

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: *United Kingdom*

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		
Comments on specific aspects of the country programme document	<p><i>(Delegations providing comments may wish to include details, such as the page number, paragraph number, or page of the annexed results and resources framework.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">South-South Cooperation. We would like to see an emphasis on UNICEF (and all relevant UN agencies in China) seeking to inform and influence China's international development cooperation to improve its effectiveness, increase its development impact, and ensure that it meets international norms and standards (on environmental protection, social aspects, transparency and debt sustainability).	<p>UNICEF appreciates the comments made by the United Kingdom 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> <ol style="list-style-type: none">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>2. Innovative financing. The CPD states that UNICEF will work on innovative financing, but it is unclear what this means. There is reference to ‘Innovative financing investment’ [para 21(e)], and assisting financial institutions and the private sector to develop viable business models and financial instruments (to make more child-friendly investments) [para 46]. What is UNICEF planning in these areas?</p> <p>3. Graduation. Despite noting China’s considerable developmental gains, there is no reference to when China might be expected to graduate from receiving UN funding. Is there a plan to work towards this?</p> <p>4. Vulnerable Groups. A stated programme priority is addressing the unrealized rights of vulnerable groups [para 20], so it is surprising that there is no reference in this CPD to ethnic or religious minorities despite their particular vulnerability.</p>	<p>2. UNICEF plans to influence and inform selected China-based multilateral development banks, financial institutions and corporations so they have strengthened knowledge, tools and innovative financing modalities to make more child-friendly investments that are sustainable and scalable.</p> <p>3. 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>4. 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.</p>
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