United Nations Children’s Fund
Executive Board
Annual session 2013
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Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda*

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 2013 of the presentation of the draft country programme documents for Kenya, Mexico and Namibia, and of the Gulf Area programme document.

* E/ICEF/2013/10.
I. Latin America and the Caribbean

Mexico

1. Mexico held its presidential election in July 2012, following which the new Government started preparing a National Development Plan, which is expected to be released by mid-2013. In this context, in order to ensure better alignment between the new National Development Plan and programmatic priorities to be included in the country programme documents (CPDs) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF, the Government of Mexico and the United Nations country team agreed to request a deferment of the submission of draft CPDs to the 2013 second regular session of their respective Executive Boards. This will also facilitate a more coordinated inter-agency process with the participation of civil society and government partners in the preparation of the new CPDs. The request was approved by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) for Latin America and the Caribbean on 19 February 2013.

II. Eastern and Southern Africa

Kenya

2. The UNDG for Eastern and Southern Africa endorsed the six-month extension of the current United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) until mid-2014 to ensure alignment of the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the programme cycles of United Nations agencies with the fiscal year of the Government of Kenya. This was done at the request of the Government and is in line with the Delivering as One process, which has commenced in Kenya. The extension request also took into consideration delays in finalizing the Government’s Medium Term Plan (MTP) for 2013-2017 due to elections that took place in March 2013, and the establishment of a devolved governance structure. In order to have the CPDs for Kenya aligned with an advanced MTP for 2013-2017 as well as an UNDAF for 2014-2017, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP) agreed to submit their respective draft CPDs for Kenya to the 2014 first regular sessions of their respective Executive Boards.

Namibia

3. In order to align the programme interventions of the United Nations system with the Namibia National Development Plan IV, the UNDG for Eastern and Southern Africa endorsed a two-year extension of the UNDAF 2011-2012. The Government launched its National Development Plan in July 2012, following which line ministries developed their detailed sector plans that would in turn inform the UNDAF for Namibia. The United Nations system in Namibia started with the development of its United Nations Programme Assistance Framework (UNPAF) in September 2012. The roadmap of the UNPAF foresees completion of the Framework by April 2013. In order for the CPDs to be fully derived from and aligned with the UNPAF results, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP decided to submit their draft CPDs to the 2013 second regular sessions of their respective Executive Boards.
4.

III. Middle East and North Africa

Gulf Area

5. The Gulf Area Programme is a multi-country programme covering the Kingdom of Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. It includes a strong fundraising and partnerships component as well as a focused set of programme interventions. Consultations are ongoing with the respective Governments around the focus of the new area programme document (APD). Additional discussions are needed to ensure that the strategies of the APD are more fully aligned with the priorities and goals of each participating country as well as with the organizational priorities of UNICEF. For this reason, the presentation of the APD is being deferred to the second regular session of 2013.