

**Office of the Secretary of the UNICEF Executive Board**

**Template for delegations commenting on the draft country programme documents**

**2023 first regular session**

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 States*

Draft country programme document: *Sao Tome and Principe*

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.

	<b>Delegation's comments</b>	<b>Response(s)</b>
<b>General comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- We encourage UNICEF to implement climate adaptation and resilience strategies in their WASH programming for adolescents and children in vulnerable communities and outline what programming will occur related to these issues.</li></ul>	

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

*(Delegations providing comments may wish to include details, such as the page number, paragraph number, or page of the annexed results and resources framework.*

- In #7, the U.S. recommends highlighting high rates of child, early, and forced marriage, in addition to high numbers of adolescent pregnancies. According to UNICEF, 3 in 10 young women are married in childhood.
- In #12, the U.S. recommends the inclusion of gender-based violence. For example, “Violence, **including gender-based violence**, is widespread.”
- In #41, the U.S. government recommends addressing gender-based violence specifically. For example, “...intersectoral links for reducing early pregnancies and **gender-based** violence...”