**Comment for**

**Draft country programme document for Armenia (2016-2020)**

Comment from Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany

"Armenia receives an important amount of support by international donors. Intensified donor coordination is vital to prevent duplication of projects and to guarantee the maximum use of provided resources. UNDP has undertaken substantial efforts to establish a systemized donor coordination approach. As one of the largest bilateral donors to Armenia, Germany supports this initiative.

We would appreciate further streamlining of the coordination initiative as well as the establishment of communication channels: First of all among the different working groups, and secondly vis-à-vis the high level steering group. It should also be ensured that all the sectors that receive international support are covered by the donor coordination."

UNDP notes the comment from Germany, and welcomes Germany’s support for strengthened development partner coordination in Armenia.

Over the last two years the United Nations has re-activated coordination of development assistance in Armenia. The UN has set up a high-level steering group which includes all key development partners, including international financing institutions. Together with these development partners UN has updated both the content and membership of sectoral working groups to reflect the priority areas of development in Armenia. These groups include – democratic governance, social services, migration and cross-border cooperation, economic development, environmental sustainability, infrastructure, local development, disaster preparedness, and gender. The UN has also made progress in mapping development assistance by sector, and by development partner.  The UN has also secured highest-level Government support for this process, and for the first time in Armenia, the steering group is now co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister. It is envisaged that – in line with Paris Principles – major responsibility for development partner coordination will steadily shift to the Government. Strengthening of the coordination system remains a work in progress, and the UN welcomes any support and suggestions from its partners on improving it further.