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

*First regular session 2023*

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| **Comments by Australia** | **Country Office response** |
| * Appreciate that UNDP Nepal consulted with Development Partners on the development of the five-year country strategy. The draft strategy was presented to donors in mid-November, which was relatively well received. Overall, the country strategy responds to the core challenges and Government of Nepal priorities on issues such as federalism roll-out, governance, economic recovery, climate change/DRR and GEDSI.
 | * The comment is well noted, with appreciation.
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| * The results expected to be achieved over the five-year period appear realistic. Australia welcomes the clear articulation of results.
 | * The comment is well noted, with appreciation.
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| * The country strategy, however, could have a clearer focus on how best UNDP can support Nepal’s graduation from the LDC status, which is scheduled for November 2026.
 | * UNDP takes note of the comments. UNDP will continue to support Nepal’s LDC graduation process, as per requests of the Government of Nepal. At the time of writing, Nepal’s LDC Smooth Graduation Strategy is being developed, under the leadership of the National Planning Commission and with support from UNDP. Once finalized, the Strategy will provide further clarity on the support required by the Government of Nepal from the UN system and other development partners, including through mutual learning and sharing of experience with other LDC graduation countries, such as Bangladesh and Lao PDR in Asia.
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| * UNDP activities at times overlap with the mandate of other UN agencies (eg. WFP) in areas like food security and Disaster Risk Reduction. The country strategy should more clearly outline areas of complementarity with other agencies.
 | * UNDP takes note of the comment. Through the new Country Programme, UNDP will continue to collaborate closely with the Government of Nepal (federal, provincial, and local), as well as with UN agencies, development partners, and other actors supporting Nepal’s efforts for enhanced disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and response. The CPD is fully aligned with the UNSDCF, and directly contributes to three of its four outcomes. UNDP’s planned contributions have been designed to leverage complementarities and synergies with other UN agencies. Further, as an active member of the Humanitarian Country Team, leading early recovery efforts jointly with the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, UNDP collaborates closely with UN agencies, including IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, and WFP for implementation of various initiatives related to capacity development, policy framework, data, early recovery, and livelihoods support, among other areas. Active participation in provincial UN coordination mechanisms also contributes to enhancing synergies and avoiding duplication of efforts. For example, in the area of local infrastructure development in Karnali, UNDP supports the local governance capacity to manage infrastructure while WFP works on small-scale infrastructure building.
* Regarding food security as an area of possible overlap, agriculture has a sizeable share in Nepal's economy, and is of particular importance for women's livelihoods, value chains, and adaptation of rural communities. Therefore, UNDP’s work contributes to sustainable and inclusive economic transformation thereby contributing also to Nepal's overall objectives of food security.
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