

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: **Belgium**

Draft country programme document: **CPD 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) |
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| General comments | - Belgium has the highest regard and appreciation for the work of UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA in Iran and thanks them for the efforts in the development of new country program documents for Iran. Especially given the challenging and evolving context of daily and long-term | |

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| | <p>operations in Iran we wish to stress our appreciation for the hard work of the organisations on the terrain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Though the CPDs are intended to align with and support national development plans and priorities, the UN and Member States need to ensure that the language used in these documents supports core UN principles and values and does not undermine a rules-based international system that upholds human rights and democratic governance.- This oversight function on the respect of these very basic core UN principles is one of the essential roles of the Executive Boards. A role that as a long-standing donor with a key priority to core funding is, with an eye for pragmatism, a necessity to demonstrate the fit-for-purpose of the system overall. It are these basic tasks of oversight that allows member states to check and attest that, amongst many other objectives, organisations work to uphold the Charter, notwithstanding the specific context that might exist.- While the overall deteriorating situation of human rights in Iran remains deeply concerning, current developments in the country demonstrate the profound plight of women's human rights. We encourage the UN to continue to work towards advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as the most effective way to eliminate poverty, create lasting peace, and achieve sustainable development.- Although we recognize that in some aspects the CPDs have evolved for the better (amongst other things a more integrated approach and the overall attention that is | |
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| | <p>given to women) we urge the agencies to more clearly bring the CPDs in line with the overall core UN principles and values based on wider and more transparent consultations with all stakeholders and partners in-country, such as women’s rights organizations. This especially regarding their contribution to gender equality and the respect and promotion of human rights and also with an eye to better adjust implementation of the CPD to the evolving context, leaving no one behind.</p> | |
| <p>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</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> | |