

Office of the Secretary of the UNICEF Executive Board

Template for delegations commenting on the country programme documents

2021 First Regular Session

Country programme document posting period: 17 November to 7 December 2020

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 forthcoming session.

Delegation name: European Commission

Draft country programme document: The People's Republic of China

General comments	<p>Programme priorities. The CPD lays out a comprehensive range of priority issues to advance child-centred Sustainable Development Goals in China. Among the programme priorities, we welcome the inclusion of online child safety as an issue of concern.</p> <p>Vulnerable groups. The CPD identifies children with disabilities, migrant families and children left behind among the target vulnerable groups. We think it would be important to also make reference to ethnic and religious minority children, who face significant challenges across a range of areas including health, education or protection from abuse or exploitation.</p>
Comments on specific aspects of the country programme document	<p>Child protection online. We welcome the CPD reference to strengthening prevention and response to violence and exploitation also online given the high number of internet users aged 6 to 17 years in China (para 14, 41). It would be useful to further elaborate on how this would be pursued and the values and principles on which the internet governance system will be developed to better protect children online.</p> <p>Regional disparities. The CPD makes reference to the persistence of significant regional disparities and gender inequities as key challenges facing children in China (para 4). It also identifies the need for a more child-sensitive social safety net staffed with qualified social workers and which can better address geographic and urban-rural disparities. It would be helpful that the document would further elaborate on how these goals would be addressed in an effective and systematic manner and how it will work with a wider range of relevant partners in these initiatives.</p>