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 2014 of the presentation of the draft country programme documents for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ecuador, Guatemala, Iraq, Mali and Paraguay.

* E/ICEF/2014/5.
I. Latin America and the Caribbean

Ecuador

1. During 2013, the United Nations agencies and the Government of Ecuador have been in the process of preparing the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). As of early 2014, this process is still ongoing with various technical government ministries and agencies for review and validation of UNDAF results. Therefore, in order to allow for sufficient time and opportunities to facilitate better alignment between the new National Development Plan and the new country programme documents (CPDs) of the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF, the United Nations country team (UNCT) and the Ecuadorian Government agreed to request a deferment of the submission of new draft CPDs to the 2014 second regular session of their respective Executive Boards. This agreement was confirmed in the letter of request sent by the UNCT to the regional United Nations Development Group team for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG LAC) on 20 February 2014. The request was approved by UNDG LAC on 12 March 2014.

Guatemala

2. Since mid-2013, the United Nations agencies and the Guatemalan Government have been preparing the new UNDAF for 2015-2019. The process included participation of the private sector, the civil society, academics, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international organizations and bilateral cooperation. As of early 2014, this process is still ongoing for elaboration of UNDAF results. Therefore, in order to allow sufficient time and opportunities to ensure better alignment between the new National Development Plan and programmatic priorities to be included in the new draft CPDs of UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, the UNCT and the Guatemala Government agreed to request a deferment of the submission of draft new CPDs to the 2014 second regular session of their respective Executive Boards, as confirmed in the letter of request received from the Government on 14 February 2014. The request was approved by UNDG LAC on 20 February 2014.

Paraguay

3. In 2013, Paraguay held presidential elections in April and the new Government took office in August. In December 2013, the draft UNDAF was presented and discussed with key authorities and technical teams of the elected Government as well as civil society organizations. The Government initiated the ongoing process of elaborating the new National Development Plan, and requested United Nations agencies to present their new draft CPDs at the 2014 second regular sessions of their respective Executive Boards, so that the strategies of respective country programmes are fully aligned and harmonized with those of the National Development Plan. Both the Government and the United Nations agencies agreed on the need for additional time to design programmes of cooperation that are aligned with national priorities and can encourage the needed sense of national ownership. The request was approved by UNDG LAC on 12 March 2014.
II. Middle East and North Africa

Iraq

4. The UNDAF for Iraq is delayed and will only be available during the first half of 2014. The Iraq country office may receive the first results of the fifth multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS5) by June, and these will help inform the new CPD design. Upcoming elections in Iraq may result in a potential shift of priorities due to possible changes in Government. Access restrictions are a significant obstacle for adequate partner consultations, which are needed for development of a new CPD. UNDP and UNFPA are also deferring their CPDs to September. This was discussed and agreed at a recent UNCT.

III. West and Central Africa

Mali

5. After presidential elections in July and August, a new Government was inaugurated in September 2013. In the meantime and under United Nations Security Council resolution 2100, a Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission (MINUSMA) commenced its mandate in Mali in July 2013. With parliamentary elections held in December 2013, Mali has recovered most of its political stability, which led the Government to develop a vision through the Government Action Plan 2014-2018. In order to align their efforts with government priorities, MINUSMA and UNCT are currently engaged in designing an UNDAF ‘plus’ that will consolidate both development and peacebuilding objectives. In this vein, UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA have requested the deferment of their respective CPDs to the 2015 first regular session Executive Board to align them with government priorities and an integrated development and peacebuilding focused UNDAF.

IV. Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States

Bosnia and Herzegovina

6. The UNCT in Bosnia and Herzegovina is currently finalizing the UNDAF 2015-2019, and will share it with Government partners for comments. The UNCT will present the UNDAF in its final form to Government authorities by end-March 2014. It is expected that the UNDAF will be signed in April. Therefore, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF will submit their CPDs to the second regular session of their respective Executive Boards in order to fully embrace UNDAF commitments in their respective CPDs and allow for internal endorsement procedures.