

SUDAN FINANCING PLATFORM

Terms of Reference

June 2021, latest update August 2024

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Rationale and MPTF's Functions	4
2.1 Addressing Peacebuilding Needs	5
2.2 Link to SDGs	7
2.3 Scope of the MPTF	7
2.4 'Enabler' Window.....	6
2.5 'Peacebuilding and Stabilization' Window.....	6
3. MPTF Governance and Coordination	8
3.1 MPTF Steering Committee	8
4. Technical Review Committee	11
4.1 Fund Secretariat.....	11
4.2 Implementing Organizations.....	12
5. MPTF Administration	12
6. Contributions	13
7. Project Approval Process	13
8. Fund Transfer	14
9. Risk management	14
10. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting	14
10.1 Monitoring and evaluation	14
10.2 Reporting.....	15
10.3 Narrative reporting	15
10.4 Financial Report	15
11. Operations Manual	15
12. Amendments, duration, and termination	16
Annex I: Scope of the MPTF from 2019-2023	17

1. Introduction

The conflict between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) that started on 15 April 2023 has inflicted unimaginable suffering on the Sudanese people, caused a nationwide humanitarian catastrophe and has dramatically worsened Sudan's human development outlook. As of January 2024, over 7.6 million people have fled their homes, of whom over 6 million individuals have been displaced internally,¹ making Sudan the largest internal displacement crisis worldwide. The IDP caseload has been observed in 6,355 locations across all of Sudan's 18 states, putting immense pressure on host communities.²

Following five years of continuous decline, Sudan's economy is expected to experience a further massive contraction of 18 percent in 2023. The number of people needing humanitarian assistance has risen from an estimated 15.8 million in November 2022 to 24.7 million in May 2023, representing a 57 per cent increase.³ There has been an alarming escalation of protection threats, and the human rights situation has deteriorated rapidly since the outbreak of the conflict. The use of heavy artillery as well as airstrikes have inflicted high numbers of civilian casualties while deliberate targeting of civilians based on ethnicity and mass killings has been reported.

As of January 2024, the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) reported over 13,000 recorded fatalities since the outbreak of the conflict.⁴ Reports indicate a steep increase in conflict related Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in addition women and girls being abducted and held in slave-like conditions in Darfur. Meanwhile violent intercommunal conflict and ethnically motivated attacks have escalated in several of Sudan's states.

The current pressures and shocks come on top of a multi-layered political and socio-economic crisis and a confluence of protection, humanitarian and development challenges that affected Sudan's population throughout 2022. With the military takeover of 25 October 2021, Sudan's transition had entered a phase of political crisis that had profoundly altered the country's prospects. 2022 saw an alarming escalation of violence, including sexual violence against women, particularly in Darfur but also in South Kordofan and in Blue Nile. Drivers of violence included resource conflict (exacerbated by the impact of climate change), intercommunal tensions, and failure to make progress on key provisions of the Juba Peace Agreement (JPA) and address long-standing grievances around accountability. These dynamics and negative trends have left many communities highly vulnerable and ill-prepared to absorb additional shocks.

In the current crisis, the overall goals of the UN presence in Sudan remain to save and sustain human lives, address humanitarian needs while working towards solutions to displacement for millions of IDPs and strengthening the resilience of communities, to advance the protection of civilians, the fulfillment of human rights and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to support the aspirations of Sudan's people for an end to the fighting, sustainable peace and a return to civilian-led

¹ IOM Weekly Displacement Snapshot 17/ 16 January 2024, <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/dtm-sudan-weekly-displacement-snapshot-17>

² Ibid

³ Sudan: Revised Humanitarian Response Plan 2023, <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-revised-humanitarian-response-plan-2023-revision-issued-17-may-2023-enar>

⁴ ACLED, 12 January 2024, <https://acleddata.com/2024/01/12/sudan-situation-update-januar-2024-the-rapid-support-forces-rsf-gains-ground-in-sudan/>

governance. While the current crisis requires a focus on life saving humanitarian assistance, there is a concurrent need to jointly work towards resilience and facilitating development and peacebuilding outcomes where and when the situation allows.

It is in this context that the United Nations will need to ensure the strategic use of all available funding to support peace processes, build resilience and address community-level peacebuilding gaps. Pooled fund mechanisms are a key component of this, with which the UN in Sudan can harmonize resource mobilization efforts, more effectively identify and agree on shared investment priorities, and coordinate the allocation of funds to ensure country-wide coherence.

The Sudan Multi-Partner Trust Fund (henceforth referred to as the MPTF) is a country-based pooled fund that was established in 2019 - formally known as the 'Sudan Financing Platform' - to advance UN integrated planning across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in Sudan. The MPTF is set up as a multi-window fund in which windows, thematic areas and (joint) projects can be added in an incremental manner, to flexibly respond to the needs and aspirations of the Sudanese people.

When the MPTF was established, the 'Enabler' window was the sole window, consisting of a project supporting the Sudan International Partners Forum, which brought together international donors, International Financial Institutions and the UN to coordinate HDP nexus activities in Sudan.

Following the decision of 3 June 2020 by the UN Security Council to establish the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS) to support Security Council Resolutions 2524 (2020), 2579 (2021) and 2636 (2022), the 'Peacebuilding and Stabilization' window was established, which became the primary funding vehicle to operationalize the UNITAMS mandate. Following the endorsement of the Joint MPTF-PBF Strategic Results Framework (SRF) in 2022, and in light of the decision by the UN Security Council to terminate the UNITAMS mandate on 1 December 2023, the SRF is now the strategic framework for the Sudan MPTF. Both the 'Enabler' and 'Peace and Stabilization' windows are active.

2. Rationale and MPTF's Functions

The Sudan Financing Platform was established in 2019 to support a range of initiatives that advance the integrated planning and more coherent financing architecture across the humanitarian-development-peace aid architecture in Sudan, offering the following benefits:

1. **Coherence:** Strengthens UN system-wide coherence between the mission component and its integrated UNCT partners – in the areas defined in S/RES/2524 (2020) and reaffirmed in SCr2579 (2021) and 2636 (2022) – noting that coordination at the trust-fund level has fewer transaction costs coordination between individual peacebuilding programmes.
2. **Strategy:** Operationalizing the MPTF as a singular evolving peacebuilding strategy would help align UNCT partners around common outcomes and strategies in consultation with the Government of Sudan and donor partners.
3. **Accountability:** Through an MPTF, donors will have additional lines of accountability for results at the highest level of mission leadership. The RC would lead the UNCT in the effort to capitalize and operationalize the fund, which would be run out of the Office of the RC, while UN entities

implement programmes following their own rules and procedures and retain accountability for resources and programmatic results.

4. **Financial leverage:** An MPTF allows for consolidation of contributions from multiple financing partners and helps guide UN investments against identified peacebuilding priorities and mission benchmarks. This leverage helps ensure that peacebuilding and sustaining peace are considered strategic priorities across the UN system and by the government counterparts.
5. **Flexibility:** An MPTF has agility to rapidly respond to changed or new needs coming up and can prioritize within the strategic framework.
6. **Reduced transaction costs:** Transaction costs of an MPTF are reduced for the UN and its partners by using pre-agreed legal templates and harmonized terms for cost-recovery and reporting. An MPTF avoids cascading overheads by imposing a flat and harmonized costing structure for overheads.
7. **Resource mobilization:** An MPTF helps ensure coherence in resource allocations and fund-raising in the area of peacebuilding. It will allow for donor engagement on peacebuilding to be better coordinated and planned while not restricting donor contributions to AFPs directly. With the fund co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator (RC), it will benefit from high-level engagement and good offices.

The MPTF aims to reduce fragmentation. It may provide seed funding to initiate specific interventions that are not being addressed by existing programmes, fund full-fledged projects or contribute to ongoing agency programmes.

2.1 Addressing Peacebuilding Needs

The MPTF supports peacebuilding needs as they pertain to the Joint MPTF-PBF Strategic Results Framework (SRF), which is the strategic framework of the MPTF that was endorsed by the RC in 2022 to bring together the investments of the MPTF and the UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) under a shared strategic chapeau and with common high-level outcomes. The SRF is aligned with the UN Common Approach and Priorities for 2024, which provides collectively agreed upon programmatic priorities in the current crisis in Sudan, within the overall framework of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

The Common Approach has been updated to guide planning and prioritization for the UNCT until the end of 2024 in support of (i) basic services, community stabilization and resilience; (ii) protection of civilians, human rights and rule of law; and (iii) conflict prevention, social cohesion and peacebuilding. The SRF focuses on the priorities and critical gaps of the Common Approach that correspond most closely with MPTF and PBF priorities. As such, the MPTF finances activities carried out by the UN in support of the SRF's three outcomes:

- Outcome 1: **'Hotspot' communities in Sudan are stabilized and experience decreased levels of violence, increased protection, improved access to justice, and enhanced community resilience**

Stabilization programming is usually conceived according to three pillars of intervention, all of them relevant to a greater or lesser extent across Sudan: 1) rule of law and access to justice, including work for the protection of civilians, to establish minimum levels of public safety and security; 2) provision of basic services, including health care and education, services infrastructure, and to resolve issues in

regard to access to water, land and other natural resources; 3) livelihoods initiatives to ensure minimum income levels for inhabitants of target areas, to ensure food security and cover basic household needs.

- Outcome 2: **Sudan has a legitimate, inclusive ‘infrastructure for peace’ engaged in conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding at national and sub-national levels**

The role of civil society, particularly actors such as peace activists, human rights organisations, academia, women and youth groups, religious and civil leaders at both national and local levels, is understood as fundamental to infrastructure for peace (I4P), which was defined in 2010 by governments, political parties, civil society and UNCTs from 14 African countries as a ‘dynamic network of interdependent structures, mechanisms, resources, values and skills which, through dialogue and consultation, contribute to conflict prevention and peacebuilding in a society’. Central to the concept is linking infrastructures at national and sub-national levels.

- Outcome 3: **Political processes, peacemaking and implementation of peace agreements advance progress toward a peaceful and democratic transition**

Since the termination of UNITAMS, the programmatic approach under SRF Outcome 3 relevant to the scope of the MPTF is the conclusion and sustainability of local level peace agreements and mediation/reconciliation efforts aimed at mitigating intercommunal conflict including between farmers and pastoralists/nomads.

2.2 ‘Enabler’ Window

When the MPTF was established in 2019 the ‘Enabler’ window was the sole window consisting of the project in support of the Sudan International Partners Forum, which brought together international donors, International Financial Institutions and the UN to coordinate humanitarian-development-peace nexus activities in Sudan. Currently, the enabler window will remain active.

2.3 ‘Peacebuilding and Stabilization’ Window

In December 2020 an additional window was added to the Sudan Financing Platform: the ‘Peacebuilding and Stabilization Window’, which facilitated peacebuilding and stabilization efforts in line with the mandate given in Security Council resolution 2524 (2020) and 2579 (2021) which established the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission for Sudan (UNITAMS).

Prior to the decision of 1 December 2023 by the UN Security Council to terminate UNITAMS, the programmatic framework for the Window was the Sudan Peacemaking, Peacebuilding and Stabilization Programme (SPPSP), through which the MPTF financed activities carried out by the United Nations in support of the UNITAMS mandate. Its work supported four distinct programmatic areas in line with Security Council resolution 2524 (2020) and SCr2579 (2021) which mandated UNITAMS to have the following strategic objectives, in full accordance with the principles of national ownership:

1. Assist the political transition, progress towards democratic governance, in the protection and promotion of human rights, and sustainable peace;
2. Support peace processes and implementation of future peace agreements;
3. Assist peacebuilding, civilian protection and rule of law, in particular in Darfur and the Two Areas;

4. Support the mobilization of economic and development assistance and coordination of humanitarian assistance.

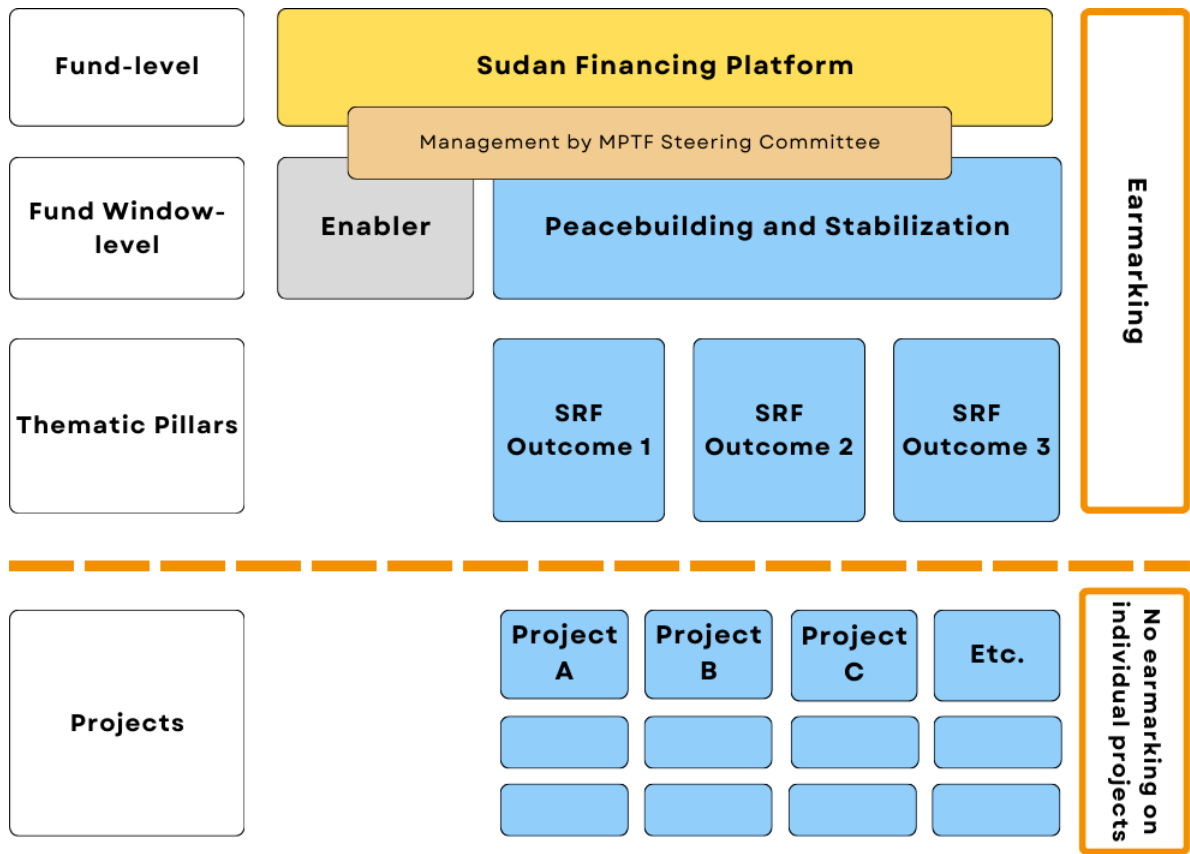
In February 2024, the MPTF adopted the Joint MPTF-PBF Strategic Results Framework (SRF) as its programmatic framework, which guides MPTF investments under ‘Peacebuilding and Stabilization’ window.

2.4 Link to SDGs

Activities under the MPTF would contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals in diverse ways, but primarily aimed at SDG 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. All MPTF related activities would note their specific contributions to the SDGs at the target level, to support UN system-wide alignment towards the SDGs and aid development planning. Noting the specific challenges related to the implementation of the SDGs in Sudan, the role of the MPTF may evolve.

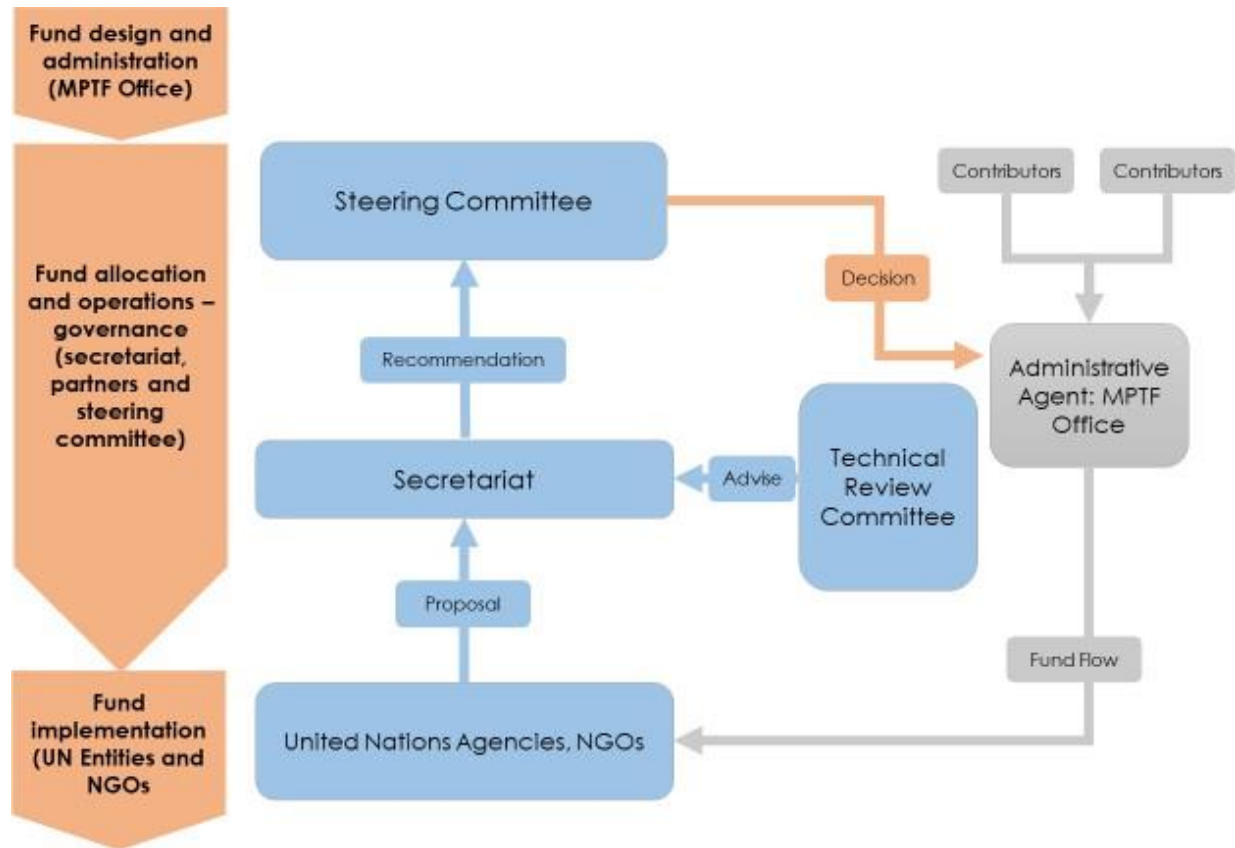
2.5 Scope of the MPTF

The thematic structure of the Fund can be depicted as follows:



3. MPTF Governance and Coordination

The governance of the MPTF is represented below. The Steering Committee decides on programmatic priorities and follows up on progress of the projects funded.



3.1 MPTF Steering Committee

Decision-making can take place in meetings or by email, including via non-objection. The Steering Committee endeavors to reach agreement by consensus.

- (i) The MPTF Steering Committee provides strategic guidance and general supervision of the MPTF.
- (ii) It is Chaired by RC. Other members include at least three contributing donors and representatives from three UN agencies, who will be rotating once every 2 years.
- (iii) The Secretariat to the Fund and the New York based Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office are ex-officio members of the Steering Committee.
- (iv) The MPTF Steering Committee meets when deemed necessary; it is responsible for the following tasks:
 - a. Provide general oversight and exercising overall accountability of the MPTF;
 - b. Approve the strategic direction of the MPTF, including the programmatic framework;
 - c. Approve MPTF risk management strategy and review risk monitoring regularly;

- d. Review and approve proposals recommendations submitted by the Secretariat for funding;
- e. Decide the allocation of unearmarked funds;
- f. Approve the fund transfer requests to the Administrative Agent on the basis of project approval (the UN chair signs off decisions on fund allocations);
- g. Review MPTF status and oversee the overall progress against the Strategic Results Framework, through corresponding monitoring, reporting and evaluation;
- h. Review and approve the periodic progress reports consolidated by the Fund Secretariat based on project progress reports submitted by Participating UN Organizations;
- i. Approve requests for programmatic changes to projects (delegated to the head of the Fund Secretariat).
- j. Commission mid-term and/or final independent evaluations on the overall performance of the MPTF;
- k. Approve direct costs related to MPTF operations supported by its Secretariat;
- l. Approve updates to the Fund's Terms of Reference and operations manual, as required.
- m. Approve MPTF extensions and updates to the MPTF terms of reference, as required.

3.1.1. Alternates

- a) Where a member is unable to attend a meeting or other required activity, the nominated alternate shall attend subject to prior notification and concurrence being provided to the Secretariat in writing.
- b) Alternates shall be nominated by the same constituencies and in the same way as members at the outset of the term of membership, or where required during the term of membership with an explanation documented.
- c) Alternates shall be of adequate seniority and possess the requisite expertise and attributes to advance the objectives and principles of the Fund.
- d) Where the Steering Committee Chair is unavailable, the Acting Chair appointed by the RC shall be the alternate.

3.1.2. Frequency of Meetings

- a) The Chair shall convene meetings through the Secretariat as required and at least every quarter for progress review, monitoring and oversight.
- b) The Chair, and the Secretariat on the Chair's behalf, may circulate routine or administrative issues for electronic review and decision by members concerning matters that do not require in-person deliberation.

3.1.3. Quorum

- a) A quorum for a Steering Committee meeting shall be satisfied with the presence of at least four (4) members including the Chair or Acting Chair and at least one representative of each constituency (UNCT and Donors).

- b) Should a quorum not be attained, the Chair shall reconvene the meeting within the next seven days or such other period as deemed appropriate in line with the agenda items for consideration. All members present at the reconvened meeting shall be deemed to satisfy a quorum even if the requirements of 3.1.3 a are not met.

3.1.4. Decision making

- a) Every effort will be made to make consensus-based decisions. If no consensus can be reached the Chair will call another meeting to reach consensus or, to reach a decision by majority.
- b) Decisions of the Steering Committee in the Fund Allocation Process shall consist of the following four options in line with the Operations Manual:
 - i. approval;
 - ii. approval with recommendations;
 - iii. non-approval with option for resubmission and SC review; or
 - iv. non-approval.
- c) The Secretariat and members acting as ex officio members shall be entitled to participate in discussions however not in the decision making, while observers shall not participate in discussions or decision making unless specifically requested based on relevant expertise to advance discussions.
- d) To enable flexible, adaptive and time relevant support of the fund a written procedure with a no-objection basis could be applied when necessary.

3.1.5. Agenda and Documents

- a) The Chair shall determine and disseminate the agenda through the Secretariat on the announcement of each meeting. The first item on the agenda will be the adoption of minutes of the previous meeting. SC members may make requests through the SC Chair for items to be included on the agenda.
- b) Relevant documents for consideration at each SC meeting will be distributed by the Secretariat to all members on the announcement of the meeting or no later than five (5) working days before it is due to convene.

3.1.6. Minutes

The Steering Committee decisions are recorded in the meeting minutes prepared by the Secretariat. Within five working days after the end of the Steering Committee meetings, the Secretariat shall:

- a) Circulate draft minutes to Steering Committee members for review and comment;
- b) Finalize and electronically share with the Steering Committee members the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting and decisions on approved or rejected allocations / endorsements;
- c) Provide information to all implementing entities on the decisions of the Steering Committee and indicate the following stages of the Fund Allocation Process including approval status of the project proposal and launch of its activities following approval in the final stage;

- d) Send to the Administrative Agent the details of the approved project proposals with funding allocated by the Steering Committee so that the funds can be transferred in accordance with the procedures detailed in the Operations Manual.

4. Technical Review Committee

- i. The RC appoints through the Secretariat a Technical Review Committee.
- ii. Steering Committee members can propose technical staff to participate in the Review Committee.
- iii. The Technical Review Committee will review project proposals and submit findings to the Secretariat.
- iv. Parties subject to a potential conflict of interest in a discussion are required to declare the conflict of interest and recuse themselves from the discussion.

4.1 Fund Secretariat

As of January 2023, the Sudan MPTF and the PBF are managed by a Joint Secretariat responsible for the coordination, monitoring and evaluation, and communications of the investments of both pooled funds in Sudan. The merger allows the UN to maximise the impact of both funding mechanisms and further streamline management processes following the endorsement of the SRF in 2022.

The Fund Secretariat reports to the RC in his/her capacity of the chair of the Steering Committee. It is jointly funded by the PBF and from up to 3% of MPTF contributions, unless otherwise decided by the Steering Committee. The Fund Secretariat provides technical and administrative support to the Steering Committee and the Technical Review Committee. Any additional support required to support the running of the MPTF can be reviewed and approved by the Steering Committee in line with needs and budget availability and existing capacity.

Responsibilities of the Fund Secretariat:

- a. Advise the Steering Committee on any strategic issues of concern, as well as programme approvals and financial allocations based on the inputs of Technical Review Committee, if applicable;
- b. Provide logistical and operational support to the Technical Review Committee;
- c. Organize meetings of the Steering Committee and the Technical Review Committee;
- d. Organize calls for proposals and appraisal processes;
- e. Ensure the monitoring of operational risks and MPTF performance;
- f. Prepare review of the status and overall progress against a results framework, through monitoring, reporting and evaluation;
- g. Consolidate annual and final narrative reports provided by the Participating UN Organizations and share consolidated reports with the Steering Committee and Administrative Agent;
- h. Facilitate collaboration and communication between Participating UN Organizations to promote effective programme implementation;
- i. Liaise with the Administrative Agent on fund administration issues, including issues related to project/ fund extensions and project/fund closure;
- j. Develop and maintain an operations manual for the project approval allocation and monitoring and evaluation of programmes; and

- k. Support the development of project proposals in full congruence with the Strategic Results Framework.

4.2 Implementing Organizations

Participating United Nations Organizations

Resources will be allocated to participating United Nations organizations that have signed an MOU with the Administrative Agent. Each participating United Nations organization will assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent. These funds will be administered by each participating United Nations organization in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives, and procedures. The indirect costs of the participating United Nations organizations recovered through programme support costs will be harmonized at 7% of the direct project costs.

Non-Governmental Organizations

NGOs can access funds as a sub-grantee of any Participating UN organization or more directly through a Managing Agent. The Managing Agent is a Participating UN Organization that allows NGOs to apply directly to call for proposals issued by the Fund and if retained, contracts the NGO as a subgrantee according to its own rules, regulations and procedures. The Managing Agent is entitled to the same indirect cost rate of 7% as other Participating UN Organizations.

5. MPTF Administration

The MPTF is administered by the MPTF-O under the pass-through management modality. The MPTF's administration services, whose costs are 1% of received contributions, include:

- (i) The MPTF's setting up: support to the MPTF's design (Terms of Reference and Operation Manual), and development of legal instruments; and
- (ii) The MPTF's administration: receipt, administration and release of funds to implementing organizations in accordance with decisions from the MPTF Steering Committee, and financial report consolidation.

The MPTF-O is responsible for the following functions:

- (iii) Provide support to the design of the MPTF;
- (iv) Sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Participating UN Organizations;
- (v) Sign Standard Administrative Agreements with donors that wish to contribute financially to the MPTF;
- (vi) Receive and manage funds including those of the MPTF's closure;
- (vii) Invest and reinvest MPTF resources according to investment policies, practices and procedures. Any profits will be added to the MPTF's resources and will not be credited to the contributions of a particular donor.
- (viii) Provide updated information to the MPTF Steering Committee regarding the regular resource availability;

- (ix) Subject to the availability of resources, transfer funds to Participating UN Organizations in accordance with MPTF Steering Committee decisions;
- (x) Provide an MPTF final financial report, including notice of the MPTF closure;
- (xi) Release funds as direct costs for the running of the Secretariat, based on MPTF Steering Committee decisions. The Administrative Agent will annually notify the MPTF Steering Committee about the amounts used to that end.
- (xii) Release funds for additional expenses that the MPTF Steering Committee decide to allocate;
- (xiii) Provide tools for fund management to ensure transparency and accountability.

6. Contributions

The MPTF's resources will include: donor contributions; any interests, payments, repayments or net profit for investments less any authorized release and incurred expenses in accordance with these Terms of Reference and decisions made by the MPTF's Steering Committee.

The MPTF's resources will be used to finance, or co-finance projects, programs and operations approved by the MPTF's Steering Committee. Unearmarked contributions are encouraged. Donors can earmark funds to the respective MPTF windows and SRF outcomes:

- Outcome 1: 'Hotspot' communities in Sudan are stabilized and experience decreased levels of violence, increased protection, improved access to justice, and enhanced community resilience
- Outcome 2: Sudan has a legitimate, inclusive 'infrastructure for peace' engaged in conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding at national and sub-national levels
- Outcome 3: Support to the conclusion and sustainability of local level peace agreements and mediation/reconciliation efforts aimed at mitigating intercommunal conflict including between farmers and pastoralists/nomads

Earmarking to individual projects or agencies are not allowed under MPTFs.

The MPTF-O receives contributions in fully convertible currency or any other currency that can be readily used. Such contributions will be deposited to the bank account designated by the MPTF-O. The value of the contributions, if made in a currency other than US dollars, will be determined by applying the UN operational exchange type in effect of the date of payment. Profit or loss due to currency exchange rate is registered in the MPTF's account set by the Administrative Agent and will be taken on by the MPTF.

7. Project Approval Process

- (i) Projects are developed based on a request from the Steering Committee, or the Fund Secretariat acting on its behalf, either as an open call for proposals or targeted engagement with members of the United Nations Country Team, or other partners.
- (ii) Projects are reviewed by the Fund Secretariat for quality assurance purposes and to ensure strategic alignment between the principles and strategies laid out by the Steering Committee and the priorities of the UN Country Team.
- (iii) The Fund Secretariat will consult with the Technical Review Committee.

- (iv) The Fund secretariat presents recommendations for projects for approval to Steering Committee after appraisal by the Technical Review Committee. Approvals may be done electronically and by non-objection within a predetermined timeframe.

8. Fund Transfer

The Fund Secretariat shall prepare the initial fund transfer request for each program or project and budget allocation approved by the Steering Committee. For subsequent tranches, MPTF recipients will prepare and submit fund transfer requests to the Fund Secretariat, who will facilitate signature of the Steering Committee Chair and onward submission to MPTF-O. The MPTF-O will carry out transfers to implementing entities no later than five (5) working days after the request submittal. Upon completion of the transfer, the representative of the receiving organization and the MPTF Secretariat will be notified through electronic mail.

9. Risk management

The objective of a risk management strategy at the MPTF level is facilitating the achievement of programme objectives in the context of the risk in which it operates. The overall risk level of the Sudan is considered high, because of the multidimensional crisis facing the country; political transition and the evolving nature of the peace process. Noting these challenges, managing risks requires a strategic approach; conflict sensitivity; risk analysis; strategic communication; and monitoring and evaluation of programmes. Through the MPTF, the UNCT can ensure programming is risk informed and conflict sensitive, and responsive to the political, developmental, humanitarian and human rights context – as well as responsive to the fiduciary risks related to programme implementation in Sudan.

These challenges require relevant evidence and coordination tools.

- (i) The Fund Secretariat will develop a risk management strategy as part of the operations manual of the fund.
- (ii) The Risk Management Strategy will respond to the Theory of Change of the Fund and should be proportionate to the objectives it seeks.
- (iii) The Risk Management a may consider the following risks in the context of operating in Sudan:
 - a. Strategic risks related to the external and political and socio-economic climate
 - b. Governance risks concerning quality of organizational decisions; transparency; accountability for results etc.
 - c. Operational risks related to inventory and asset management, ineffective procurement, lack of business continuity
 - d. Financial risks related to lawful administration of organization resources

10. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

10.1 Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation will be carried out in line with the procedures, rules and regulations of each Participating United Nations Organization and in alignment with the SRF, until or unless the MPTF Steering Committee approves another approach. Evaluations will follow the UN Evaluation Group norms and standards and will be carried out in line with the System Wide Evaluation Policy.

10.2 Reporting

The responsibilities related to reporting are gathered and detailed in the Memorandum of Understanding (section IV) and Standard Administrative Agreements (SAA) (section V).

All the implementing organizations will carry out annual and final reports on activities and expenditures according to a common format designed for the Fund. Additional semi-annual narrative reports and requirements are detailed as per the below.

10.3 Narrative reporting

Implementing organizations will present the following reports to the Secretariat for consolidation and further transmission to the Administrative Agent:

- (a) Annual narrative reports to be provided no more than three months (31st March) after the end of the calendar year.
- (b) Final narrative reports after the end of activities, contained in the program-related approved document, including the final year of such activities to be submitted to the Secretariat no more than four months (30th April) after the end of the calendar year in which the operational closure of the activities in the approved programmatic document occurs.

In addition, brief semi-annual narrative progress reports covering the period January-June are due by 1st August.

The narrative reports will exhibit results-based evidence. Reports will compare actual results against estimated results in terms of outputs and outcomes and they will explain the reasons of higher or lower performance. The final narrative report will also include the analysis of how the outputs and outcomes have contributed to the Fund's overall objective.

10.4 Financial Report

Participating UN organizations present the following financial statements and reports to the Administrative Agent:

1. Annual financial statements and reports to 31st December regarding released resources by the fund to them; these shall be provided no more than four months (30th April) after the end of the calendar year.
2. Final certified financial statements and financial reports after the completion of activities contained in the program-related approved document, including the final year of such activities, to be submitted no more than six months (June 30th) in the following year after the financial closure of the project.

Based on these reports, the Fund Secretariat and the Administrative Agent will prepare consolidated narrative and financial annual and final reports to each of the Fund's Contributors and to the Steering Committee by 31st May, as per the schedule established in the Standard Administrative Agreement.

11. Operations Manual

These operating details are elaborated in Operations Manual developed by the Fund Secretariat.

12. Amendments, duration, and termination

The MPTF Steering Committee will be able to modify, by mutual agreement, any of the provisions of these terms of reference in writing or establish complementary agreements.

The MPTF is now extended till 31 December 2028.⁵ The MPTF Steering Committee will have the authority to modify the MPTF's duration in agreement with MPTF-O.

After the MPTF's closure the contractual liabilities undertaken by the MPTF under these terms of reference or any complementary agreements, including agreements signed with third parties, before receiving the corresponding notice of closure, will not be affected by this closure.

Any remaining balance in the MPTF account and separate account of implementing organizations after the closure of the MPTF will be used for a purpose established by the MPTF Steering Committee and the Donors, or it will be reimbursed to the Donor(s) in proportion to their contribution to the MPTF, as decided by the Contributor and the MPTF Steering Committee.

⁵ The duration of Fund's operations does not include the closure periods of the same.

Annex I: Scope of the MPTF from 2019-2023

Prior to the decision of 1 December 2023 by the Security Council to terminate UNITAMS, the MPTF supported four distinct programmatic areas in line with Security Council resolution 2524 (2020) and SCr2579 (2021) which mandated UNITAMS to have the following strategic objectives, in full accordance with the principles of national ownership:

Assist the political transition, progress towards democratic governance, in the protection and promotion of human rights, and sustainable peace. This pillar of work focuses on the state and institutional reforms. Sudan's Constitutional Declaration sets out a range of critical tasks for the transitional period. UNITAMS will support the transitional authorities in meeting the objectives of the Constitutional Declaration. This strategic objective relates to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5, 10, 16 and 17.

Support peace processes and implementation of future peace agreements. One of the key priorities in the Constitutional Declaration is the resolution of all internal conflicts. This second pillar of work focuses on peace agreements as entry points for addressing both the roots and the consequences of conflict. Through its good offices, UNITAMS will provide good offices and support to the Sudanese peace negotiations and, if requested by the parties, provide scalable support to the implementation of peace agreements. This strategic objective relates to SDGs 5, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16 and 17.

Assist peacebuilding, civilian protection, and rule of law, in particular in Darfur and the Two Areas. Peacebuilding requires further efforts beyond the implementation of peace agreements. This pillar outlines some of the necessary reforms at community level in order to advance social cohesion and rebuild the social contract. UNITAMS will aim at supporting Sudanese stakeholders to enable a protective environment, in particular for women, girls and boys, and address the conflict drivers and root causes. This strategic objective relates to SDGs 5, 10, 11, 16 and 17.

Support the mobilization of economic and development assistance and coordination of humanitarian assistance. One of the pre-eminent challenges facing the transitional Government and its reform agenda is the continued economic crisis. This pillar addresses aid coordination, resource mobilization and management challenges underpinning the transformation of Sudan envisioned by the Constitutional Declaration. UNITAMS will coordinate international efforts to assist the Sudanese stakeholders in identifying and articulating their priorities and in mobilizing donor support through the transitional period, including through the Sudan National Development Forum, Friends of Sudan group and other Khartoum-based coordination mechanisms. The ongoing reflection on the revamping of the aid coordination architecture under the leadership of the transitional Government will be reflected once in place.

The protection and promotion of **human rights** as well as **gender equality** are cross-cutting concerns among the four pillars and underpin UNITAMS' mandate, and the SPPSP highlights distinct thematic areas where targeted assistance is required to assist the GoS in ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women at all levels of peace and political processes. Strategically and programmatically, therefore, the four Pillars of the SPPSP are inter-linked, mutually reinforcing and dependent upon one another.