

UNDAF Outcome 3: EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

By 2015, state actors at all levels and civil society are more capable and accountable of ensuring the rights and needs of the population, particularly vulnerable groups.

National Priorities: establish an effective and up-to-date corps of civil servants and state-owned formations of Kazakhstan loyal to the cause they serve to and capable of acting as representatives of the people in achieving our priorities.



The strategy for development of the country until 2030, sector strategies/interim plans and annual addresses of the President to the nation all point to the centrality of effective and equitable democratic governance in Kazakhstan. Improved efficiency of Government and the battle against corruption are put forth as strategic national priorities. Complex public administration reforms have been implemented since 1997, and continuing improvements are made to improve efficiency and effectiveness of governments at all levels, but the delivery of public services still has some institutional weaknesses and the maturity of democratic institutions to convey the voice of people through social dialogue requires further development. Significant disparities between the objectives of local governments and their capacity to deliver, as well as the underdevelopment of civil society organizations need to be addressed in order to achieve inclusiveness and equitable access. Existing corruption undermines social

belief in the willingness and capacity of public institutions to fulfil their obligations to the people.

Alignment of national legislation and its implementation mechanisms with the international human rights documents to which Kazakhstan has acceded is a key area for the UNDAF cycle. The focus here will be on protection and promotion of human rights, particularly the advancement of the right of access to justice and access to information through advancing the independence of the judiciary and media and participation of civil society in policy processes. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has recently stressed the importance of creating a balance of power among the executive, legislative and judicial branches and an independent national human rights institution to bring Kazakhstan into compliance with international human rights standards. Better implementation and monitoring of the Human Rights Action Plan and the

Gender Equality Strategy also will be critical components in this regard. Mechanisms and processes for representation and participation of all political parties, NGOs, trade unions and others in the law-making process will be strengthened. Likewise, information professionals, including the media, will have strengthened capacities in line with internationally recognized professional standards.

A decentralized government system with a sound institutional framework respecting human rights can significantly reinforce the competitiveness agenda. UN agencies will work towards enhancing capacities of local governments for planning, budgeting and management of socioeconomic programmes, including an emphasis on child rights. Importance will be given to not only skills building, but also to changing institutional attitudes and behaviours to emphasize the values and principles of democratic institutions. An important area of the development cooperation is improvement of local participation in Government decision-making processes and civic engagement in processes of community mobilization and provision of services. The United Nations will assist in creating social cohesion not only “horizontally” – between various social groups – but also “vertically,” between the Government and people, thereby making Government more inclusive. All of this encompasses a particular focus on the rights of vulnerable groups of the population, including rural dwellers, women, children, people with disabilities, the elderly, and



minority social and cultural groups.

United Nations agencies will join and coordinate their efforts to ensure that sustainable capacity development takes place in a wide range of governance areas, including the justice and security sectors. In addition to the strengthening of capacities for countering illicit drug trafficking and related crime, and enforcing border and customs control and surveillance, as specifically requested by the Government, the United Nations will support initiatives such as promotion of the State Anti-Corruption Policy, development of regional anti-corruption programmes, and encouragement of civil society participation in these processes.

Attention will also be given to regional cooperation and integration and Kazakhstan's role as an emerging donor will be actively supported by the UN, drawing on its experience in supporting similar initiatives in other successful former transition economies.

The United Nations as a whole has several comparative advantages in supporting Kazakhstan to effectively address the challenges of better governance and democracy. In particular, the UN's track record in promoting a human rights-based approach can complement and enrich the focus on human development by prioritizing the principles of non-discrimination and equality, and by bringing to this the tools for analysis and criteria for effective allocation of limited resources.

The United Nations also has longstanding experience in assisting Kazakhstan to improve

legislative and normative work, implementation and monitoring of legislation, strengthening processes and procedures, oversight and legislative capacity of the national Parliament and local representative bodies (maslikhats). UN agencies likewise have contributed in recent years to the promotion of public administration reforms and development of implementation capacity through technical assistance and policy advice, as well as to fulfilment of its mandate to seek multilateral partnerships to combat cross-border issues such as drug trafficking and organized crime. Overall, it should be noted, the United Nations in Kazakhstan has maintained excellent cooperation with line ministries as well as the various commissions under presidential administration. This fruitful cooperation makes it a reliable and neutral partner with global depth.

National partners for this UNDAF outcome will include, among others, the Ministry of Justice; the Ministry of Interior; the Ministry of Culture and Information; the Ministry of Education and Science; the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of Environment Protection; the Human Rights Commission under the President of RK; the Law Academy and the Academy of Internal Affairs; the Institute for Parliamentary Development and the Parliament; the Agency for Civil Service Affairs; the Supreme Court; the State Customs; the State Border Service; the Office of the Ombudsman;

the General Prosecutor's Office; the Academy for Criminal Justice; the National Commission on Women and Socio-Demographic Policy under the President of RK; the National Security Committee; the State Commission on Narcotic Drugs; the Committee for Penitentiary System; local administrations; NGOs/civil society organizations; and media organizations. International partners will include bilateral donors, OSCE, European Commission, Interpol, Europol, the World Customs Organization and international human rights NGOs and experts.

The following are the Agency Outcomes:

Agency Outcome 1.

National institutions have better capacity for protection and promotion of human rights and ensuring access to justice for all.

Agency Outcome 2.

The Parliament, sub-national legislative bodies and civil society organizations enjoy effective dialogue and collaboration in policy-making, elective and legislative processes.

Agency Outcome 3.

Central and local governments operate in a more effective, transparent and accountable manner.