

## 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: *Estonia*

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.

	Member state comments	UNICEF response
<b>General comments</b>	<p>Estonia would like to underline the importance of a transparent and inclusive process, and hopes that all relevant stakeholders and donors will be fully and transparently consulted during the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of this CPD.</p> <p>As a rule, the focus of CPDs is mostly on countries' internal activities. External activities, if reflected in CPD, should be specific in scope and directly linked with domestic developments and institutions. Therefore, Estonia propose to remove mentioning external activities without clear link to internal activities.</p> <p>This draft CDP does not mention ensuring rights of children belonging to ethnic or religious minorities. It is an issue of utmost importance to leave no one behind and to ensure that rights of all children, especially those who are most vulnerable, will be respected, protected and promoted according to</p>	<p>UNICEF appreciates the comments made by Estonia on the China draft country programme document (CPD). We have taken note of and replied to points raised, and have amended the text of the CPD in discussion with the Government of China.</p> <p>Relevant stakeholders and donors will be engaged in the implementation of the UNICEF China CPD through its programme reviews, and other forums.</p> <p>The 2021-2025 UNICEF country programme for China has been designed to contribute to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development agreed upon by 193 Member States of the United Nations.</p> <p>In line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025 (UNSDCF), including outcomes 5 and 6 in UNSDCF (page 12/16), UNICEF aims to influence and inform the</p>

	<p>international standards. This comment applies also to specific points, <i>inter alia</i> 4, 6, 20, and 22.</p>	<p>efforts of the Government of China in line with international norms and standards, through specific institutions such as the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), as they invest in other countries towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) so as to maximize results for all children and ensuring that no one is left behind.</p> <p>Under the framework of South-South cooperation, UNICEF will share best practices in child development - that are in line with international norms and standards - to China, and from China to other countries. This aims to support sustainable development in both China and other countries in a transparent manner.</p> <p>The UNICEF China CPD aims first and foremost to uphold and protect the rights of all children in China, including all vulnerable groups that include ethnic and religious minorities. UNICEF recently worked with counterparts to translate messages in Yi and Tibetan minority languages to ensure ethnic minority children received COVID-19 prevention information.</p> <p>In UNICEF’s Strategic Plan 2018-2021, UNICEF commits: ‘to realize the rights of all children, everywhere, and to achieve the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a world in which no child is left behind.’ This commitment is embedded within the CPD that ‘is aimed at supporting the Government to realize the rights of all children in China, including the most disadvantaged...’, and ‘...by 2025, the rights of more girls and boys, including the most disadvantaged, will be realized so that they survive, live in a safer and healthier environment and develop to their full potential.’ Discussion of child rights is prominent in the CPD related to all children in China including vulnerable groups. The overarching focus on rights provides the framework for UNICEF’s support to child development efforts in China. The majority of the proposed UNICEF country programme 2021-2025 is focussed on programming in China as per the summary budget table and the results and resources framework.</p>
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<p><b>Comments on specific aspects of the country programme document</b></p>	<p>In all priority areas of the programme, utmost attention should be put on providing equal opportunities and non-discrimination to rural, religious and ethnic minorities, including migrant children. Regional disparities have to be addressed, especially in the access to quality health care and education services. In the centre of attention should be gender equality, especially the sexual and reproductive health and rights of girls, equal access to education and health care services as well as their social participation.</p> <p>P2: Taking into account the size of economy of the People’s Republic of China and its role in the external cooperation, as stated in this draft CDP, Estonia proposes to replace the reference to “the needs of a developing country” with the reference to specific needs.</p> <p>P47: It should be clarified what is meant by “consent of the Government” in the context of “support from individuals and the private sector to influence stakeholders’ role in contributing to children’s rights in China and beyond”</p> <p><u>Annex</u>: Relevance of outcomes 5 and 6 (page 12/16) in the context of the purpose of CDP documents needs clarification.</p>	<p>The Programme Rationale section of the CPD outlines the needs of children in China. Adolescent health and nutrition is a component of the country programme. This includes enhancing adolescent physical and mental health, understanding adolescent needs, and adopting gender-responsive approaches to address norms, behaviours and inequalities.</p> <p>UNICEF will leverage support from individuals and the private sector in China to fund the China country programme. This will be undertaken in partnership with the Government.</p> <p>Outcomes 5 and 6 for the UNSDCF is listed in Annex 1. Outcomes 5 and 6 of the UNICEF CPD in the results and resources framework outline monitoring, partnerships and resources for these outcomes (see above).</p>
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