

UNICEF Office of the Secretary of the Executive Board

Template for delegations commenting on the country programme documents

2021 first regular session

Delegation name: **Australia**

Draft country programme document: **China**

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 requesting country, in close consultation with UNICEF

General Comments	<p><u>China as a partner for global development and South-South cooperation)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consistent with Australia’s comments on a previous Country Program Document (CPD) draft, Australia notes that CPDs are usually primarily confined to activities in the partner country, rather than activities in third party countries. CPDs are also factual documents, and avoid promoting or endorsing specific programs or signature foreign policy initiatives of any country, donor or recipient. In supporting progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Australia values UNICEF’s role in promoting best practice in development assistance. The CPD would be improved through a greater focus on UNICEF’s work with China to deliver development cooperation that adheres to international standards, is transparent, meets genuine needs and is financially sustainable, rather than the CPD’s current emphasis on UNICEF’s role in facilitating China’s development cooperation in other countries. We recommend the CPD results and resources framework also outlines how UNICEF will measure progress, such as through indicators which assess effectiveness and quality of activities in line with international standards. <p><u>Safeguards</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Australia recommends the CPD includes additional detail on how UNICEF will manage potential risks and apply safeguards, including for activities involving the private sector and those focused on data/data governance. Australia recommends all UN CPDs emphasise the importance of protecting human rights, especially vulnerable groups such as ethnic minorities, and outline how UNICEF will meet commitments to apply and monitor compliance with UN system safeguard policies.• Approaches that are ‘child-centred’ are referred to throughout the CPD. Australia’s position is that child-centred approaches must protect, respect and fulfill the human rights of children. <p><u>Engagement with Member States</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Australia recommends the CPD outlines UNICEF’s mechanisms for strengthening consultation and coordination with all
-------------------------	---

	<p>development partners in China and in third countries, to enhance transparency and effectiveness of activities.</p> <p><u>Resourcing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CPD should provide a more detailed breakdown on “regular resources” and “other resources”, including detail on funding partners and how much funding will be directed to international and/or south-south cooperation. <p><u>COVID</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNICEF could consider expanding discussion/analysis on the current and long-term impacts of COVID on poverty in China as it relates to children.
<p>Comments on specific aspects of the country programme document</p>	<p><u>Data sources</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like the CPD to include more recent data (e.g.: paragraph 6 refers to China committing to eradicate extreme poverty <u>by 2020</u>; paragraph 15 includes data from 2010 on people living with a disability, yet paragraph 12 provides 2018 data on children with disabilities attending mainstream schools). <p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for clarification: What does “meeting the <u>ever-growing needs</u> of the country’s 271 million children” mean? (paragraph 4). <p><u>Resources and Results Framework</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The indicators could better reflect both the outputs and expected outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>[e.g.: Outcome 1 indicators only relate to neonatal mortality and overweight and obesity rates despite the emphasis on malnutrition; For Outcome 2, outputs 2 and 3 are not well reflected in the indicators of progress]</i>