**COMMENTS ON THE UNDP DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR VENEZUELA (2023-2026)**

*First regular session 2023*

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| **Comments by Canada** | **UNDP response** |
| * Canada would like to thank UNDP for sharing its draft program document outlining UNDP assistance to Venezuela for 2023-2026
 | * This is noted with thanks.
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| * We appreciate the priority placed on strengthening Venezuela’s national statistical and geographic system to support evidence-based decision-making, as well as government programmes focused on poverty reduction, productive development, public services management, malaria control and health. The generation and sharing of reliable, gender-disaggregated data is critical for fostering data-driven decisions and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while protecting the rights of individuals and organisations. We would encourage UNDP to maintain (and augment) its efforts for the promotion of open data.
 | * Data spread and dissemination is a priority area of the CPD, as stated in Outputs 4.1 and 4.2 of the results framework. This will be linked to efforts on open government mentioned in Output 4.3.
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| * We appreciate UNDP’s support to national efforts promoting socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable economic development. We encourage UNDP collaboration with FAO in areas such as promoting production, responsible consumption, respect for the environment, and in addressing scientific and technological challenges of the productive sector; and with UNEP in promoting integrated disaster risk management by State institutions and communities.
 | * This is noted with thanks. This effort is present in the narrative and in the results framework; collaboration with FAO and UNEP will be pursued in the mentioned areas. Both agencies will be among those with which UNDP intends to continue to work more closely during the next programmatic cycle.
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| * We encourage UNDP to collaborate and coordinate with the Ministry of Health, PAHO, WHO and UNAIDs in its work to improve the capacity of the national health system to attend to populations that are the most in need; and in its work as the principal recipient of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, to improve the response to the resurgence of malaria.
 | * This is noted with thanks. This effort is present in the narrative and the results framework; collaboration with PAHO-WHO and UNAIDS will be pursued in the mentioned areas. Both agencies will certainly be among those with which UNDP intends to continue to work more closely during the next programmatic cycle.
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| **Comments by Finland** |  |
| * The results framework seems a bit unbalanced in e.g. estimated costs for Output 1 are quite high compared to all the other outputs.
 | * The comment is well noted and appreciated. The Framework is based on the most current and realistic estimates of resource mobilization, which will be adjusted during the implementation period of the CPD as circumstances, needs, and availability of resources evolve.
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| * Output 4.1. focuses on strengthening statistical systems and data disaggregation, yet it does not list UNFPA or any other UN Agency that works on statistics as a partner. We would strongly encourage collaboration with other UN Agencies, who work on strengthening statistical systems and data disaggregation
 | * The comment is well noted and appreciated. During the implementation, collaboration with other UN Agencies, Funds and Programme, including UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Statistics Division will be promoted.
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| * Finland would encourage UNDP to consider how it could integrate persons with disabilities/disability inclusion in this CPD as it is currently lacking in the programme.
 | * Although not explicitly mentioned, people with disabilities and their inclusion will be a main target group of the intervention in line with the equity and human rights approach fostered by the CPD and in alignment with the global policies such as the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy and the recently launched UNDP Disability Inclusion Network.
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| **Comments by the United Kingdom**  |  |
| * Data used in the initial programme rationale is insufficient, selective and outdated. In particular, it fails to reflect the wider humanitarian crisis under which the programme would be delivered. In addition, it only mentions positive GDP growth in 2022 but does not refer to the erosion of nearly 80% of GDP from previous years. It is unlikely that this year’s GDP growth rate will be sustained. No mention of domestic drivers affecting macro-economic performance; it only stresses “external restrictions” (UNDP).
* Proposed work includes improving State capacity to generate evidence and data, in partnership with ministries and other Government agencies such as the National Statistics Institute (INE) and the National Nutrition Institute. However, efforts should include increasing transparency and access to reliable data in order to support improved diagnostics and evidence-based policy-making.
 | * The CPD for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in line with the QCPR and UNDS reform requirements, is aligned with and derived from the UN Sustainable Development Framework signed in September 2022. The description of the current situation in Venezuela is also aligned with and derived from the UNSDCF.
* Data spread and dissemination is a priority area of the CPD, as stated in Outputs 4.1 and 4.2 of the results framework. This will be linked to efforts on open government mentioned in Output 4.3. This will, in turn, help to promote good governance at the national and local levels, which, as mentioned in paragraph 12, will contribute to improving the development of sectoral plans, and the design, implementation and evaluation of public policies.
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| **Comments by the European Union** |  |
| * The CPD takes into account the three strategic priorities the particular challenges of the country in terms of social cohesion, access to basic service and governance
 | * UNDP thanks the EU for the comment.
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| * Principle of Leaving no one behind is well developed as a cross cutting issue all through the strategic development and cooperation framework results, however in the case of gender and people with disabilities both could be targeted more clearly and through better identified expected source of data.
 | * The comment is well received and will be taken into account during the implementation of the CPD.
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| * The sectors of intervention are aligned with the sectors on which the EUD is working through the regional MIP and the CSO thematic line (access to basic services)
 | * UNDP thanks the EU for the comment.
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