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

*First regular session 2022*

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| **Comments by the United States of America** | **CO comments** |
| * We welcome the four focus areas of the CPD - 1) strengthening the rule of law, 2) efficient and effective public administration, 3) sustainable and resilient development path, and 4) violence and conflict.
 | * The Country Office expresses its appreciation to the delegation of the United States for the comments.
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| * We would appreciate greater attention to economic development issues. For example, we would welcome more information and greater clarity on strategies that will address workforce development, employment, and business development in the agricultural value chains and livelihoods for communities in ecological significant areas, as well as support for public policies and institutional capacity building to reduce poverty. In addition, we would welcome more information on how UNDP plans to work with sister UN agencies on education strategies to address the ongoing challenges related to enrolment and retention, especially in light of COVID-19.
 | •UNDP will work following a multidimensional approach in key development pillars that have direct impact on employment generation, on support and creation of businesses and on the development and sustainability of value chains, while improving the capacities of human capital, ultimately impacting on poverty reduction. The Human Development Report prepared through an ample consultation process, with representation of Civil Society Organizations, academia, and a diverse group of actors - including youth and vulnerable populations - is one of our key strategies not only to gather data on indicators nationwide, but also to promote active listening of local based needs that can be addressed with public policies. •Regarding workforce development, employment, and business development in the agricultural value chains and livelihoods for communities in ecological significant areas: UNDP is working in the dry corridor and in 2022 will expand to the Atlantic coast, to increase technical capacities of producers and promote high-traded commodities to green sustainable commodities, specifically in the value chains (coffee, cocoa, cattle ranching, grain production, palm oil), promoting adoption of best practices to improve productivity and commercial value, establishing protection and conservation agreements with producers -owners, facilitating access to financial products and resources, and market access through certification schemes. The support of UNDP to value chains will directly impact the technical and financial capacities of producers and thus improve their livelihoods, securing jobs in rural areas with greater participation of women in economic development. In addition, UNDP is promoting digital transformation and access to e-commerce of SMEs, particularly led by women and youth to promote entrepreneurship, business development and jobs at national level. Under this pillar UNDP will continue working, but also to tackle insecurity and conflict, in strengthening capacities and personal abilities targeted to develop skills and knowledges for conflict prevention, business developing and critical thinking (more in the lines of continue education and technical education following UNDP´s mandate) in youth and prioritized population. Here, UNDP will explore opportunities with UNICEF, UNESCO, UNCHR and FAO. •Regarding Policies and institutional capacity building to reduce poverty: UNDP has fostered various lines of support to the government in these areas. The CO has supported the implementation of a differentiated approach to cash transfers through a digital voucher aimed to independent workers, strengthening the beneficiaries’ selection process, and increasing institutional capacities to establish the structure needed to carry out the first digital cash transfer involving a commercial bank and the local communication companies, alongside social oversight, in the context of COVID-19. In addition, UNDP provides technical support to the government to strengthen institutional capacities and, together with government authorities and proper instruments, supports policy making. For instance, considering the hurricanes Eta and Iota, UNDP is supporting the current Housing authority to review with financial institutions the implementation of a sustainable housing project aimed at proving 30,000 households in response to impacts of tropical storms and integrating risk management to improve social resilience to the most vulnerable in Honduras. Also the CO is defining the scope to support the government with the revision of the National Policy of Housing and regulations. In addition, the CO is providing technical assistance to develop the Recovery and Sustainable Development Plan based on risk management and climate change and social resilience, is supporting development of national capacities in early recovery processes and transition to sustainable development and resilience. UNDP provided the institutional support to the national authority to review the National Law of the Risk Management National System. Additionally, following a multidimensional approach, to strengthen capacities to impact in the reduction of poverty, UNDP will work to develop capacities in local/national institutions and to increase coordination between different levels and stakeholders. This includes by improving management and implementation, by using evidence for decision making and disseminating relevant data to build collective knowledge and finding collective solutions and by promoting more transparent and digital mechanisms/platforms, open to society or for internal data/budget management and by improving regulatory frameworks. UNDP will work with the National Congress aiming to strengthen its institutional capacity and will follow relevant legislative process. |

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