United Nations Children’s Fund
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Reasons for deferment of the presentation of draft country programme documents

Summary

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2008/17, this note explains the reasons for deferment to the second regular session of 2011 of the presentation of the draft country and common country programme documents for Algeria, Brazil, Cape Verde, Dominican Republic, Guyana and Suriname, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malawi, Mozambique, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Viet Nam and Yemen.
I. The Americas and the Caribbean

Brazil

1. Following the presidential election held in October 2010, the new President assumed office in January 2011. In order to ensure an effective consultation process with the new national counterparts, and full alignment with the new national multi-year plan of Brazil, the United Nations country team held a strategic planning retreat at the end of March 2011. The outcome of the retreat will guide the development of the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). In order to ensure full alignment of the country programme documents of the United Nations funds and programmes for 2012-2016 with the new UNDAF, the Regional United Nations Development Group (UNDG) for Latin America and the Caribbean endorsed the request made by the offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF to present their respective draft country programmes documents at the 2011 second regular sessions of their respective Executive Boards.

Dominican Republic

2. The Government of the Dominican Republic made an enormous effort in responding to the emergency in Haiti after the earthquake that hit the country in January 2010. The Government of the Dominican Republic also undertook a national consultation process to develop the National Development Strategy, which is expected to be approved by August 2011. The preparation process of the UNDAF, which started in April 2010 in close coordination with Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development, will be concluded by mid-April 2011. In order for the new country programme documents of the funds and programmes to be derived from the expected outcomes of the UNDAF, the permanent mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations in New York requested the Resident Coordinator to defer the discussion of the draft country programme documents to September 2011. The Regional UNDG for Latin America and the Caribbean endorsed the request made by the offices of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP) to present their draft country programme documents to the 2011 second regular sessions of their respective Executive Boards.

Panama

3. Since taking office in July 2009, the new Government has initiated a number of changes in management and policies of the country, including the launch of the Strategic Plan of the Government and a new cooperation strategy for 2010-2014. This led the United Nations agencies to focus much of their time, efforts and resources on providing support and feedback to their respective new counterparts to ensure the progress of ongoing initiatives as well as on defining new partnerships to align with government policies. In September 2010, the United Nations country team reviewed the progress of the UNDAF preparation process and determined that it would require more time in order to meet the required standards for the document. In order to allow for harmonization with the new strategic process of the Government and ensure the quality of the programme preparation process, the Regional UNDG for Latin America and the Caribbean endorsed the request made by the United Nations country team to present the draft country programme documents.
of UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF at the 2011 second regular sessions of their respective Executive Boards.

**Peru**

4. In 2009, the programme cycle for the Government of Peru-UNICEF programme of cooperation was extended to the end of 2011 due to the election process that led to the establishment of a new Government in July 2011. In April 2010, the United Nations country team agreed upon a road map for the joint programming process for the development of their new programmes of cooperation. This consisted of three main stages: (a) conducting a joint analysis of the development challenges of the country; (b) formulating of a new UNDAF; and (c) the endorsement of the UNDAF by the new Government of Peru. This process took place in parallel with the electoral process. In this context, in order to reflect national priorities, and finalize the proposed UNDAF with the newly elected Government, the Regional UNDG for Latin America and the Caribbean approved the request made by UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF to present their draft country programme documents at the 2011 second regular sessions of their respective Executive Boards.

**Guyana and Suriname**

5. Despite all efforts made by the Government and the support provided by the United Nations partners to complete the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and the UNDAF for Guyana and Suriname, these critical exercises are still in the process of being finalized with the full ownership and participation of the respective Governments. The deferment of the presentation of the UNICEF multi-country programme was requested in order to reflect national priorities, harmonize with the operational framework of the new UNDAF and meet the quality standard of the CCA and UNDAF processes in both countries. The Government of Suriname also officially made a request for the deferment of the draft CPDs of United Nations funds and programmes to the United Nations Resident Coordinator.

**II. East Asia and the Pacific**

**Papua New Guinea**

6. The current Government of Papua New Guinea-UNICEF programme of cooperation covers the period 2008-2012. In November 2010 the Government of Papua New Guinea requested that the members of the United Nations country team harmonize their planning cycle with the time frame of the national Medium Term Development Plan 2011-2015. In response to this request, the team proposed to harmonize the United Nations country programme cycle at the earliest feasible point, by (a) shortening the time frame of the current United Nations country programme cycles to end in December 2011; and (b) commencing the new country programme in January 2012 and ending it in December 2015. In the context of the One United Nations Programme and single country programme action plan (UNDAF Action Plan), UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF proposed to develop a common country programme document to be presented at the 2011 second regular sessions of their respective Executive Boards. These proposals were endorsed by the Regional UNDG for Asia and the Pacific.
Thailand

7. Political unrest in the country in 2010 resulted in delays in the exercise to prepare the 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan. In consultation with the Chair of the Regional UNDG for Asia and the Pacific and with the other members of the United Nations country team, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF proposed to postpone the development of their respective agencies’ draft country programmes in order to allow the United Nations Programme Assistance Framework (UNPAF, or UNDAF) to be prepared in parallel with the national development plan. The country programmes of the three agencies would then be developed based on the UNPAF. The Regional UNDG for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the proposal to present the draft country programme documents at the 2011 second regular sessions of the respective Executive Boards of UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF.

Viet Nam

8. The United Nations country team in Viet Nam proposed to defer the discussion of the draft common country programme document in order to align the preparation of the programme with the cycle of the One United Nations Plan, which will in turn frame the development of the individual country programmes of the United Nations agencies. The One United Nations Plan (UNDAF) is closely aligned with the national development plan. The Regional UNDG for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the request by the United Nations country team to present the draft common country programme document of UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF at the 2011 second regular sessions of their respective Executive Boards.

III. Eastern and Southern Africa

Malawi

9. The United Nations country team in Malawi proposed that the new UNDAF be prepared in parallel with the second Growth and Development Strategy of the Government of Malawi, which will be launched in July 2011. This required that the United Nations delay the finalization of the UNDAF until the end of April 2011 and postpone the completion of the draft country programme documents to the middle of May 2011.

Mozambique

10. The development of the UNDAF in Mozambique was delayed in order to ensure its alignment with the Poverty Alleviation Strategy Operation Plan of the Government of Mozambique. The Government of Mozambique-UNICEF programme of cooperation is being developed concurrently with the UNDAF, which is expected to be completed in April 2011. A draft country programme document is expected to be available by May 2011.
IV. Middle East and North Africa

Algeria

11. In consultation with the Government of Algeria and the Regional UNDG for Arab States, the United Nations country team postponed the preparations for the United Nations Strategic Cooperation Framework to the beginning of 2011. Hence, it was agreed that UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA would present their draft country programme documents at the second regular sessions of 2011 of their respective Executive Boards. This agreement was made in order to allow adequate time to derive the programmes of cooperation of the funds and the programme from the UNDAF strategic priorities. This timeline was intended equally to ensure that both the UNDAF and the draft country programme documents were based on, and aligned with, national development plans.

Islamic Republic of Iran

12. Due to delays in completion of the UNDAF for the period 2012-2016, the United Nations country team, in consultation with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, requested the deferment of the submission of the draft country programme documents to the 2011 second regular sessions of the respective Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF and WFP.

Syrian Arab Republic

13. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Nations country team recommended that the submission of the UNDAF and draft CPDs of the United Nations agencies be deferred to provide adequate time to review the documents and incorporate the latest reforms approved by the Government. Therefore, UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA agreed to defer submission of their draft CPDs to the second regular sessions of the respective Executive Boards.

Yemen

14. The Government of Yemen and the United Nations country team recommend that the submission of the draft CPDs of the United Nations agencies be deferred to ensure that the new programmes address evolving developments of the country. Therefore, UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA agree to defer submission of their draft CPDs to the second regular sessions of the respective Executive Boards.

V. West and Central Africa

Cape Verde

15. Due to the uncertainty of the electoral calendar, with parliamentary and presidential elections finally set for February 2011, and a new Government which took office in early March 2011, the government counterparts of the Joint Office of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP in Cape Verde had difficulties in contributing to the UNDAF development process. Adjustments to the calendar of the development of the UNDAF were therefore required to ensure the contribution of government counterparts as well as the mobilization of non-resident agencies of the United Nations, a crucial element of the process. This adjustment made it impossible to
meet the deadlines for the 2011 annual sessions of the respective Executive Boards and necessitated a request for deferment of the presentation of the draft common country programme document to the 2011 second regular sessions of the respective Executive Boards.