



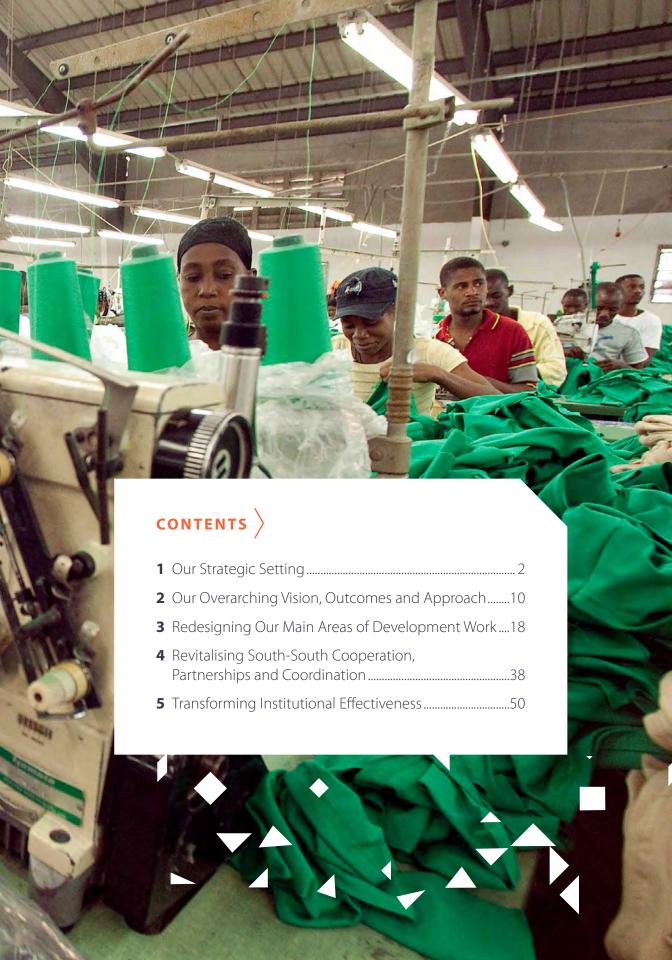
### Changing with the World

**UNDP STRATEGIC PLAN: 2014-17** 

Helping countries to achieve the simultaneous eradication of poverty and significant reduction of inequalities and exclusion





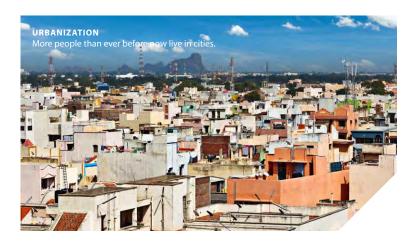


### OUR

# Strategic Setting



## The world is going through an unprecedented transition.



The world is going through an unprecedented transition. The global balance of power is shifting, extreme poverty has dropped to historic lows, more people than ever before now live in cities, and new technologies are revolutionising social behaviours and entire industries.

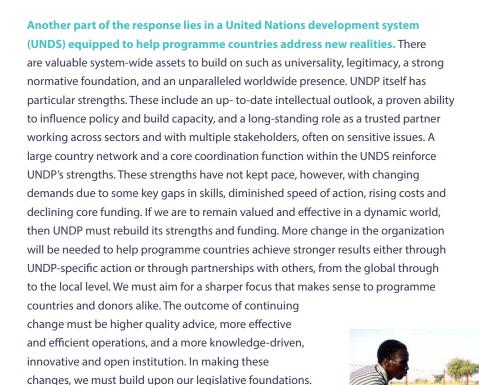
Risks are rising as well. Inequalities are widening within countries, violent tensions are making some societies vulnerable to crisis and even collapse, and competition is intensifying around scarce natural resources. Many societies are also struggling to bring women and youth into the circle of prosperity. The gaps are glaring despite progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Women and girls still make up a high proportion of people living in income poverty and deprived of education, health, voice and other non-income dimensions of well-being. Progress in closing gender gaps in education has not led to the removal of inequalities in labour markets. Norms that exclude women from the public sphere remain strong in many places and gender-based violence is a significant issue. Against this broad backdrop, climate change may have potentially catastrophic consequences, most of all for the poor.

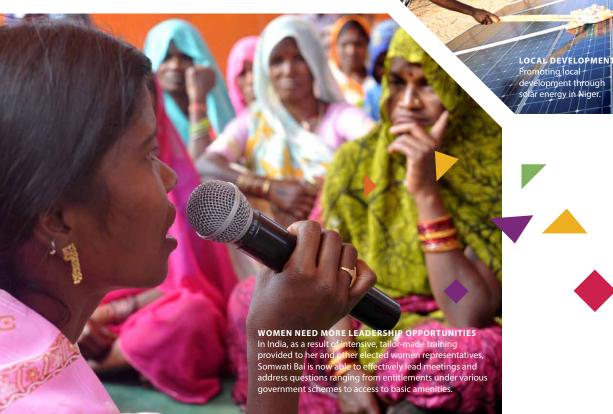


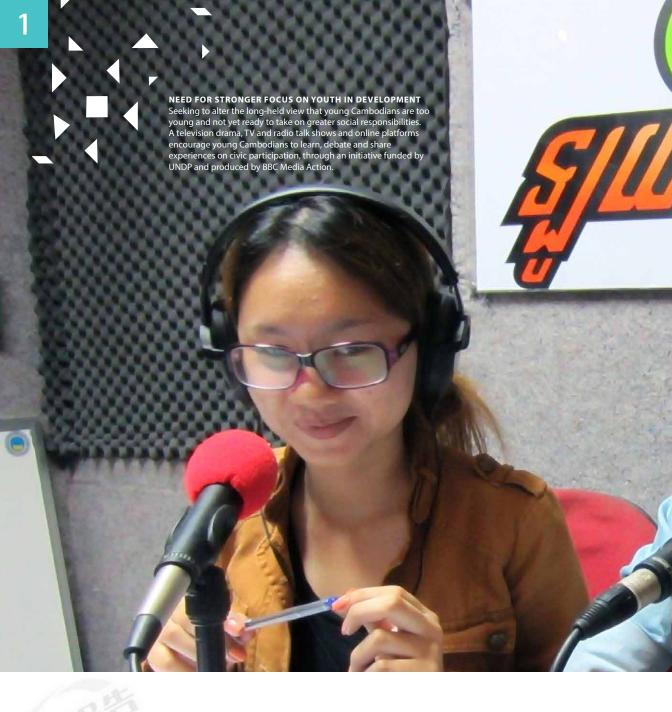
#### The challenge is to rethink development.

But there are grounds for optimism. It is now possible to eradicate extreme poverty, halt and reverse growing inequalities and achieve universal access to basic services, bringing everyone above a minimum threshold of well-being. With more countries moving towards democratic political systems and responding to growing public demand, the room for voice and participation can expand now to an extent unthinkable before. At the same time, new knowledge and experiences are making it possible to pursue economic growth, environmental sustainability and social equity simultaneously. Making the most of this momentum, while putting in place measures to mitigate risk and prevent loss of gains made when a crisis strikes, will be a major task of development in coming decades. Success will depend on finding ways of fighting poverty and inequality, deepening inclusion and reducing conflict, without inflicting irreversible damage on environmental systems, including the climate.

This challenges us to rethink development. Sustainable development (SD) offers a way forward. As described in the Outcome Document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development ('Rio+20'), '....poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development,' (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, para. 4). SD is complemented and reinforced by the concept of human development (HD), which focuses on the process of enlarging people's choices, looking both at the formation of human capabilities and the use people make of their acquired capabilities¹.







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