

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: North Macedonia

Category	Comments	UNICEF Response
General comments		
Comments on specific aspects of the country programme document	<p>1 Rephrasing the first paragraph on page 2 as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">North Macedonia is an upper middle-income country. Over the past five years, the country has made progress in advancing key reforms and has strengthened good neighbourly relations, including through the resolution of the name issue with Greece, which was followed by the change in its constitutional name in 2019. the contentious political issues have been addressed, thus These enabling the The country to become joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in 2020, and EU Member States decided to open to commence accession negotiations, which is a step forward on North Macedonia's EU path. to become a member state of with the European Union,</p>	<p>The Country Office agrees in principle with the suggestions from the EU however will avoid mentioning another member state where it does not reference direct joint programming.</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">following a change in its constitutional name in 2019.</p> <p>2 Correcting a denomination at page 4, point 14. Instead of “Ethnic Albanian and Roma children are less likely than ethnic Macedonians”, please replace with “Ethnic Albanian and Roma children are less likely than the children of the majority community”.</p>	<p>The Country Office accepts the change suggested by the European Commission. The Government has also agreed with the change, with an additional suggestion to change “Ethnic Albanian and Roma children” to “Children from ethnic minorities”</p> <p>The complete sentence would read as follows: “Children from ethnic minorities are less likely than children of the majority community to successfully progress in education.”</p>
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