

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: *Germany*

Draft country programme document: *UNICEF CPD 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
General comments	<p>We welcome the CPD for China and thank UNICEF for their valuable work. We appreciate the improvements which have been made in the area of child poverty, mortality, health and development throughout the last decades in China.</p> <p>The programme is based on a comprehensive analysis of the situation of children, including analysis of disparities between gender, children living in rural/urban areas and children of migration workers. We appreciate that a rights-based approach is mentioned in the document (Para 22, para 47).</p> <p>We would welcome analysis on whether children belonging to religious and/or ethnic minorities are disproportionately affected by poverty and underdevelopment. In addition, the explicit recognition of the rights of these children in accordance with China's obligations under the CRC and other human rights</p>	<p>UNICEF appreciates the comments made by Germany 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>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>The UNICEF China CPD aims first and foremost to uphold and protect the rights of all children in China, including all vulnerable groups that includes ethnic and religious minorities. UNICEF will uphold the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in China. Article 30 of the CRC states: "In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities or persons of indigenous origin exist, a child belonging to such a minority or who is indigenous shall not be denied the right, in</p>

	<p>conventions including ICERD as well as special measures to meet their needs is missing and must be added in the document.</p> <p>We welcome the role of UNICEF as facilitator for South- South cooperation insofar as this role contributes to the application of internationally agreed standards and to achieving the 2030 Agenda. This notion should be reflected in the CPD text. While identifying „best practices“ for replication, it should be highlighted that those need to adhere to international standards in the areas of sustainability, transparency and accountability.</p> <p>An inclusive consultation process, including bilateral and multilateral stakeholders, during implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the UNICEF CPD would be highly appreciated.</p>	<p>community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practise his or her own religion, or to use his or her own language”. 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.</p> <p>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. UNICEF also aims to influence and inform the 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, leaving no one behind.</p> <p>UNICEF China acting as a neutral facilitator to influence and inform China’s investments in other countries towards SDG attainment is consistent with the universality and the interconnectivity (between goals, between countries, and between global, regional and national levels) of the SDGs. It is also consistent with the global mandate of</p>
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<p>Comments on specific aspects of the country programme document</p>	<p>Para 19: please clarify meaning of the following sentence: „Better advocacy of the UNICEF value proposition for South-South cooperation and private sector partnerships in development programmes is needed among policymakers and influencers in China.“</p> <p>Para 21: What does “supplies” stand for in the context of the sentence? „...and the increased availability of high-quality supplies from China to benefit child development elsewhere.“</p>	<p>Under the framework of South-South cooperation UNICEF will share transparently 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.</p> <p>One of the aims of the UN Charter is ‘to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems’. The UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018-2021 notes that ‘promoting cooperation, sharing lessons learned and fostering innovation and partnerships through South-South and triangular cooperation will also be emphasized’. UNICEF will also continue to advocate with the Government of China and the private sector the value-add of engaging in South-South cooperation and development efforts in partnership with UN agencies, including the funding of the UN. Increased availability of high-quality supplies (e.g. medical commodities) from China to benefit child development elsewhere is one opportunity for further partnership with public and private sectors in China.</p>