I. 2018 Achievements: Highlights of Key Activities since 23nd RCM:

The SDG Country Support Taskforce was officially established in March 2018, with its first meeting taking place on 17th April 2018. The second meeting of the Taskforce took place on 27th June 2018. The overall purpose of the Country Support Taskforce is to provide coordinated R-UNDG support to RCs/UNCTs with regards to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, in line with the agreed UNDG MAPS approach. This includes coordinated support on mainstreaming the SDGs into UNDAFs as well as organizing inter-agency missions under the framework of MAPS.

Since its formation, the SDG country Support Taskforce has undertaken a number of key initiatives, with a view to enhancing regional support to RCs/UNCT in support of the 2030 Agenda. These include:

1. **UNCT SDG Stock-taking Exercise – t**he SDG Country Support Taskforce completed a stock-taking of UNCT support to the 2030 Agenda at the country level. The purpose of this stock-taking exercise was to map what support has been provided and/or is planned by UNCTs in support of the 2030 Agenda, and to identify potential UNCT support requirements from the Regional UNDG (and other actors). The stock-taking was completed by 15 out of 18 UNCTs in the Arab Region. Based on the inputs received form UNCTs, a tracking matrix of all support requests was prepared and discussed in the Taskforce, with appropriate actions being identified and allocated to relevant agencies.

2. **Task Teams –** based on the support needs identified through the UNCT SDG Stock-taking exercise, dedicated Task Teams for Libya and Syria have been established. The purpose of the Task Teams is to provide dedicated support to UNCTs on the SDGs, in line with their identified needs.

3. **Mapping of Tools and Resources –** in response to the support needs identified through the UNCT SDG Stock-taking exercise, the Taskforce undertook a mapping of existing tools and resources in line with MAPS. The purpose of the mapping was to identify and gather all agency 2030 Agenda/SDGs tools and resources and compile them into a central repository. Inputs were received from 15 UN entities, with a total of 140 tools and resources identified.

4. **Mapping of Regional Capacities to Support the 2030 Agenda -** As agreed in the first meeting of the Taskforce, the Taskforce has initiated a mapping of regional capacities to support the 2030 Agenda. The objective of the mapping of capacities is to provide a clear outline of the available technical and programmatic skills, capacities and resources at the regional level, including possible capacity gaps, to enable the SDG Country Support Task Force to provide support to UNCTs for the realization of the 2030 Agenda. The mapping will also make recommendations for

the better utilisation/deployment of capacities, as well as for addressing capacity gaps. A Terms of Reference for the mapping was developed by the taskforce, and a consultant has been recruited to support the initiative. A questionnaire for the mapping is currently being developed and will be shared with all R-UNDG agencies for their completion. Based on this, a detailed analysis and assessment of regional capacities will be undertaken with the final report informing the work of the Taskforce going forward. The mapping is due to be completed by December 2018.

II.   Main Activities and Outputs Planned for 2019:

In 2019, the key activities planned by the Taskforce include:

1. **Ongoing Support to UNCTs – i**n 2019, the Taskforce will continue to provide support to RCs/UNCTs and will respond to request as they are received. Areas where the SDG Country Support Taskforce can provide support to UNCTs include:
   - Review of country level strategies/reports/proposals etc.
   - Conducting training and/or awareness raising sessions (either through in-country workshops or remotely through webinars)
   - Ongoing (remote) technical support and guidance
   - Country support missions (linking with or building on MAPS missions where relevant). UNCTs will be responsible for defining the scope of such missions.
   - Providing a forum for sharing global/regional tools, guidance and best practices (both through email as well as regional events/workshops).

2. **Knowledge Sharing Event –** a key identified role of the Taskforce is to gather and compile experiences, good practices and lessons learnt with regard to support to Governments on the 2030 Agenda and SDG implementation. Through the Secretariat, a mapping of global/regional tools, guidance and training materials has already been undertaken and an initial report of country level support to Governments on the 2030 Agenda (based on stock-taking exercise completed) has been developed. Building on this work, in 2019, the Taskforce will explore the possibility of conducting a regional knowledge sharing event for UNCTs.

III.   Decisions Requested from the Members of the RCM (if any):

Regional Directors are kindly requested to ensure that senior technical level colleagues are assigned to the Taskforce and are encouraged to actively engage in the work of the Taskforce, dedicating the necessary time and resources to support the work of the Taskforce.