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Annex

Introduction

1. UNDP opened its office in Lithuania in 1992. The Executive Board approved the first country programme (1994-1996) and the first country cooperation framework (CCF) (1997 – 1999) at its annual session 1997. The Board took note of the extension of the first CCF for a period of one year, without additional UNDP resources. A country review of the CCF was carried out in April 2000. The second CCF (2001-2003) has been formulated on the basis of the results of the first one, with due consideration of the conclusions and recommendations of the country review, which are summarized in chapter II. In the light of the invitation in December 1999 to the Government to start negotiations for accession to the European Union, an important consideration for the programming of UNDP assistance is the need to provide support inter alia, in those areas that would help Lithuania to comply with the requirements for accession to the European Union. Also taken into consideration in the formulation of the second CCF are the goals of the Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (RBEC) Strategic Results Framework, the Administrator’s Business Plans, 2000-2003, the corresponding RBEC Management Plan and the regional cooperation framework (RCF). The framework includes activities where the UNDP office cooperates with other United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, especially the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

I. Development situation from a human development perspective

2. Since the restoration of independence in 1990, Lithuania has made considerable progress in developing a market economy, in establishing democratic systems of government and in promoting economic and social growth. However, progress has not been without severe disruptions, highlighting the vulnerability of the economy to external shocks. Real gross domestic product (GDP) fell by half in the early 1990s before recovering during the second half of the 1990s only to decline sharply by 4.1 per cent in 1999 in the aftermath of the Russian economic crisis of mid-1998. As a result of tight macro-economic policies, inflation fell from more than 1,000 per cent in 1992 to single figures in 2000. On the political side, measures to deal with the recession were complicated by frequent changes in government. During this period the human development index (HDI) for Lithuania showed a reverse and has not yet reached its pre-transition level. With an HDI 0.789 in 1998, Lithuania ranks 52 out of 174 countries.

3. The basic strategic development goals of the country are to support economic growth and human security, environmental protection and job creation, to ensure basic social services through reformation of the social safety nets and to increase the social integration of marginalized groups. Policies and strategies in the field of human rights, sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction accompanied by a
sound funding base and appropriate monitoring mechanisms need to be developed and implemented.

4. With respect to the areas of human development chosen for future UNDP support, progress has been made in:

(a) Governance and civil rights through the establishment and strengthening of parliamentary and judicial institutions, in updating legislation, and in training of the respective human resources;

(b) Economic and social rights, through the poverty assessment and reduction support of UNDP - a significant contribution has been made to placing poverty on the national agenda through the formulation of a national poverty reduction strategy. Nevertheless, high poverty levels remain an important issue: an estimated 600,000 people, or close to 16 per cent of the population, live below the poverty line consisting mainly of those living in larger families, single parent households, the unemployed (estimated at 11 per cent in mid-2000), the elderly, and particularly in the rural areas. The high number of suicides, the prevalence of alcoholism and drug abuse, and the increasing number of HIV/AIDS cases are reflections of the social and economic pressures placed on certain vulnerable groups during the transition period;

(c) Environmental rights with Global Environment Facility (GEF) support, through a reduction of ozone-depleting substances under the Montreal Protocol; the protection of international waters (Baltic Sea), and in promoting alternative energy. Efforts to preserve Lithuania’s rich biodiversity resources resulted in the creation of a number of nature reserves.

5. With respect to gender considerations, where UNDP has been particularly active, it is considered that the status and role of women in Lithuanian society have continued to improve, including through legislation for equal rights between men and women, and increased public awareness.

II. Results and lessons of past cooperation

6. The country review identified a number of results and lessons learned from the first CCF. The relevance of the four main programme areas was endorsed: the promotion of sustainable livelihoods; governance and citizen participation; citizen security; and the environment. The importance was also stressed of the cross-cutting themes of the advancement of women and the promotion of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and HIV/AIDS, an area not included in the CCF.
7. UNDP provided assistance at the upstream level in formulating legislation: for instance, the Law on Equal Opportunities, the Law on NGOs, the basic Law on Social Security and Pensions, the Health Care Reform Programme and the inclusion of a separate chapter for juveniles in the draft Penal Code, and the creation of the Ombudsman Office for Equal Opportunities. In terms of policy formulation, it helped to prepare the national poverty reduction strategy, to establish a monitoring and evaluation capacity for social policy in the Ministry of Social Security and Labour and introduce, with the International Labour Organization (ILO), a social-budgeting model. UNDP also contributed to the establishment of the independent Social Policy Unit, which produces advisory inputs aimed at the creation of an affordable and equitable system of social security; the preparation of the Lithuanian Human Development Reports; and the introduction of human development courses in the universities.

8. At the downstream level, UNDP was the major partner in providing support judicial training in Lithuania and in establishing the Judicial Training Centre. This entailed short-term refresher training for all judges in Lithuania and attracted funding from other donors. UNDP-funded studies of the crime situation led to the creation of the Crime Prevention Centre in 1997, which gave priority to fighting juvenile crime and reforming the juvenile justice system and the treatment of young offenders. UNDP also helped to establish the NGO Information and Support Centre, which increased its membership from 250 NGOs in 1995 to 2,500 in 1999 (75 per cent of potential NGOs), and the Women’s Issues Information Centre to follow up on the Beijing Platform for Action. The HIV/AIDS theme group (UNDP, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Health (WHO), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the National AIDS Centre) promoted HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention.

9. Regarding the environment, GEF inputs helped to phase out ozone-depleting substances in Lithuania. Since 1999, UNDP has supported the Information Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development with funds from the Baltic Trust Fund to increase environmental awareness and to promote Agenda 21 in schools.

10. The country review identified several good practices, particularly those of relevance to other countries of the region, for instance on judiciary training, juvenile justice, human rights, the environment and gender-related activities. The reform of juvenile justice adopted a comprehensive and programmatic approach, involving all key governmental and civil society organizations, with a strong emphasis on coordination and partnerships from the very beginning of the process. The development of gender statistics and the creation of databases at the Women’s Issues Information Centre formed the basis for gender analysis that will enable the Government to introduce gender-mainstreaming policies. Recommendations on programme issues were as follows:
(a) **Country cooperation framework**: (i) place priority on consolidating the capacity-building effort already begun and on helping and encouraging the conversion of research and policy formulation activities into results-based follow-up action; (ii) continue and intensify efforts to increase co-financing; (iii) explore possibilities of collaboration with the European Union and other multilateral and bilateral partners, including co-financing of UNDP-supported programmes and projects;

(b) **Programme performance**: (i) strengthen activities outside the capital, particularly working with and through NGOs and the civil society in general; (ii) take measures to enhance the rate of delivery, consistent with quality; (iii) urge the Government to make adequate provision in the state budget to ensure that essential staff and other operational costs are fully met; and (iv) assist NGOs to broaden their resource base so as to reduce dependency on UNDP and state allocations;

(c) **UNDP support to the United Nations**: (i) explore possibilities for further cost recovery from United Nations agencies, funds and programmes; (ii) together with the Government, ensure that the designated United Nations House premises in Vilnius are renovated as appropriate and become operational within the earliest possible timeframe;

(d) **Programme management**: (i) ensure that clusters of projects that are closely linked are designed programmatically; (ii) strengthen programme management through a participatory and systematic approach to annual and quarterly work planning, the application of results management at the project level, and by developing the programme management information system;

(e) **Country office management**: (i) clarify functional responsibilities between programme and administration while aiming at an integrated management system; (ii) restructure roles and responsibilities to strengthen capacity; (iii) review registry functions; (iv) increase training opportunities for staff; and (v) apply the peer-learning approach to strengthen knowledge-base and capacity.

11. These recommendations have been taken into consideration in the design of the new CCF, during which follow-up action will be carried out.

### III. Objectives, programme areas and expected results

12. Taking into consideration the recommendations of the country review, it is proposed to continue the main thrusts of the first CCF (see paragraph 6 above). In addition, a human rights approach will be applied, linking sustainable human development (SHD) with the protection and promotion of human rights. Integrating a rights-based approach to development will contribute to fostering an environment that will allow citizens to exercise their rights and to participate fully in their progress. Human rights and sustainable human development (SHD) are interdependent and mutually reinforcing as pointed out in the *Human Development*
**Report 2000.** The UNDP policy document, *Integrating Human Rights with Sustainable Human Development* (1998), lists a number of rights relating closely to UNDP SHD activities, including civil rights, economic and social rights, as well as the rights to environmental protection. Crucial elements of development especially relevant to the country situation and the UNDP mandate are governance and the reduction of poverty. By introducing a human rights approach, the CCF will strengthen Lithuania’s capacity to promote good governance and to consolidate an open, democratic society with a view to the reduction of poverty and social inequalities.

13. The above would be carried out by providing support for: (a) institutions of governance, with an emphasis on building the human rights capacity of these institutions and providing direct support to human right activities; (b) targeting selected vulnerable groups (the poor, the disabled, women, children and youth); (c) contributing to the human rights policy dialogue and to the follow-up to the United Nations conferences, in particular the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) (1992); the United Nations Conference on Human Rights, 1993, the United Nations Conference on Population and Development (UNCPRD) 1994; the World Summit on Social Development (WSSD), 1995; and the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995; and (d) designing UNDP interventions in the broader context of support to national programmes.

14. The human rights approach of the CCF will be supported within the framework of HURIST, the global Human Rights Strengthening programme of UNDP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Lithuania is the only country in the region included in the five pilot countries for Window 1 of this programme. As noted in the programme document, the prime objective of HURIST is to “test guidelines and methodologies and to identify best practices and learning opportunities in the development of national capacity for the promotion and protection of human rights and in the application of a human rights approach to development programming.” The realization of strategic national objectives, such as the implementation of the poverty reduction strategy, will benefit from the rights-based approach.

15. A number of cross-cutting and/or multisectoral advocacy strategies are envisaged to help to achieve the human rights goals proposed for the three programme areas for instance:

(a) **Human rights advocacy.** UNDP will contribute to the preparation of a national human rights plan by a national committee coordinated by the Lithuanian Centre for Human Rights, supported by the Danish Centre of Human Rights. The broad approach to human rights adopted by HURIST is employed to provide guidance in terms of priorities in the design and implementation of the CCF. Together with HURIST, the national plan, in turn, is expected to provide the framework for concerted action by the Government and civil society in building a culture of human rights in accordance with nationally endorsed priorities;
(b) **Human development advocacy.** An important element will be the annual human development reports, of which the 2000 issue will be devoted to regional disparities in human development. Advocacy will include support to courses on human development at universities, which will also facilitate research on the linkages between human rights and human development;

(c) **Sustainable development advocacy.** UNDP support is envisaged for assistance to the newly established national commission on sustainable development in preparing a sustainable development strategy for public awareness campaigns and for the involvement of NGOs and local government in sustainable development initiatives;

(d) **Gender-mainstreaming advocacy.** This will be based on a national programme to implement the Beijing Platform for Action in the light of recommendations made at the Special Session of the General Assembly “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century” (June 2000). The interministerial Commission on Equal Opportunities, which is responsible for the follow-up action plan to the session and for the implementation of recommendations regarding the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), will be supported through the Women’s Issues and Information Centre with UNDP assistance for policy dialogue, research, training and information.

16. UNDP priorities will thus be chosen in the light of their contribution to enhancing rights identified in selected international conventions, to strengthening institutions and legislation relating to them and to promoting the respect and enjoyment of these rights by the largest number of people. The second CCF will bring together activities relating to three main programme areas (a) promotion of civil rights and good governance; (b) promotion of economic, social and cultural rights; and (c) promotion of environmental rights, as follows:

**A. Promotion of civil rights and good governance**

17. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICPR), ratified by Lithuania in 1993, together with other relevant conventions will provide the main legal framework for activities in the area of civil rights. The framework includes rights relating to individual freedom, justice and popular participation in government. Lithuania has made considerable progress in these areas since the restoration of independence in 1991 in terms of acceding to international human rights obligations. The Constitution includes many human rights and legislative reforms that have been effected with a view to aligning domestic legislation with international norms and obligations, a process that is being further accelerated during Lithuania’s preparation for accession to the European Union. Today, the mounting challenge is to translate human rights commitments from law to practice.
through a concerted focus on implementation.

18. UNDP will provide support in selected areas of the ICPR and in the context of preparing and implementing the national plan, as well as in strengthening public sector institutions responsible for promoting and safeguarding the rights of citizens through governance mechanisms responsive to their needs. The specific rights to be addressed are the rights of juvenile delinquents, the rights of citizens for personal security, the rights of women and children, the rights to good governance, the rights of vulnerable groups, including the poor, and the rights to environmental protection. They will be dealt with in the following sectors:

(a) Administration of justice, in relation to:

(i) Juvenile justice. Further support will be provided to the Juvenile Justice Programme with the ultimate result of reduced repeated juvenile crime through the modernization and humanization of the juvenile criminal justice system as well as increased public awareness;

(ii) Violence against women and children. An appropriate programme aimed at legislative reform and raising public awareness will be established. This should result in the development of and support to a national strategy for the prevention of domestic violence that would provide a comprehensive support framework for victims and for the treatment of perpetrators of domestic violence, together with training and capacity-building of institutions and NGOs involved in this field;

(b) Public administration

(i) Legislative reform. Support will be provided to a national working group for the development of a coherent legislative system. The aim of UNDP assistance is to create a transparent, participatory and accountable legislative process applicable to the entire system of legal acts that will contribute to building citizens’ trust in the rule of law;

(ii) Public administration reform. A new phase of support will be directed to the rationalization of state and regional administration functions, the development of modern accountability systems and a performance management framework, the application of information and communication technologies to governance, and the involvement of private institutions in the preparations for accession to the European Union;

(iii) Local governance and participatory development. Local Agenda 21 processes will be introduced to small and medium-size municipalities leading to strengthened local capacities and enhanced public participation in local government. This will be carried out in conjunction with the Environmental Centre for
Administration and Technology in Kaunas, the RBEC regional programme, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) assisted Local Government Information Network, and through empowering rural communities to participate in local development schemes. Pilot projects will involve civil society groups, schools, NGOs and local government.

B. Promotion of economic and social rights

19. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESR) includes rights relating to work in just and favourable conditions, to social protection, to an adequate standard of living, to the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, to education and to enjoyment of the benefits of cultural freedom and scientific progress. The Government will create a system for monitoring economic, social and cultural rights and will report on progress made in Lithuania at the end of 2000 and in relation to the planned ratification of the Social Charter of the Council of Europe. This will strengthen the capacities of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour to create a structure for coordination and cooperation within the Ministry and with other government institutions and to establish a reporting system and educate specialists. A primary frame of reference for this programme area will be follow-up to WSDD, the national report on implementation (submitted to the WSDD + 5 meeting in Geneva in June 2000) and, in particular, the report on the status of Lithuania’s poverty reduction strategy.

20. With this in mind, UNDP will assist the Government in developing an environment that can facilitate the satisfaction of selected economic, social and cultural rights. This will include the elaboration of appropriate policies as well as the strengthening of institutions and the implementation of actions designed both to alleviate suffering and develop the full potential of social groups at risk. To achieve these results, UNDP support will be focused on the following three main issues:

(a) Social policy development. UNDP will provide continued support until the end of 2001 to the Social Policy Unit (SPU) of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security for research relating to social security legislation, new pension reforms, an improved social assistance system, targeted mainly at the sick, the elderly, the unemployed and other vulnerable groups. SPU is a recognized contributor to social policy development. Its research regarding access to employment opportunities, labour-market development, ensuring social security rights and restructuring social services will result in options and recommendations contributing to the development of policies and strategies aimed at poverty reduction and consequent implementation of the poverty reduction strategy. The research process and the dissemination of results will provide further opportunities for awareness-raising and advocacy, thus making a significant input to keeping poverty-related issues on the national agenda;
(b) **Poverty reduction**, through

(i) **Poverty reduction strategy.** This will involve follow-up in terms of translating the strategy into action plans and programmes and improved legislation through support to the national institutions for implementation and monitoring and through further research on poverty indicators and anti-poverty measures. This will include a rural poverty assessment and analysis, in conjunction with the World Bank and United Nations organization, support to increase the anti-poverty content of regional and rural policies, and mainstreaming poverty reduction through policies, legislation, advocacy and training;

(ii) **Women in business.** Women’s entrepreneurship will be strengthened by providing access to credit and training through an NGO-supported project of the Lithuanian Farm Women’s Association and the Kaunas Women’s Employment and Information Centre, which will expand the geographical area presently covered. The outcome of these activities will be improved income, health, social inclusion for women and their families and the development of a network of women that encourages and assists women in starting up and developing businesses;

(iii) **Information technology for women.** This programme will introduce women and women’s NGOs to the use of information technology, by the provision of computer and internet training, to empower them by broadening their skills and opening up new employment possibilities. Also planned are a distance learning centre, the production of training materials, the launching of a Lithuanian language library on the Internet and networking with regional NGOs and training centres;

(c) **Services for social groups at risk**, with particular reference to:

(i) **Strategic planning on national response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.** This will be strengthened through the coordination of the joint United Nations Theme Group on HIV/AIDS and will be supported by UNAIDS and a regional project to address the social, economic and governance dimensions of the HIV epidemic in the region. The results of this will be the adoption of a national agreement representing consensus on the concept of a multisectoral response to the HIV epidemic among all the parties involved in HIV/AIDS and on drug abuse prevention in the context of updating the national HIV prevention programme; the training of senior officials and municipal representatives in strategic planning approaches; the establishment of an inter-agency working group to support the National AIDS Programme Coordination Board in charge of the planning and implementation of the national HIV prevention programme; and the preparation of local anti-AIDS strategic plans in three to four pilot municipalities;

(ii) **HIV/AIDS and drugs abuse prevention.** This will be supported by the Baltic Sea HIV prevention initiative, through raising public awareness on HIV/AIDS risks,
training specialists and providing direct services to the risk groups in Lithuania. Given the importance of the right of information and the potential long term impact of primary prevention, UNDP will continue to support the efforts of the United Nations system in meeting the need to provide information to children attending school and to special target groups among youth through, inter alia, cooperation with UNFPA in the promotion of reproductive and sexual health among adolescents, and with UNDCP in confronting drug related problems.

C. Promotion of environmental rights

21. In the words of the UNDP policy document, *Integrating Human Rights with Sustainable Human Development (1998)*, the environment has crucial human rights dimensions that a human rights approach can help to address. The Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” held at Aarhus, Denmark, in 1998 endorsed the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. The convention in which Lithuania participated recognized that “adequate protection of the environment is essential to human well-being and the enjoyment of basic human rights, including the right to life itself”. It further recognized “that every person has the right to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and well-being, and the duty, both individually and in association with others, to protect and improve the environment for the benefit of present and future generations”.

22. In support of these rights and responsibilities, UNDP will target those areas that best enable citizens to enjoy their rights to a healthy, well-managed and sustainable natural environment in the context of the objectives of the Baltic Agenda 21 programme. With GEF support, it will also assist the Government to meet its obligations under the United Nations framework convention on Climate Change (including the Montreal Protocol) and the Convention on Biological Diversity. Thanks to GEF resources, the environment component of the CCF is expected to be the largest in financial terms. The projects will include:

(a) **Climate change.** Support will be provided to investigate the possibility of alternative energy, including through the GEF-supported regional Baltic Wind Energy Programme. A feasibility study will be carried out and capacity will be enhanced for the development of wind energy potential in Lithuania, as a partial replacement of energy currently generated by the Ignalina nuclear power plant, of which one of the units is due to be closed in 2005;

(b) **Biodiversity**

(i) **Wetlands management and bio-diversity conservation.** The target is Lithuania’s national reserves (Viesvile, Giruitiskis, Zuvintas, Cepkeliai, and Kamanos), through an adaptive wetlands management approach, a monitoring and
information management programme for biological diversity, including awareness-raising on conservation matters, building up national and NGO capacity, and strengthening the legal policy framework;

(ii) **Cross-border watershed management.** Initiatives will cover the international water areas of the Curonian Spit, the upper Nemunas River and others linking Lithuania, Belarus and the Russian oblast of Kaliningrad (with USAID). They include the strengthening of cooperation among international bodies in addressing transboundary concerns such as pollution control and biodiversity conservation, monitoring systems and information baselines.

(iii) **Small Grants Programme.** Financed by UNDP/GEF, the programme allows national environmental NGOs to play a role at the local level in the three areas of GEF focus (climate change, biodiversity, international waters), thus helping communities to enjoy their rights to an environment that will help to promote sustainable development while addressing global environmental issues;

(iv) **Environmental education.** Support is planned for the NGO Info-Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development and for the Ministry of Education through a project of education for sustainable development in the context of Baltic Agenda 21.

### IV. Management arrangements

23. **Programme and project design.** Programme and project documents will ensure that programmes and projects are consistent with the overarching rights-based approach of the CCF and will support national programmes and international conventions and follow-up to global conferences. They will support the UNDP Business Plans, 2000-2003, and the strategic results frameworks for this period. They will also consolidate ongoing capacity-building efforts, convert research and policy work into concrete results and extend geographical coverage outside the capital. Linkages of projects in and between programme areas will be strengthened through the establishment of appropriate coordination mechanisms. In addition, cross-cutting issues such as gender mainstreaming and the promotion of the participatory approach modality will be incorporated into all projects and programmes. Multisectoral advocacy actions will also provide support.

24. **Programme and project monitoring and evaluation.** A results-based monitoring system will be developed, consistent with UNDP monitoring and evaluation procedures, including reports, project reviews with stakeholders, site visits, and the results-oriented annual reports (ROAR) system.
25. **Execution modalities.** UNDP will use the national execution modality (including NGO execution), and United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes to provide technical backstopping in areas where they have comparative advantages and can help to strengthen government capacity.

26. **Strategic partnerships and coordination.** In the light of limited UNDP resources, closer partnerships will be developed with donors, civil society and NGOs with common or complementary objectives. UNDP will also contribute to coordination meetings sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Close links will be maintained with the regional project "Economic and Social Development and Good Governance" (RER/99/004), based in Bratislava, as well as subregional projects for the Baltic States.

27. **Resource mobilization.** As can be seen in the resources mobilization target table, estimated core resources are: TRAC $805,000 (including TRAC 2), Baltic Trust Fund $258,000; third party cost-sharing $1,500,000; and GEF $12 million. UNDP will continue to utilize core resources to attract funding from the government and donors in the form of cost-sharing and/or co-financing for priority projects and programmes. The country office will intensify its efforts to increase co-financing and will enter into further dialogue with the European Union and other donors to explore possibilities of collaboration. UNDP will also assist government counterpart institutions and NGOs to strengthen their financial capacities.

28. **Advocacy and communications strategy.** UNDP will strengthen its communications and advocacy role by sharpening its image and promoting its core business by engaging in policy advice, building and developing partnerships and mobilizing resources. Greater priority will be given in each programme and project to the above, thus increasing public awareness of UNDP activities. This will be complemented by updating the UNDP country office website, regularly issuing publications, and organizing and participating in relevant events.
Annex


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<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount (In thousands of United States dollars)</th>
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<td>Estimated carry-over</td>
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<td>TRAC 1.1.1</td>
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<td>This range of percentages is presented for initial planning purposes only. The actual assignment will depend on the availability of high-quality programmes. Any increase in the range of percentages would also be subject to availability of resources.</td>
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<td><strong>Grand total</strong></td>
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* Not inclusive of TRAC 1.1.2, which is allocated regionally for subsequent country application.

Abbreviations: AOS = administrative and operational services; GEF = Global Environment Facility; SPPD = support for policy and programme development; STS = support for technical services; TRAC = target for resource assignment from the core.