

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: **Canada**

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canada shares member state concerns over the transparency and adequacy of consultations for the development of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for China. Recognising that these are still early days for this new way of working, we wish to highlight the importance of the preparatory process and sequencing of the UNSDCF and CPD in helping to avoid the issues now being raised in connection with the CPD. As with the Framework, we seek assurances that all relevant stakeholders and donors will be fully and transparently consulted during the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the CPD.• “Leaving no one behind” and a “human-rights based approach” are among the guiding principles for the preparation of UNSDCFs and CPDs. We find clear reference to the latter to be lacking in this document. We note that the list of “vulnerable groups” does not include ethnic and religious minorities and would seek clarification on how UNICEF under this country program will protect core UN principles of human rights, in particular for these minorities.• Though the CPDs are intended to align with and support national development plans and priorities, UN and member states need to ensure that the language used in these documents supports core UN principles, and does not undermine a rules-based international system that upholds human rights and democratic governance.• The CPD should be focused on the work of the organisation in China and not their partnership with China, leveraging South-South Cooperation, in other countries. UNICEF has a role to play in promoting best practice in development assistance, including by ensuring that the assistance provided by countries including China, adheres to international standards of, inter alia, human rights, labour, transparency, environmental protection and debt sustainability, and with clear reference to relevant SDGs. We would have expected to see this reflected in this document.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given China’s international development cooperation activities, we would seek clarification on when China is expected to graduate from UNICEF support. If this is not in the near future, the question could be reasonably asked as to why China is supporting other developing countries globally while receiving UN support.
<p>Comments on specific aspects of the 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>