

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: *Japan*

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.

	Comments from the Member State	UNICEF Response
General comments	<p>As stated in the draft CPD, China has achieved tremendous economic and social development in recent years, and with it, the average life expectancy of Chinese people has increased significantly, their education has advanced, and they are enjoying a higher standard of living than ever before.</p> <p>As stated in the draft CPD, China has already become the world's second largest economy and an upper-middle-income country, and is transitioning from a high-growth model to “high-quality” development, and has set a goal of eliminating extreme poverty by the end of 2020. In fact, on December 3, President Xi Jinping declared the achievement of the zero-poverty goal.</p> <p>Draft CPD of UNDP praises China's steady progress in science and technology, mentioning that its global innovation ranking is climbing, one third of global renewable energy investment comes from China, and China is playing an increasingly important role in global</p>	<p>UNICEF appreciates the comments made by Japan 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 UNICEF China Country Programme 2021-2025 has been designed to meet the remaining development needs of China. As outlined in the programme rationale, China ranks eighty-fifth on the global Human Development Index and is home to the world's second largest child population. UNICEF currently assists several Upper Middle-Income Countries as they continue to address unfinished business. In China the total number of children affected by deprivations also warrants UNICEF's support. This is consistent with the global mandate of UNICEF to promote child rights, and where disadvantages exist UNICEF will continue to partner with Governments at their request.</p>

	<p>development through investments in infrastructure, science and other fields. Against this background, China should take on the duties and responsibilities commensurate with the world's second largest economy.</p> <p>As mentioned above, China has already achieved economic development and is contributing about \$1.8 million per year to UNICEF. Against this background, during the program period of 2021-2025, we would like to request a renewed scrutiny of the justification for UN assistance to a country like China, and whether there is no need to allocate more support and funding to developing countries in lower-income categories. We would like to request that UNICEF be excluded from providing assistance and contributions to China in areas that China can handle by itself.</p> <p>The program rationale for the CPD includes poverty in rural areas, and the reduction of relative and multidimensional poverty is also a primary focus of the program's outcome goals. However, as noted above, the Chinese President has declared that the poverty situation in China has been resolved. Therefore, we would like to ask UNICEF to examine seriously again whether there is a need for the international community to continue to support China in the next five years.</p> <p>The monitoring plan should clearly indicate the information on the sources of funds and their allocation. In addition to the portion to be financed from international organizations including UNICEF, the information on the portion to be financed by the Chinese government as well as funding mobilized from the private sector should also be indicated. The information on the mobilization of the funds should constantly be updated throughout the program period of 2021-2025.</p>	<p>Reducing both relative poverty and multi-dimensional poverty - including reducing gaps between rural and urban areas - is an ongoing priority for children in China. It is also important to prevent a relapse into poverty given the socio-economic impact of COVID-19.</p> <p>The summary budget table indicates the allocation of funding by programme component and the source. Leveraging resources from public and private sectors in China for both domestic development and for other countries is a priority for the country programme.</p> <p>The majority of the proposed UNICEF country programme 2021-2025 is focussed on programming in China as per the summary budget table. UNICEF 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>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'.</p> <p>The sharing of best practices in child development from China - that are in line with international norms and standards - with other countries, is therefore essential for SDG attainment. UNICEF will also continue to advocate with the Government of China the value-add of engaging in South-South cooperation in partnership with UN agencies, including the funding of the UN.</p>
<p>Comments on specific aspects of the country</p>	<p>Paragraph 18, 19, 21, and Outcome 6 of the draft CPD address South-South cooperation, but the details of the activities proposed under these parts are lacking. The content of activities proposed under South-South cooperation, including how these activities will contribute to the</p>	

programme document	achievement of the SDGs, should be clearly indicated in order to ensure accountability.	
---------------------------	---	--