

## 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: *New Zealand*

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
<b>General comments</b>	<p>CPD includes a focus on UNICEF facilitating aspects of China's South-South cooperation and international development cooperation (notably in Outcome 5). The nature and extent of this activity is more comprehensive than it was in the 2016-2020 UNICEF CPD for China, with UNICEF taking a greater role in China's international development activities.</p> <p>The increase in UNICEF's support for China's international development/cooperation activities, and the emphasis on strengthening China's capacity to design and deliver development cooperation shifts UNICEF's role to one providing development expertise to emerging donors. While providing this expertise can have positive flow-on effects, these support activities have opportunity costs for UNICEF.</p> <p>We seek clarification about UNICEF's role and mandate in providing emergent donors with support to ensure good development practice</p>	<p>UNICEF appreciates the comments made by New Zealand 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 given that China ranks eighty-fifth on the global Human Development Index and is home to the world's second largest child population. 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. UNICEF will continue to advocate with the Government</p>

<p>(cf. supporting domestic development activities), especially in terms of UNICEF’s available resources and relative priorities.</p> <p>The protection and realization of human rights for all children is a fundamental principle underpinning the Convention on the Rights of Children and the United Nations Development Group Statement of Common Understanding of the Human Rights-Based Approach to Development Cooperation and Programming to which UNICEF adheres.</p> <p>UNICEF also states that its Strategic Plan 2018-2021 is “specifically keyed” to help realize the SDGs' vision of a world in which no one is left behind (LNOB). A vital component of leaving no one behind is identifying and supporting those who are being left behind – i.e. vulnerable groups and populations.</p> <p>The CPD has few references to human rights or to vulnerable or marginalised groups.</p> <p>We seek clarification from UNICEF on how it sees its responsibility to support the protection and fulfilment of human rights is reflected in this CPD and on its approach to the application of LNOB to all vulnerable groups and populations.</p>	<p>of China the value-add of engaging in South-South cooperation in partnership with UN agencies, including the funding of the UN.</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. 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> <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 and advocacy efforts. The overarching focus on rights provides the framework for UNICEF’s support to child development efforts in China.</p>
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