COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR PAKISTAN (2023-2027)

Second regular session 2022

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| **Comments by the EU** | **CO Response** |
| The EU Delegation welcomes the continued support foreseen in the upcoming electoral cycle.  | *Thank you. UNDP is committed to its enduring partnerships with the Development Partners, including the EU Delegation, on joint efforts to strengthen and deepen democracy and good governance in Pakistan.* |
| We welcome the continued work on rule of law, and suggest to also include specific elements on commercial law/investment climate. This could have a cross-cutting impact on outcome 2 (inclusive growth). The EU also supports the continued focussed work on human rights/business under outcome 2. | *Thank you. Investment climate is reflected additionally in Para 21 and prioritized efforts on Financing for Development, SDG Investments and/or Climate Finance are outlined across Outcome 2 (Sustainable, inclusive and green economic transformation) and Outcome 3 (Climate change resilience and environment). Addressing commercial law/investment climate elements is also integrated in Para. 20 and Para. 21 of Outcome 2 through an integrated ideation of ‘enabling and rights-based business environment’.*  |
| Given that UN agencies, for example in the area of rule of law, apply some division of labour in provincial implementation, the EU appeals to foresee close operational collaboration of UN agencies where parallel work is taking place in the same and in adjacent sectors. | *The comment is well acknowledged. The draft CPD is rooted in the principles of active inter-Agency coordination and collaboration through the institutional arrangements of RCO, UNCT and the Programme Management Team, at federal and provincial levels. As spelt out in Para. 13 as well as throughout Section II Programme Priorities and Partnerships, as well as the RRF, UNDP’s inter-agency collaborative approach is built on its institutional mandate of serving the SDG integrator role.* |
| We encourage considering strong cross-cutting gender empowerment elements, including possibly close work with UN-WOMEN, beyond the inter-institutional coordination and collaboration that is envisaged in the draft CPD. Overall, the evolution of the division of labour between UNDP and UN-Women is a topic that, from a partner perspective, may deserve further consideration (a point that is arguably not specific to Pakistan). | *The comment is well acknowledged. The draft CPD not only has a separate outcome on Gender but also has strong cross-cutting gender empowerment elements in all other outcome areas reflecting as well as the consultation, coordination and collaboration with UN Women. In close consultation and partnership with UN Women, UNDP has already begun developing an integrated portfolio and systems-thinking approach for programmatic realization of the Gender Equality Outcome. Partnership with UN Women as well as other Agencies and stakeholders for portfolio development and implementation will be based on principles of co-designing and co-implementation, leveraging respective institutional strengths and value-propositions for amplified impact, especially in Outcomes 2 and 4.* |
| We encourage a strong focus on digital transformation, including in the governance sector. | *The comment is well acknowledged. The CPD is designed to match Strategic Plan signature solutions with evolving priorities by combining them with three powerful enablers: strategic innovation, digitalization, and development finance. The CPD outcomes on governance (1), economic transformation (2) and on gender equality (4) focus on digital transformation among other elements. As outlined in para. 7 and elsewhere, UNDP envisions horizontal and vertical digital transformation of all its programming across all prioritized outcomes.* |
| **Comments by DENMARK** | **CO Response** |
| * Para. 2 – suggest to remove “an impressive” as much more could be done by Pakistan in particular in the area of green transition and structural challenges remain, particularly in relation to financing, commitment as well as actual implementation. In addition, Pakistan seems currently to be restarting coal power plants and exploitation. Deforestation also seems to remain high despite Governmental initiatives.
 | *While we note the challenges identified, we wish to acknowledge the strong institutional leadership and sustained financial commitments made by the Pakistan Government for the adoption and implementation of Agenda 2030 as part of its annual development plans and budgets. Pakistan is structurally, legislatively and financially investing in SDGs from its own resources through the National SDGs Programme, co-implemented with UNDP.*  |
| * Para. 4 – suggest to include information on the current, relatively high vaccination roll-out rate in Pakistan, the Government´s innovative digital vaccination roll-out structure as well as information on vaccine donations received from other Member States through COVAX and bilaterally, including by EU Member States, cf. e.g. [COVAX roll-out - Pakistan | Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance](https://www.gavi.org/covax-vaccine-roll-out/pakistan). Also, the future outlook for the pandemic and vaccination roll-out in Pakistan could briefly be described.
 | *A detailed analysis of the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including in relation to vaccination, underpinned the development of the CPD. Strategic references to the Government’s policy responses for COVID-19 have been included in Paras. 3, 7, 10 and 11.*  |
| * Para. 7 – suggest to include additional information and examples on Pakistan´s exposure as one of the top ten most exposed countries in the world to climate change, cf. e.g. [German Watch - Global Climate Risk Index 2021 – Long-Term Climate Risk Index](https://germanwatch.org/en/19777)
 | *Information has been incorporated as suggested, in para. 8 which describes briefly climate change challenges.* |
| * Para. 9 – suggest to include additional information on the impact of the significant gender inequality on implementation of SDGs
 | *These aspects have been addressed subsequently in Paras. 28-31 under Outcome 4 on Gender Equality.*  |
| * Para. 21 – suggest to describe in more detail and with specific examples how UNDP will ensure private-sector financing in particular in light of Pakistan´s current fiscal and political conditions. There have also remained significant challenges in relation to the so-called “Independent Power Producers” that have experienced unilateral tariff decreases by the Government of Pakistan as well as other foreign investors that have had numerous difficulties engaging in the area of green transition in Pakistan. How could UNDP further work with the Government of Pakistan and/or other Member States in order to improve the framework conditions for the necessary investments/engagements in Pakistan by the private sector?
 | *Please refer to Outcomes 2 and 3 for details on UNDP’s envisioned Financing for Development portfolio approaches to leverage green private sector investments and performance-based climate financing to achieve the Goals.* |
| * Para 23 – suggest to to add reflections on how UNDP will specifically work and engage in relation to the infrastructure-investment scheme, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor “CPEC”, and ensure a sustainable and green roll-out of the projects under the scheme with a view to mitigate environmental damage and climate change, not least in the sectors of energy and transportation.
 | *Please refer to Outcomes 2 and 3 for details on UNDP’s envisioned Financing for Development portfolio approaches to leverage green private sector investments and performance-based climate financing to achieve the Goals. This covers UNDP’s envisioned efforts to support an integrated rights-based and climate-friendly approach to regional connectivity and regional equalization (including Balochistan, AJK and GB).*  |
| * General comments:
	+ The expectations in the draft country program for Pakistan seems highly optimistic in particular in relation to economy
	+ There is an unfortunate lack of reflections in relation to security, regional instability and anti-radicalisation
	+ It would also be recommendable to include a section about how UNDP foresees to create enhanced awareness and increased impact by partnering up with (Member State representations/missions of) donors in Pakistan
	+ Further information could also be provided on UNDPs comparative advantage in catalysing financing, systemic market change and market-based solutions (vs charity/ad hoc CSR-initiatives) as well as promoting sustainable development in relation to Pakistan.
	+ It remains important to strengthen in-house expertise and knowledge as well as the relevant network of the country UNDP office in Pakistan. It is also important to avoid overlaps with financing institutions. Note that the list/column of major partners in the results matrix, page 9-14, do not seem to include companies, market actors and international finance institutions, incl. e.g. IFC which may also be relevant to consider.
	+ Furthermore, additional information could be provided on the added value of UNDP engagement on livelihood for refugees and host communities in light of Pakistan´s current status as the third largest refugee-hosting nation in the world.
	+ Finally, it is suggested to reflect regional opportunities e.g., UNDP role in uniting youth across borders in the region.
 | *The comments are well noted. The country political, security, financial and economic risks have been outlined in Section III Programme and Risk Management.* *Under Outcomes 1 and 2, UNDP has outlined envisioned initiatives to promote Pakistan-Afghanistan cross-border development and socio-economic resilience activities for host and refugee communities (including women and youth groups) to promote regional stabilization, peace and prosperity.**International Financial Institutions have been included in the RRF under Outcomes 1 and 2, as suggested, with due consideration to creating synergies and avoiding overlap.*  |