**DRAFT CPD GUATEMALA: COMMENTS BY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS – October 2014**

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| **Comments sent by Norway**  | **Response**  |
| The CPD draft has been formulated in close coordination with the Guatemalan government, in particular the President’s Planning and Programming Secretariat (SEGEPLAN) and the National Council on Urban and Rural Development. The proposed country programme has been developed in compliance with the national development plan (”Plan Nacional de Desarrollo K´atun: Nuestra Guatemala 2032”), the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the UNDP strategic plan 2014-2017. The first part of the document (paragraphs 1-11) includes a well-described Programme Rationale, which emphasises that Guatemala is a social and culturally diverse country and that the major challenges left by the internal armed conflict persist. Poverty and crime are identified as prime challenges, as well as the strengthening of a democratic legal and institutional framework, including the necessity to reform law on elections and political parties. Three defined and relevant priorities – inclusive and sustainable development, rule of law and peace, and active, inclusive citizenship – are in line with the country’s main challenges. UNDP should be commended for a more strategic and concentrated approach in selecting priorities and activities, as well as for its intentions to coordinate better with other UN agencies. As for improvements to the programme priorities and partnerships, Norway has the following recommendations:* The CPD includes some specific activities to strengthen women’s participation and rights. However, it is not evident that priority on women’s participation is put on all activities and at all levels. This should be a cross cutting priority of the program.
* A human rights-based approach has been applied to the second priority, *Rule of Law and peace*. A human rights-based approach should also be applied to the other two priorities of the programme.
* The CPD states that the main barrier to effective exercise of human rights continues to be the involvement of the indigenous population. The programme should better address efforts to prevent and combat discrimination and racism.
* As mentioned in the programme rationale, Guatemala faces challenges in terms of weak institutions, including weaknesses in the justice system. Effective risk management is thus essential and should be an even more integrated and operationalised component of the programme. This is particularly important as the country recently is experiencing increased problems with corruption and lack of transparency.
* As political pacts and action plans historically have proven to be short-lived in Guatemala, the programme must carefully address the implications of the elections in 2015 and 2019.
* Several UN organisations and others partners are mentioned in the document. However, the CPU could better describe how this cooperation and coordination will be carried out.
* In order to monitor the results of the programme, Norway would like to stress the importance of verifying and developing appropriate indicators. Weak public statistics in Guatemala may represent a risk to the indicators and baselines included in the result framework.
 | The Country Office thank the Mission of Norway for the valuable comments provided to the Draft CPD 2015-2029.Kindly find below the actions taken by the office for each comment. Comment No.1:***“The CPD includes some specific activities to strengthen women’s participation and rights. However, it is not evident that priority on women’s participation is put on all activities and at all levels. This should be a cross cutting priority of the program”.***UNDP response: Additional wording has been included in paragraph 12: “The Programme will apply the human rights-based approach and will promote women participation along its implementation”.Comment No.2:***“A human rights-based approach has been applied to the second priority, Rule of Law and peace. A human rights-based approach should also be applied to the other two priorities of the programme”.***UNDP response: Additional wording has been included in paragraph 12: “The Programme will apply the human rights-based approach and will promote women participation along its implementation”.Comment No.3: ***“The CPD states that the main barrier to effective exercise of human rights continues to be the involvement of the indigenous population. The programme should better address efforts to prevent and combat discrimination and racism”.***UNDP response: Paragraph 24 highlights barriers to social inclusion. We have included now “discrimination and racism” as part of these barriers. In paragraphs 25, 26 and 27 the CPD outlines the strategy to address efforts to improve social participation of indigenous people, women and youth in decision making; promote conflict prevention; and strengthen democratic governance. Comment No.4: ***“As mentioned in the programme rationale, Guatemala faces challenges in terms of weak institutions, including weaknesses in the justice system. Effective risk management is thus essential and should be an even more integrated and operationalised component of the programme. This is particularly important as the country recently is experiencing increased problems with corruption and lack of transparency”.***UNDP response: In paragraph 32, the CPD considers the preparation of small-scale capacity analysis and assessments of implementation partners, to ensure efficient and transparent programme management as well as to identify areas of capacity development. Additionally, the programme will fully comply with the Harmonized Cash Transfer Approach (HACT) which will be the default approach. Comment No.5: ***“As political pacts and action plans historically have proven to be short-lived in Guatemala, the programme must carefully address the implications of the elections in 2015 and 2019”.***UNDP response: In paragraph 29, the draft CPD states that UNDP will support institutional capacity development; partnership building with key partners and stakeholders; and arrange exit strategies to ensure sustainability of results. In addition, the CPD considers in paragraph 36 the election processes to be conducted during 2015 and 2019, highlighting that the programme will ensure the continuity of the country programme, and that UNDP will facilitate the transition process between government and elected authorities.Comment No.6: ***“Several UN organisations and others partners are mentioned in the document.  However, the CPU could better describe how this cooperation and coordination will be carried out”.***UNDP response: In paragraph 32, the CPD considers the formulation and implementation of Joint Programing with other UN agencies, as part of the commitment and responsibility of UNDP to comply with the UNDAF implementation. Annual work plans and CPAP (Country Programme Action Plan) will include additional detailed information, as the CPD has limitations in terms of number of words. Comment No.7: ***“In order to monitor the results of the programme, Norway would like to stress the importance of verifying and developing appropriate indicators. Weak public statistics in Guatemala may represent a risk to the indicators and baselines included in the result framework”.***  UNDP response: In paragraph 39, the CPD states that the programme will support the Government on information analysis, and information systems for public policies, as well as in the participatory follow-up to the MDGs and Post 2015 Global Development Agenda. These actions include strategic support to the National Institute of Statistics (INE) to improve public national statistics systems.    |