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

*Second regular session 2022*

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| **Comments by Spain** | **UNDP response** |
| UNDP continues to play a role in accompanying, implementing, improving the efficiency and impact of programs aimed at improving human development levels in Egypt. Egypt has been one of the first countries in the region to endorse the 2030 Agenda and to produce voluntary monitoring reports. Vision 2030 is aligned with the proposed systemic transformation proposed by the SDGs at the global level. For the materialization of this vision, the government has approved a package of strategies with a roadmap in which sustainability, prosperity and equality are important.  We believe it is important to recognize the efforts of the Egyptian government in the last decade and it is true that UNDP has played the role of accompaniment, transfer of best practices, knowledge and innovation, and also mobilized experts to collaborate with Egyptian institutions. | Agreed. Vision 2030 and its alignment with SDGs is recognized in paragraph 4.  This is recognized in paragraph 1, specifically the monetary and fiscal reforms launched in 2016.  UNDP role as evaluated in the Independent Country Programme Evaluation is mentioned in paragraph 7 |
| In relation to the proposed UNDP Country Program for the period 2023-2027, we would highlight for discussion: |  |
| * It shows firm will to accompany Egyptian institutions in their struggle for gender equality, mainstreaming an equality approach in the four results of the Country Program and setting the commitment to devote at least 50% to activities that contribute directly to the achievement of gender equality results (See page 3 of the document "...(ensuring that at least 50 per cent of programme expenditure contributes directly to gender equality results, as measured by the UNDP gender marker)". However, the Country Program shows a disparity in the percentage of women and men in the targets of key indicators to ensure women's socio-economic inclusion as well as in the creation of policy frameworks.   In terms of financial inclusion, the number and value of women's access to credit schemes is lower, 25% of total disbursements. Disparity is also repeated in the framework of the country program outputs.  It would be important to maintain the commitment to the execution of expenditure in terms of equality between women and men in all the indicators of the document. | There is a difference between (ensuring 50 per cent of programme expenditure contributes directly to gender equality results) and (the percentage of women benefiting from various activities as measured by the key indicators – 2.2.1 Entrepreneurship support, 2.1.3 loans, 2.3.1 digital skills, 2.3.2 career guidance). Increasing the number of women benefiting from the programs requires more advocacy and additional activities (and expenditure) than those needed to engage men. This might include additional awareness raising campaigns, additional capacity building programs, developing tailored products / applications for women.  For example, the 25% of women's access to credit schemes, doesn’t mean that only 25% of the overall project expenditure (of which credit scheme is only one element) is spent on women. On the contrary, the expenditure required to achieve a 7% increase (baseline to target) might exceed the 50% of the project overall expenditure due to the need to implement the required additional activities to increase awareness and access.  The value of women's access to credit schemes is not mentioned as a target indicator, what is mentioned is the total value of loans for both men and women.  However, UNDP has consulted with partners and agreed to increase the target for proportion of MSME loans toward women. UNDP will strive for parity though. |
| * Regarding the strengthening of multi-stakeholder partnerships at the national level. Given the crucial role played by civil society in the implementation of development programs, particularly in remote and rural areas, we would recommend including indicators on the number of organizations participating in the implementation of programs, in order to know their contribution to the sustainable development of the country. | The engagement of civil society is envisioned in several pillars of programmes e.g. under social protection and inclusion, support to the health sector (paragraph 22) and environment (paragraph 35) and in support of the MSME sector (output 2.1 in Results and Resources Framework).  UNDP has consulted programme teams and to convey civil society engagement more explicitly, UNDP has broadened indicator 4.3.2 and increased its target to read:  **Indicator 4.3.2**: Number of NGOs involved in programme execution and trained in financial management/planning, development solutions  Baseline: 0; Target: 50 |

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