Annex 2. Theory of Change and Results Framework Narative.

The UNDAP II, launched in 2018-2021, began three strategic priorities and these were transitioned to the CF post MTPR: economic transformation, social transformation, and transformational governance. These priorities, still relevant, produced six outcomes, delivering 25 outputs by the UNCT. Notably, one output was omitted during the MTPR revision, for unspecified reasons.

While the outcome level remains pertinent as a framework for UN joint contributions aligned with national priorities, it lacks outcomes related to improved and funded coordination and coherence mechanisms. Assumptions about the UNCT for these aspects are unfounded in the TOC. The MTPR indicated the UNDAP II was on track in achieving most set outcomes and targets for 2023, extended to 2024, with only two outcomes unlikely to be realized; 20 of the 25 outputs were on track.

However, the MTPR of UNDAP II failed to correct the broader results framework's indicators and targets with baselines, necessitating an exercise in developing a new monitoring framework with smart and measurable indicators. The results framework must ensure a robust structure for monitoring the realization of the UNDAP II. At mid-term, 24% of outcome and 27% of output indicators could not be utilized to assess progress, primarily due to missing data, highlighting the need for comprehensive data collection, and reporting mechanisms.

The UNDAP II framework, currently the transitioned CF, retains three strategic priorities: economic transformation, social transformation, and transformational governance. These priorities, with six outcomes, contribute to the development of supportive policy frameworks and strategies in their respective sectors, as noted in the MTPR results in 2021. The MTPR found the UNDAP II on track for most outcomes and targets, with only two outcomes unlikely to be realized, and 20 of the 25 outputs on track.

The CF Theory of Change (ToC) at the outcome to pillar level is well-grounded, emphasizing sustained transformative social and economic development, inclusive governance, and environmental sustainability for inclusive and sustainable development and social transformation across Rwanda. The realization of the three strategic priorities is envisioned to lead to a transformed Rwandan society, improving quality of life and resilience, contingent upon peace and security.

However, assumptions about the UNCT's capacity for improved and funded coordination and coherence mechanisms lack substantiation in the TOC. This gap raises questions about the framework's effectiveness in addressing critical aspects of the development process.

These strategic priorities align with national development goals articulated in the NST1, with outcomes pursued through 24 interrelated, multi-sectoral outputs. UN support involves partnerships with the private sector, civil society, and academic institutions, emphasizing an integrated and coordinated approach. Governance structures prioritize national engagement, with the Joint Steering Committee chaired by the government and strategic priority co-leadership shared with line ministries. To contribute to the three strategic priorities, the UN system focuses on capacity building, guided by six fundamental programming principles: Leave No One Behind, Gender Equity & Empowerment of Women, Accountability, Resilience, Human Rights-Based Approach, and sustainability.

Assumptions for success include continued political will, good governance, adequate resourcing, and the participation of rights holders.

Additionally, recognized assumptions include conducive national policies, international, regional, and national political will, availability of financial resources and technical capacities, accessible financing for investments, and a rapid and sustainable economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Social sectors must remain adequately resourced and functional, and political will and security should prevail nationally and regionally.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework CF for Rwanda serves as a roadmap for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The framework defines six key outcomes, each with multiple outputs and corresponding indicators, addressing inclusive economic growth, environment and climate change, quality social services, resilience and safety, gender equality and human rights, and democratic governance.

While the CF's flexibility and adaptability are commendable, it was clear that practical implementation face challenges, including the complexity of goals, inter-sectoral collaboration, and prioritization and sequencing. To enhance effectiveness, prioritization guidance, cross-sectoral coordination, improved measurement and evaluation methods, adaptability and learning, and resource mobilization are recommended considerations for the theory of change RoadMap and strategies.

The CF Theory of Change (ToC) provided in the CF is based on the logic that sustaining transformative social and economic development, and inclusive governance, including socioeconomic and environmental governance, is a precondition for the realization of inclusive and sustainable development and social transformation across Rwanda that includes promotion of shared prosperity and increased investment in building human well-being and resilience.

Actualization of three strategic priorities; economic transformation, social transformation, and transformational governance, will lead to a transformed Rwandan society where people have improved quality of life and resilience. Peace and security are an important precondition for this change to happen. The three strategic priorities are fully aligned with national development priorities, as articulated in the NST1.

General Observations:

Consistency: While some targets have specified timeframes (e.g., by 2024), others lack a clear timeframe, making it challenging to assess progress over time.

Data Sources: The document mentions various data sources, but it would be beneficial to provide a clear plan for ongoing data collection and reporting.

Disaggregation: Disaggregated data is provided for many indicators, which is positive for assessing the impact on different demographics.

Baseline Uniformity: Baselines are not consistently provided across all indicators, hindering a comprehensive evaluation of the starting point for each outcome and output.

In summary, the document provides a detailed framework with specific targets and indicators. However, a more comprehensive understanding could be achieved by incorporating baselines for each indicator and addressing the identified deficiencies in terms of clarity, consistency, and uniformity.