United Nations Children’s Fund
Executive Board
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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 2012 of the presentation of the draft country programme and common country programme documents (CPDs) for Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Haiti, Libya, Nicaragua, Pakistan, South Africa and Sudan.

I. The Americas and the Caribbean

Haiti

In order to fulfil all requirements for due consultations with concerned government officials and full alignment with the new national priorities, the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) for Latin America and the Caribbean endorsed the request made by the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident Coordinator, and Humanitarian Coordinator to present the new CPDs to the relevant Executive Boards at their 2012 second regular sessions.

Nicaragua

The Government of Nicaragua has committed to active participation with United Nations entities in the new Common Country Assessment (CCA) and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). In August 2011, the Government requested more time to collaborate with the United Nations entities for the preparation of the CCA and UNDAF for 2013-2017 following the country’s presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for 6 November 2011. In this context, the Government also requested the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Food Programme (WFP) and UNICEF to present their respective draft CPDs at the 2012 second regular sessions of their respective Executive Boards. In order to guarantee the
alignment of UNDAF and CPDs with the national priorities, the UNDG Latin America and the Caribbean approved the request for the deferment.

III. Eastern and Southern Africa

South Africa

Following the evaluation of the partnership between South Africa and the United Nations conducted by the United Nations Evaluation Group, a series of consultative meetings were held with national stakeholders that informed a United Nations Country Team (UNCT) discussion paper on "Repositioning the United Nations System in South Africa". This paper has been informing consequent consultations around the development of the UNDAF for South Africa that are to take place in the first quarter of 2012 both within the UNCT and with the Government. It is expected that the new UNDAF will be completed by April 2012, allowing for alignment with the 12 new national outcomes announced by the Government. Following the finalization of a "light UNDAF" for South Africa, the individual country programmes of the United Nations agencies will be completed by May 2012 for submission to the respective Executive Boards at their second regular sessions of 2012.

IV. Middle East and North Africa

Libya

Libya experienced a civil uprising that erupted on 17 February 2011. A National Transitional Council declared the liberation of Libya on 23 October 2011 and established an interim government one month later, mandated to lead the country towards elections at the end of June 2012. Given the rapidly evolving situation in Libya, and the need for consolidation of governmental structures to engage with the international community regarding programmes of cooperation, UNICEF will defer the presentation of its draft CPD to the Executive Board until the second regular session. This timing aligns with that of other former UNDG Executive Committee agencies, in particular with that of UNDP, which is presenting a substantive revision of its current country programme to the Executive Board at its second regular session.

Sudan

The independence of South Sudan on 9 July 2011 in line with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement for Sudan brought about deep changes in the situation of the country. Further, the resulting closure of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan led to significant organizational changes within the UNCT. Consequently, on 3 October 2011, the UNCT agreed with the Government of Sudan on a three-month delay in the finalization of the UNDAF, to mid-May 2012. The extension of the UNDAF preparation schedule was to allow for greater consultations on the new priorities of the Government of Sudan as articulated in the National Strategic Plan 2012-2016. The UNDG Arab States endorsed this extension, with UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP deferring the presentation of their draft CPDs for 2013-2016 from the annual to the second regular sessions of their respective Executive Boards.
V. South Asia

Pakistan

The draft One Programme II (2013-2017) document of the United Nations system in Pakistan, on which the draft common country programme document is based, is expected to be finalized with the Government of Pakistan in March 2012. Meanwhile, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF received substantial feedback on the draft common country programme document from the inter-agency regional review, which needed to be discussed with the Government of Pakistan and incorporated into the revised document. As this required time beyond that allowed by the deadline for submission of the document to the annual sessions of the Executive Boards, the UNDG Asia and the Pacific endorsed the UNCT request for deferment.

VI. West and Central Africa

Cameroon

In consultation with the other members of the UNCT, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF proposed to defer discussion of their respective draft country programme documents in order to allow concurrent development and alignment with the preparation of the UNDAF. The deferment responds to the request of the Government of Cameroon that the members of the UNCT harmonize the operational framework of the UNDAF with those of the country programmes in order to address national emerging priorities and issues. The UNDG Africa (Western-Central) endorsed the request.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The formulation of the UNDAF for 2013-2017, co-chaired by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of International Cooperation and the UNCT’s programme management team, was finalized at the end of 2011. During this process, the Government was focused primarily on the electoral calendar and campaign, which officially started on 28 October 2011. With the formation of a new government and the time for the necessary handover from outgoing Ministers, the new Government was not operational until January 2012. Therefore, the UNDG Africa (Western-Central) endorsed the request from UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP to have additional time to initiate a dialogue at policy and programme levels on the development of their respective draft CPDs with the new Government.

Equatorial Guinea

The UNCT and the Government of Equatorial Guinea developed a CCA on which the UNDAF for 2013–2017 is based. Because of a busy schedule of high-level meetings at the end of 2011, including the African Union Heads of States Summit and the Africa–South America ministerial meeting and various national conferences, the Government of Equatorial Guinea requested to postpone to the beginning of 2012 the workshop to review the final version of the UNDAF. Therefore, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF could not finalize their respective draft CPDs in time for their review and submission for consideration at the annual sessions of the Executive Boards. In view of this situation, the UNDG Africa (Western-Central) endorsed the UNCT request for deferment.