

Office of the Secretary of the UNICEF Executive Board

Template for delegations commenting on the draft country programme documents

2023 first regular session

*Draft country programme document commenting period for Cabo Verde common country programme document: 7 to 25 November 2022 [18:00 EST]*

*Draft country programme document commenting period for Algeria; Bolivia (Plurinational State of); Central African Republic; Costa Rica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Haiti; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Lebanon; Nepal; Pacific Islands (multi-country programme); Palestinian children and women in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the State of Palestine (area programme); Sao Tome and Principe: 15 November to 5 December 2022 [18:00 EST]*

*Draft country programme for Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of): 18 November to 8 December 2022 [18:00 EST]*

Delegations are kindly invited to use this template to share their comments on the draft country programme document being presented to the Executive Board during the forthcoming session.

Delegation name: *United Kingdom*

Draft country programme document: *Iran*

In accordance with Executive Board decision [2014/1](#), draft 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 stated above will be posted on the Executive Board website.

	Delegation's comments	Response(s)
General comments	We welcome the efforts of UNICEF to develop this CPD for Iran in an evolving and difficult operating context. Recent developments in the country heighten the importance of the UN clearly setting out how it will continue to uphold the UN Charter, especially promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction. We continue to	

	<p>expect that all UN Agencies ensure their work contributes to upholding the Charter, regardless of the country context.</p> <p>In considering this CPD, we note the efforts of the Government of Iran to deflect scrutiny of its repressive practices. As a result, the balance of analysis in this document is of concern. While derived from the UN Sustainable Cooperation Framework, it disproportionately emphasises external factors as drivers of challenges instead of recognising or acknowledging any domestic shortcomings. It also lacks any focus on addressing the problems arising from specific policies of the Iranian Government including, narrow economic development, regression on gender equality issues, increased attacks on religious and ethnic minorities, surging use of the death penalty, and crack downs on civic space. The UK urges the Agencies to more clearly articulate their contribution to gender equality and the respect and promotion of human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights.</p>	
<p><b>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</b></p>	<p><i>(Delegations providing comments may wish to include details, such as the page number, paragraph number, or page of the annexed results and resources framework.</i></p>	