**COMMENTS ON THE UNDP DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR EL SALVADOR (2022-2026)**

*First regular session 2022*

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| **Comments by the United States of America** | **CO comments** |
| * We would welcome more information on CPD’s focus on national-level efforts to address educational, health, and public service delivery, particularly how these efforts will reach local communities struggling to respond to public service needs, as well as UNDP’s national level partners, including local government actors e.g., alcaldes/mayors, etc. | We thank the Mission for the interest in learning more about our national efforts. UNDP focuses its development cooperation especially on strengthening the capacities of national and local institutions that provide services to the population.  UNDP is supporting: i. the strengthening of the multimodal educational offer, through better digitization and infrastructure, digital skills, and management systems; ii. The improvement of the offer of health services and medicines, through a national health system that integrates local communities, and which effectively uses digital tools; iii. The strengthening of capacities to design universal social protection programmes and achieve a higher-quality coverage of services, particularly water.  UNDP will continue to promote a strategy for effective national and local governance, strengthening the rule of law and accountability by promoting access to public information and the fight against corruption; increased citizen participation, particularly of youth and women, in electoral processes and the governance agenda. |
| * Under the productivity areas, generation of green jobs is part of the theory of change; however, it is unclear how or in what area(s) the CPD plans to achieve that. | We thank the Mission for the interest in learning more about this key area.  The proposed theory of change can be summarized in three fundamental elements: 1. Creating a favourable environment for the growth and generation of green economy through the generation of public policy proposals that facilitate the adoption of new technologies and innovation; 2. The development of pilot projects with sustainable practices that can be scalable; and 3. Supporting the development of a more ambitious agenda for adaptation to climate change in priority local areas.  In a formal and innovative economy, increasing productivity is the basis for achieving sustained economic growth. This priority is aligned with the UNDP Strategic Plan through the signature solutions: keeping people out of poverty and promoting nature-based solutions.  UNDP will continue to promote the transition to decent work, including the transition to a formal economy, the economic participation of women and especially the development of sustainable livelihoods. This will be done through the promotion of innovation and inclusive digital transformation, with special focus on the economic recovery of micro and small businesses (MSEs), the generation of green jobs, and the promotion of circular economy. |
| * As part of South-South cooperation, UNDP may also want to explore partnerships with Mexico, in particular AMEXCID and their work in El Salvador. | We thank the Mission for this comment. The Country office will consider the recommendation when implementing the Program, and will actively seek to foster alliances with countries in the region, including Mexico, to generate exchanges of good practices and promote learning. Today, the Country Office is supporting AMEXCID in hiring over 60 agricultural extensionists in El Salvador to the project *Sembrando Vida.* |
| * Jobs and employment interventions seem to primarily take place in the rural agricultural sector in the East. UNDP may want to consider expanded programming to reach other sectors with potential for growth and urban populations. | We thank the Mission for this comment. The Program foresees that UNDP will promote innovation and inclusive digital transformation, particularly for the economic recovery of micro and small businesses, given that approximately 70% of employed people work in this sector, most of them informal. |
| * UNDP’s objectives recognize and seek to address development challenges that contribute to migration; we would welcome more information on some specific UNDP strategies and actions to address this challenge. | We thank the Mission for this comment. UNDP recognizes that the causes of migration are multidimensional. Hence, it seeks to address those challenges that contribute to insecurity, the lack of decent and sustainable employment, as well as a social protection.  UNDP will promote the reintegration of migrants and social inclusion of risk youth, women, and girls in conditions of socioeconomic vulnerability. This priority is aligned with UNDP’s Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, through the signature solution: lifting people out of poverty and strengthening gender equality.  Considering the principle of leaving no one behind, UNDP will promote key alliances for the inclusion of this population in the various interventions that we develop. |

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