effectively achieve results and serve as a reference point for further consultations.
- In coordination with the other TSF members, organize consultations with appropriate ministries to enhance country buy-in on the scope and the added value of the Accelerator. Conduct simultaneous or joint consultations with stakeholders including workers' and employers' organizations, youth, private sector, development

partners, IFIs, civil society, etc. Maintain continuous communication with all the stakeholders via consultations that take place at various stages.

- After initial consultations, support the RC in gathering a commitment at the highest level of government to become a pathfinder country. Ensure that there is a high-level political buy-in by the government including. Depending on the country context, if necessary, support the materialization of additional agreements (MoU etc) between the government and the RC, supporting agencies and any other relevant partners.
- Coordinate closely with the government in the determination of the lead ministries and institutions and the formulation of a multi-stakeholder national steering committee. Facilitate securing effective participation of various ministries and institutions in the process as part of the suggested inter-ministerial national governance structure.
- Support the government in initiating a broad national dialogue among all stakeholders to make the process inclusive and participatory.
- Make sure that workers' and employers' representatives are integral parts of the process and take part in every stage and the national steering committee.
- Assist the countries in conducting a policy mapping and analysis exercise to feed into further national consultations. The exercise is done by the lead UN agency(ies) where there is sufficient capacity. Where sufficient capacity does not exist, the exercise might be undertaken by a national or international consultancy under the lead of a UN agency.
- Assist the government in organising national consultations (i) focusing on issues relevant to the Global Accelerator including priorities to achieve greater alignment between jobs, social protection and just transitions and sectoral pathways for achievement; (ii) expanding the analysis and evidence, (iii) development of a national financing strategy. The consultations should ideally take place in a participatory national workshop format including workers' and employers' organisations, development partners, IFIs, academia, civil society organizations, the private sector, etc. The consultations should help contextualize and interpret evidence relating to opportunities, constraints, and complementarities.
- Coordinates the drafting process of the National roadmap to be carried out by the government and TSF. Ensures that potential synergies between the roadmap and the existing national strategies and priorities, as well as the programmes of various development partners, PDBs are reflected in the roadmap.
- Mobilize the technical assistance of the UN in finalizing the roadmap through ongoing consultations, technical discussions, and diagnostics.
- Take part in the organization of a participatory validation of the roadmap.
- Ensures continuous coordination with the government in agreeing on the next steps, detailed implementation, M&E, and resource mobilization plan.
- Organize technical and high-level joint missions during the entire process as necessary.

- Might secure funds for missions, participatory workshops and initial diagnostics as needed.

- Coordination:
 Lead agencies
 - Act as the primary UN agency for a specific country and ensure cross-cutting coordination among the government, TSF, UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC), other participating UN agencies, and other stakeholders, including social partners, development partners, the social partners, development partners, IFIs, PDBs, civil society, private sector etc.
 - Brief, debrief and update the TSF at each stage of the engagement, design and implantation.

- Quality assurance of the roadmaps and the implementation
 Lead agencies ensure that
 - A national steering committee is established.
 - The roadmaps are developed in a participatory manner, based on evidence.
 - Required technical assistance is provided to the pathfinder country to diagnose advancement in the progress of decent jobs, social protection and just transitions; to identify and agree on the acceleration points and the financing options.
 - The dissemination and utilization of standardized methodologies and tools developed for the Global Accelerator, as relevant.
 - The roadmap prioritizes policy changes to address salient socio-economic challenges in the country (building social protection floors; improving employment, skills and entrepreneurship policies; and strengthening sectoral and just transitions in green, formality, care and digital economy.)
 - The identified acceleration points and policy priorities in the roadmap are aligned and coherent with the existing national policies and strategies and with the wider development goals.
 - The roadmap clarifies the transversal priorities such as international labour standards, gender equality, youth etc.
 - The roadmap is developed based on a broad-based social dialogue, securing the participation of social partners, civil society, and the private sector.
 - The roadmap is designed to fit in the Global Accelerator's common results framework and the countries develop their theory of change and country-level results framework in line with the country context.
 - The financing section of the roadmap is supported by joint fiscal space analysis and tools such as macroeconomic diagnostic tool to suggest pathways to finance for relevant policy approaches.

- The Joint Programme proposals are prepared in line with the GA implementation strategy, ILS, results framework of the GA and the objectives of the Joint SDG Fund's first funding round on Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection and the M-GA.
- The necessary guidance is provided to the UN Country Teams and the RCs in the process of the development of the joint programme proposals.
- The governments and the GA country teams are supported to explore the local resource mobilization opportunities and synergies that might exist among the development partners' ongoing programmes or plans.
- The necessary capacity-building activities are organized for the government institutions, social partners.