Delegations are kindly invited to use this template to share their comments on any of the draft country programme documents being presented to the Executive Board during the second regular session.

Delegation name: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia

Draft country programme document: Uganda

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, country programme documents are considered and approved in one session, on a no-objection basis. All comments received by the Office of the Secretary of the Executive Board before the deadline will be made public on the Executive Board website, and considered by the respective regional office, in close consultation with the country office and the concerned Government.

**General comments**

Estonia appreciates the CPD applying multisectoral change strategies, the lessons learned from the previous country programme and the focus on the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children and adolescents.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis and its impact on children, it is important to address throughout the CPD measures to mitigate the direct and indirect effects of the pandemic and how setbacks will be dealt with, including the increasing poverty levels, access to health care and education.

**Comments on specific aspects of the country programme document**

**Basic education and adolescent development:** Quality education is essential to achieving the SDGs. To enhance learning outcomes, curricula have to be modernised and corresponding teacher training needs to be provided. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the urgency to build resilience of education systems, the CPD should stress the need to enhance distance learning, develop teachers, parents, children’s digital literacy, and increase efforts to decrease digital disparities.

A priority area should be dealing with the causes of school dropout and children staying out of school, including barriers to girls' education, poverty, child labour, disabilities, grade repetition, distance of schools from homes and unsafe school conditions. The latter especially for girls who are subjected to traditional gender roles and run the risk of being sexually abused and pressured into marriage.

**Child protection:** reintegration activities of street children and children affected by conflicts and instability should be advanced.