The Albania SDG Acceleration Fund will be capitalized with an initial contribution of the Government of Albania, highlighting its commitment to being a leader in the region on achieving Agenda2030. The United Nations system in Albania will seek support from the global Agenda2030 fund, anticipated to be active by mid-2018. Development Partners of Albania are encouraged to complement this funding with additional resources. In line with OECD DAC good donorship guidelines, contributions are encouraged to be unearmarked.

Accountability lies with the UN Resident Coordinator for the overall management of the Fund, which will be administered by UNDP’s Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office. Administratively, the SDG Fund will follow the same procedures as the previous UN Coherence Fund. Management of activities – as outlined above – will use the tools of the Delivering as One approach of the UN in place in Albania since 2007. Development partners are invited to Outcome Group meetings and to review Outcome Workplans, and thus have a critical role in the discussion of priorities, monitoring of progress and mid-course adjustment. Core reporting is provided through the annual, joint UN Progress Report against the Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development. On a case by case basis, specific activities may establish Steering Committees and agree to more detailed supplementary reporting, as agreed by the parties involved. In all cases, any such actions are included in a summary fashion in the Outcome Workplans and annual progress reporting.

The Programme of Cooperation aims to achieve a budget of $108m over 5 years. The Albania SDG Acceleration Fund aims to cover at least 10% of those needs or at least $10m.
Actions financed by the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund will (a) result in an evidence-based understanding – by the Government and the general public - of Albania’s progress towards achieving the SDGs through its national strategies and the EU integration process and (b) accelerate the rate of achievement of SDGs so that all are attained by 2030.

The Albania SDG Acceleration Fund aims to finance actions that will accelerate Albania’s achievement of its commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals by: undertaking analysis of current national strategies and budgets – both as planned and as implemented – with an eye on how to put the last first, or ‘leave no one behind’; ensuring high quality monitoring to identify gaps and risks of under-achievement; and strengthen capacities of Albanian institutions – national and local - to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the goals. The United Nations will work jointly to implement these actions in support of Albania’s targets.

Inclusive Inter-Ministerial Committee on Sustainable Development

Chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, the Committee provides overall guidance to the Government of Albania’s efforts to achieve Agenda2030. The Albania SDG Acceleration Fund will prioritize actions that follow the guidance of the Committee. The Committee aims to be inclusive and invites representatives from civil society, academia, the private sector, the United Nations and development partners as regular observers.

Joint UN Outcome Workplans

All actions of the United Nations in Albania are organized through four two-year rolling Outcome Workplans, corresponding to the four Outcomes in the PoCSD. Outcome meetings – co-chaired by Line Ministers and UN Heads of agencies and inclusive of development partners – finalize the Workplans and meet to monitor progress. The Workplans will automatically contain actions financed by the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund.

To achieve its main objectives, the SDG Accelerator Fund will finance priority areas of development connected to the four areas GoA-UN Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development 2017-2021, and closely linked with priorities of Government 2016-2020, NSDI II, EU accession agenda and Agenda2030. It includes:

- Consolidate good governance, democracy and the rule of law;
- Ensure social cohesion with focus on health, education, social protection, child protection and elimination of gender-based violence;
- Contribute to economic growth with greater focus on competitiveness, expanding employment opportunities and promoting sustainable rural development;
- Scale up actions towards a safe environment and climate change mitigation through sustainable use of resources.

Priority Areas

The GoA-UN Joint Executive Committee (JEC)

Co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and the UN Resident Coordinator (and composed of Government and the UN Country Team), the JEC oversees the overall contribution of the United Nations to Albania’s development via the Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development 2017-2021 (PoCSD). It is the JEC that decides on specific allocations of resources from the Albania SDG Acceleration Fund.

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