**COMMENTS ON THE UNDP DRAFT MULTI-COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (2023-2027)**

*First regular session 2023*

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| **Comments by the delegation of the European Union to the Pacific** | **Multi-country Office response** |
| General alignment with the EU Gender Action Plan III – reference is made to the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women | The assessment is noted with appreciation. The Multi-Country Programme Document (MCPD) is directly derived from the Pacific United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and thus aligned with the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, which is itself aligned with the EU Gender Action Plan III. The LNOB, human rights and gender equality principles are mainstreamed throughout the UNSDCF and the MCPD, from vision and theory of change to outcomes and indicators. |
| General alignment with the 2020-24 Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy | The assessment is noted with appreciation. The Multi-country Programme is strongly rooted in a human right based approach which underpins all three outcome areas, as highlighted for instance in paragraphs 19, 25 and 31. and UNDP interventions, and as such consonant with the 2022-24 Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy.  |
| Alignment with the Democracy and Digitalisation Handbook | The assessment is noted with appreciation. UNDP recognizes the importance of democracy and digitalisation in the Pacific, in line with the UNDP Strategic Plan, and appreciates the support of the EU to these priorities.  |
| Broader consistency with the EU Strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific | The assessment is noted with appreciation. UNDP looks forward to continued collaboration with the EU to optimize impact on the ground.  |
| The Cooperation Framework outcome areas (‘Prosperity’, ‘Planet’, and ‘Peace’) are consistent with the priorities of the Delegation’ s Multi-Annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027: 1) Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability; 2) Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Development; and 3) Fundamental Values, Human Development, Peace and Security | Thank you for confirming that the UNSDCF’s and thus MCPD’s three outcome areas are consistent with the priorities of EU Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (2021-2027). UNDP looks forward to working with the EU Delegation to deliver on the identified priorities over the course of the next five years.  |
| In light of the ‘leaving no one behind’ approach, the mentioned ‘special effort to target remote outer islands in the Pacific’ should be further elaborated  | The UNSDCF and the MCPD aim to ensure that those left behind are targeted deliberately. The suggestion to further elaborate the leave no one behind approach and its application to remote outer islands in the Pacific is duly noted. In this context, the MCPD discusses in para 4, 18 and 49 different aspects of geographical isolations and their implication to vulnerability. UNDP is committed to deliver interventions aimed at the reaching the most vulnerable population irrespective of their geographical location and those living in remote outer islands in locations, including through mobile teams and partnerships with local civil society and others. |
| Given the region’s peculiarity, greater emphasis should be given to rule of law-focused efforts | Thank you for these comments. Paragraph 32 is revised as follows:“to strengthen *capacities of individuals, institutions and systems for rule of law,* *accountability and transparency”* in the use of public funds, including climate financing and other resources raised in the blue-economy sector.”  |