**COMMENTS ON THE UNDP DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR CHINA (2021-2025)**

*First regular session 2021*

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| Comments by Australia | UNDP Response |
| **Pillar 3 (China as a partner for global development and South-South cooperation)*** Consistent with Australia’s comments on a previous Country Program Document (CPD) draft, Australia notes that CPDs are usually primarily confined to activities in the partner country, rather than activities in third party countries. CPDs are also factual documents, and avoid promoting or endorsing specific programs or signature foreign policy initiatives of any country, donor or recipient. In supporting progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Australia values UNDP’s role in promoting best practice in development assistance. The CPD would be improved through a greater focus on UNDP’s work with China to deliver development cooperation that adheres to international standards, is transparent, meets genuine needs and is financially sustainable, rather than the CPD’s current emphasis on UNDP’s role in facilitating China’s development cooperation in other countries. We recommend the CPD results and resources framework also outline how UNDP will measure progress, such as through indicators which assess effectiveness and quality of activities in line with international standards.
 | * Pillar 3 of the CPD has been revised.
* UNDP’s priority is advancing sustainable development, with global progress on the SDGs and global development agendas such as the Paris Agreement. This entails the application of international best practices and standards, promoting environmental, social and governance principles, and ensuring that international financing put forward by China is geared towards these objectives.
* UNDP’s role in promoting and upholding these principles and best practices has been clarified and strengthened in paragraphs 35-36.
* UNDP will work with relevant Chinese institutions in China to inform the application of such international best practices and principles, in their development cooperation engagement and financing.
* UNDP China will not work on projects in other countries. Any programmatic intervention that leads to cooperation with another programme country at their request will be operationalised by the UNDP office in the given programme country, with the consent of the programme country government.
* On South-South cooperation, UNDP’s role will be to inform policy and practices of the relevant Chinese partner institutions in line with global best practices, to enhance results in their development cooperation.
* Indicators in the RRF imply that cooperation with UNDP will generate positive changes in line with international development frameworks. The reference to leave no-one behind has been strengthened.
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| **Safeguards*** Australia recommends the CPD include additional detail on how UNDP will manage potential risks and apply safeguards, including for the growing set of CPD activities involving the private sector, and for activities in emerging areas like digitalization, data governance, ‘Big Data’, Artificial Intelligence and other emerging technologies. Australia recommends all UN CPDs emphasise the importance of protecting human rights, especially vulnerable groups such as ethnic minorities, and outline how UNDP will apply human rights safeguards in line with UNDP’s Social and Environment Standards.
* Pillar 1 in the CPD is titled “High-quality and people-centred development” - Australia’s position is that people-centred approaches are only truly people-centred if the human rights of individuals are explicitly protected, respected and fulfilled. We recommend the people centred development reference be clarified in line with the UN Charter
 | * The focus of the CPD is to take advantage of technology as a tool for development, to deal with existential development challenges such as climate change. UNDP is cognizant of the risks and is careful in ensuring technology does not contribute to or exacerbate vulnerabilities.
* Integrating human rights and a human rights-based approach is a core UN programming principle that is integral to the standards of programming and quality assurance for UNDP. The mandatory safeguard measure -- Social and Environmental Screening Procedure -- which includes right based mechanisms to protect the rights and interests of partner constituencies and communities, will be applied in the implementation of all UNDP projects.
* UNDP in China also prioritizes vulnerable groups. In the revised CPD text, the wording in paragraph 10 (Leaving no Behind) has been strengthened to indicate that the country programme focuses on all vulnerable populations in underdeveloped areas as a priority group, many of whom are concentrated in China’s Western regions including ethnic minorities.
* In Paragraph 13, the comparative advantage of UNDP working directly at community level with the most vulnerable is also emphasized.
* References to the values and principles enshrined in the UN Charter and transparency and accountability have been added in paragraph 14.
* These values, principles and programming approaches, as referenced in paras 10,13,14 and also further elaborated above, provide the normative foundation and underlying concepts of UNDP’s engagement across the 3 pillars of the CPD including pillar 1. The heading of pillar 1 has been edited to read ‘centred on people’, to better capture the intended focus.
* In response to the comments, references to ‘Big Data’, Artificial Intelligence etc. has been deleted (paras 23c, 27), to clarify the focus on the approach to technology for development.
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| **Engagement with Member States*** UNDP plays an important coordination role for development partners across the world. This helps improve policy and program effectiveness and efficiency. Australia recommends the CPD outline UNDP’s mechanisms for strengthening consultation and coordination with all development partners in China and in third countries, to enhance transparency and effectiveness of activities.
 | * In addition to project-specific engagement, complementary to the UNSDCF mechanisms, UNDP intends to enhance consultation mechanisms for the CPD, for example by inviting development partners to its annual review meetings, in consultation with the host government, and explore other possibilities through existing formal and informal consultation platforms in Beijing, as well as through joint field monitoring visits for enhanced information exchanges.
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| **Resourcing** * The CPD should provide a more detailed breakdown on “other” resources used to fund CPD activities, including detail of funding partners and areas of activity.
 | * The resource envelope for the CPD overall is indicative based on the Results and Resources Framework (RRF). The regular resources tentatively allocated for the programme period amount to $0.75 M ($150K per year).
* The other resources envelope is contingent on the mobilisation of resources for specific activities, based on the Results and Resources Framework (RRF). The main non-core funding sources are expected to come from vertical funds (approx. $141.7M), complemented by financing contributed by the Government of China (approx. $25.9M) at both central and local level and other sources as may become available, e.g. some private sector/ foundation funding (possibly ca. $36M).
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| **Graduation** * Australia recommends the CPD include a discussion on how UNDP’s role will adapt as China graduates from ODA eligibility in the future.
 | * The presence of UNDP in countries is governed by the EB decision on UMIC and NCC status. China has recently advanced to UMIC status. Graduation to NCC status will be discussed when China reaches the NCC classification thresholds in line with EB rules and based on the applicable transition periods.
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| **Other*** The CPD should make clear distinction when making reference to Chinese Government policies as opposed to UNDP policies and positions.
* Paragraph 34 in the CPD: Australia recommends the CPD confirm that definitions of poverty used in the CPD align with UN definitions of what constitutes poverty (and escape from poverty).
* Paragraph 34 in the CPD: Australia recommends the CPD either further define the concept of “…global public good…” or remove reference to this concept.
* Recommend clarification of ‘green’ development/innovation (paragraph 2, 18, 32) and ‘innovation-driven development’ (paragraph 22) or remove reference to these terms.
 | * The CPDs are aligned with the national development priorities of the programme country. UNDP does not endorse language that does not align with the core UN principles. In response to comments, the CPD has been edited to clarify references to nomenclature that pertains to Chinese policy documents, with the use of quotation marks and footnotes where appropriate.
* In Para 34 “ global public good” was revised to “global common issues”.
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| **Comments by Canada** | UNDP Response |
| Canada shares member state concerns over the transparency and adequacy of consultations for the development of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for China. Recognising that these are still early days for this new way of working, we wish to highlight the importance of the preparatory process and sequencing of the UNSDCF and CPD in helping to avoid the issues now being raised in connection with the CPD. As with the Framework, we seek assurances that all relevant stakeholders and donors will be fully and transparently consulted during the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the CPD. | * In addition to project-specific engagement, complementary to the UNSDCF mechanisms, UNDP intends to enhance consultation mechanisms for the CPD, for example by inviting development partners to its annual review meetings, in consultation with the host government, and explore other possibilities through existing formal and informal consultation platforms in Beijing, as well as through joint field monitoring visits for enhanced information exchanges, for example.
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| “Leaving no one behind” and a “human-rights based approach” are among the guiding principles for the preparation of UNSDCFs and CPDs. We find clear reference to the latter to be lacking in this document. We note that the list of “groups most at risk of being left behind” does not include ethnic and religious minorities and would seek clarification on how UNDP under this country program will protect core UN principles of human rights, in particular for these minorities.  | * Integrating human rights and a human rights-based approach is a core UN programming principle that is integral to the standards of programming and quality assurance for UNDP. The mandatory safeguard measures -- Social and Environmental Screening Procedure -- which includes right based mechanisms to protect the rights and interests of partner constituencies and communities will be applied in the implementation of all UNDP projects.
* UNDP in China prioritizes vulnerable groups. In the revised CPD text, the wording in paragraph 10 (Leave no one behind) has been strengthened to indicate all vulnerable populations in underdeveloped areas as a priority group, many of whom are concentrated in China’s Western regions including ethnic minorities. In Paragraph 13, the comparative advantage of UNDP working directly at community level with the most vulnerable is also emphasized.
* Furthermore, a reference to the values and principles enshrined in the UN Charter and transparency and accountability has been added in paragraph 14 as the guiding framework.
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| Though the CPDs are intended to align with and support national development plans and priorities, UN and member states need to ensure that the language used in these documents supports core UN principles, and does not undermine a rules-based international system that upholds human rights and democratic governance. We see some seemingly benign language in this document that could be interpreted as undermining these core principles and way of working. | * UNDP does not endorse language that does not align with the core UN principles. In response to comments, the CPD has been edited to clarify references to nomenclature that pertains to Chinese policy documents, with the use of quotation marks and footnotes where appropriate.
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| The CPD should be focused on the work of the organisation in China and not a partnership with China, leveraging South-South Cooperation, in other countries. We appreciate that changes have been made in this second draft of the CPD, however, it remains unclear if such support is required or appropriate. UNDP has a role to play in promoting best practice in development assistance, including by ensuring that the assistance provided by other countries like China, adheres to international standards of, inter alia, human rights, labour, transparency, environmental protection and debt sustainability, and with clear reference to relevant the SDGs, including SDG 16, that we would have expected to see reflected in this section.  | * UNDP’s priority is advancing sustainable development, and global progress on the SDGs and global development agendas such as the Paris Agreement. This entails the application of international best practices and standards, promoting Environmental, Social and Governance principles, Transparency and Accountability and ensuring that international financing put forward by China is geared towards these objectives. UNDP’s role in promoting and upholding these principles and standards in its partnership with relevant Chinese institutions related to their overseas development cooperation has been clarified and strengthened in paragraphs 35-36.
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| Given that China has aspirations of supporting international development cooperation, we would seek clarification on when China is expected to graduate from UNDP support. If this is not in the near future, the question could be reasonably asked why China is supporting other developing countries globally while receiving UN support.  | * Other UNDP programme countries that provide assistance to other developing countries under South-South cooperation receive UNDP support to strengthen their aid architecture and mechanisms. UNDP is a policy partner in these countries, helping them enhance the quality of the assistance they provide, in line with UN agendas, values and principles.
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| Noting the discussion on environment and the Pillar on a healthier planet and resilient environment, we would have expected to see reference to China’s ongoing reliance on coal and its investment in coal power overseas as a challenge to its green transition.  | * UNDP has a long history of engaging with China on environmental and climate change agendas. UNDP works with China on lowering carbon footprints and intensity as well as on natural resource management, both at policy and programmatic levels, which includes the need to shift from the reliance on coal power. The CPD as an overarching document does not go into details, but this is a high priority, which is also acknowledged by the government.
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| **Comments by the European Union** | UNDP Response |
| **Development challenges**. The CPD defines China as the “biggest developing country in the world” (para 5). While acknowledging China’s rapid development and its current status as the world’s second largest economy, the document does not address the country’s path towards graduating from UN assistance nor a potential timeline. It would be useful to reflect this important issue in the CPD. | * UNDP’s presence in countries is governed by the EB decision on UMIC and NCC status. China has recently advanced to UMIC status. Graduation to NCC status will be discussed when China reaches the NCC classification thresholds in line with EB rules and based on applicable transition periods.
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| **Vulnerable groups**. Despite the range of vulnerable groups identified under Pillar 1, we deeply regret that the document makes no reference to ethnic and religious minorities among the “groups most at risk” (para 10). The CPD envisions interventions including advocacy, awareness-raising and community-based pilots to support an enabling environment for vulnerable groups. We would see important to elaborate further on the proposed approaches and partners which would allow vulnerable groups to benefit from the country’s sustainable development. | * Integrating human rights and a human rights-based approach is a core UN programming principle that is integral to the standards of programming and quality assurance for UNDP. The mandatory safeguard measures -- Social and Environmental Screening Procedure -- which includes right based mechanisms to protect the rights and interests of partner constituencies and communities will be applied in the implementation of all UNDP projects. UNDP in China also prioritizes vulnerable groups.
* In response to the comments, in the revised CPD text, the wording in paragraph 10 (Leave no one behind) has been strengthened to indicate all vulnerable populations in underdeveloped areas as a priority group, many of whom are concentrated in China’s Western regions including ethnic minorities.
* In Paragraph 13, the comparative advantage of UNDP working directly at community level with the most vulnerable is also emphasized.
* UNDP works with a range of partners in China, including NGOs and the private sector, and will continue to do so.
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| * **China as a partner for global development**. Pillar 3 does not sufficiently address China’s growing impact on global development and the importance of working with China to raise its environmental, fiscal and social sustainability standards for the benefit of partner countries and to achieve global public goods.

UNDP is uniquely placed in the international system to be able to engage on these issues with China and other developing countries in a non-politicised way. It would be useful to emphasise this more specifically and to explore the specific added value of UNDP to other international engagement.  | * UNDP’s priority is advancing sustainable development, and global progress on the SDGs and global development agendas such as the Paris Agreement. This entails the application of international best practices and standards, promoting Environmental, Social and Governance principles, and ensuring that international financing put forward by China is geared towards these objectives.
* In response to the comments UNDP’s role in promoting and upholding these principles and standards in its partnership with the relevant Chinese institutions on their overseas development cooperation has been clarified and strengthened in paragraphs 35-36, including addition of Environmental, Social and Governance and Transparency and Accountability principles.
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| * **Digitalization**. We would question the need for UNDP’s support to China in digitalization given the country’s global leadership in this area. The CPD touches on the potential benefits of digitalization to support sustainable development (para 22) but does not address concerns around data privacy and the need to ensure a sound regulatory framework which can provide adequate protection of fundamental rights and freedoms. Furthermore, it is unclear what the UNDP’s added value would specifically be in this area.
 | * The CPD mentions digitalization in the context of UNDP taking advantage of technology as a potential tool for development, to deal with existential development challenges such as climate change. UNDP is cognizant of the risks and is careful in ensuring technology does not contribute to or exacerbate vulnerabilities. The UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure provides guidance for due diligence in this regard.
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| * **Results and resources framework**. We would suggest that the CPD includes an overview of resource allocation by pillar. This would help better assess the appropriateness and balance in the proposed use of resources vis-a-vis the range of priorities covered by the programme.
 | * The resources envelope for the CPD is indicative. The breakdown of regular and other resources by pillar is provided in the RRF, with the smallest allocation in pillar 3.
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| **Comments by France** | UNDP Response |
| * **Human rights**

We are surprised by the lack of reference to the human-rights based approach to sustainable development in UNDP’s CPD for China. There is for instance no mention of “human rights”, or “freedom” in the document. We encourage UNDP to consider mentioning it at least within Pillar 1 for the priorities of the Program (Part II.): “high quality and people centred development”, and within the description of the challenges faced by the country.We wonder why the CPD, which mentions several times the contribution and efforts made by China in implementing the SDGs, does not account for human rights in China. Disregarding human rights is all the more damaging since the document otherwise praises China’s cooperation with other Southern countries (pp34 to pp37). This is surprising and demonstrates a lack of impartiality. | * Integrating human rights and a human rights-based approach is a core UN programming principle that is integral to the standards of programming and quality assurance for UNDP. The mandatory safeguard measures -- Social and Environmental Screening Procedure -- which includes right based mechanisms to protect the rights and interests of partner constituencies and communities will be applied in the implementation of all UNDP projects.
* In response to the comments, a reference to the values and principles enshrined in the UN Charter has been added in paragraph 14 as the guiding framework. A reference to transparency and accountability is also reflected.
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| **South-South Cooperation**Our understanding is that the UNDP CPD for China should focus primarily on sustainable development activities within China. We do not question the inclusion of South-South cooperation in the CPD, but the large place it holds (one entire pillar out of 3). We welcome the deletion of the reference to the Chinese belt and road initiative in the CPD.  | * The role of UNDP in pillar 3 has been clarified.
* UNDP’s priority is advancing sustainable development, and global progress on the SDGs and global development agendas such as the Paris Agreement. This entails the application of international best practices and standards, promoting environmental, social and governance principles, and ensuring that international financing put forward by China is geared towards these objectives.
* UNDP’s role in promoting and upholding these principles and standards in its partnership with relevant institutions in China on their overseas development cooperation has been clarified and strengthened in paragraphs 35-36.
* UNDP will work with these relevant partner institutions to inform the application of such international best practices and principles, in their development cooperation engagement and financing.
* UNDP China will not work on projects outside of China.
* On South-South cooperation, UNDP’s role will be to inform policy and practices of the relevant Chinese partner institutions in line with global best practices, to enhance results in their development cooperation.
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| * **Climate and the environment**

Our general opinion is favorable, the document relating to the multilateral agenda on climate and environment related issues. (pp7 to pp32) on activities regarding the Montreal Protocol : we welcome the fact that the elimination of HCFCs and the implementation of Kigali amendment to the Montreal Protocol’s ratification are included. However, since scientific studies demonstrated in 2019 that CFCs emissions emanated from China, and that China decided to improve its monitoring capacity (see . <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-02109-2>), the CPD could also consider the elimination of CFCs as an objective. We express our reserves with regard to the paragraph 33 on waste, pollution and carbon capture storage and usage (CCSU). The end of the paragraph states that “*UNDP will explore productive use of carbon dioxide by piloting carbon capture and utilization in sectors such as power generation and cemen*t”. We are warry of the fact that UNDP would foster CCSU without a specific framework, in particular with regard to high-emission sectors such as electricity or cement. The IPCC report 1,5°C (2019) indicates that uncertainties remain regarding these technologies, their sustainability, maturity, and the risks of shifting the problem elsewhere. Indeed, the safest scenario to reach the objectives of the Paris Agreement s i and foremost to reduce emissions thanks to an energetic transition on electricity generation at the industrial level. Absorption techniques and the use of electric and industrial CO2 can only be a side-tool to deal with emissions’ tailings. We recommend to focus on energy transition as a priority, through the reduction of emissions and investment in renewable energies, so that these explorations would not delay or undermine transition efforts. | * UNDP works closely and advocates for the elimination of HCFCs and CFCs. Following the study cited in the comment, the government of China has prioritized the strengthening of monitoring and enforcement of illegal production and consumption of CFC to ensure China’s commitment to Montreal Protocol and prevent the resurgence of CFC production.
* The CPD prioritizes addressing emissions and targets high emission sectors both from demand and supply angle. The CPD also focuses on energy transition policy options including carbon pricing and fossil fuel subsidies. This is articulated in para 30.
* CCSU was mentioned as one of the multiple policies and technological options needed for China to reach its 2060 neutrality target. In response to the comment the references to CCSU has been deleted (para 33) and the approach clarified.
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| * **Cyber and technologies**

For digital services to be accessible to all, it is indeed crucial to take into account the digital gender divide.On paragraph 22: Big data processing can indeed benefit public action. However, it is essential to take into account the protection of personal data (anonymization of data when possible, and security of collected data) and personal freedoms, which is not mentioned in the CPD. We welcome that the paragraph underlines the importance of low-carbon and smart technologies in urbanization, since they are applicable at a smaller scale, decentralized, labor intensive, low-energy and environmentally friendly. | * The focus in the CPD is to take advantage of technology as a potential tool for development, to deal with existential development challenges such as climate change. UNDP is cognizant of the risks and is mindful of the need to ensure that technology does not contribute to or exacerbate vulnerabilities. UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure provides guidance for due diligence in this regard.
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| * **Gender, children and youth**

Human rights of children should be mentioned.Children’s specific needs, beside education, should also be included when working on the realization of all SDGs. In the indicators, we welcome the disaggregation by gender, age and categories (disabled, etc.). | * Integrating human rights and a human rights-based approach is a core UN programming principle that is integral to the standards of programming and quality assurance for UNDP. The mandatory safeguard measures -- Social and Environmental Screening Procedure -- which includes right based mechanisms to protect the rights and interests of partner constituencies and communities will be applied in the implementation of all UNDP projects.
* In response to the comments, a reference to the values and principles enshrined in the UN Charter and transparency and accountability has been added in paragraph 14, as the guiding framework.
* UNDP respects and advocates for the rights of children and the importance that they not be left behind in pursuing the SDGs. The CPD reflects the importance of not leaving youth behind (para 10). While the CPD does not have programmatic interventions directly focused on children, UNDP will work closely with other UN agencies engaged in this area to achieve results.
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| **Comments by Germany** | UNDP Response |
| Contribution of UNDP to CHN climate change goals: UNDP CPD should spell out more clearly how UNDP can support ambitious targets für carbon neutrality defined by Chinese government.  | * UNDP has a long history of working with China on environment and climate change. UNDP engages China on carbon-intensive economy and resource management both at policy and programmatic levels. The CPD prioritizes addressing emissions and targets high emission sectors both from demand and supply angle. The CPD also focuses on energy transition policy options including carbon pricing and fossil fuel subsidies etc., which are a menu of options that are needed to reach the 2060 target.
* The CPD has also been revised to update the text with the latest pledge by the Government of China on carbon neutrality (para 9).
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| We commend focus on target groups most at risk of being left behind. Among those, marginalized groups as well as ethnic and religious minorities should be mentioned as well.  | * Integrating human rights and a human rights-based approach is a core UN programming principle that is integral to the standards of programming and quality assurance for UNDP. The mandatory safeguard measures -- Social and Environmental Screening Procedure -- which includes right based mechanisms to protect the rights and interests of partner constituencies and communities will be applied in the implementation of all UNDP projects.
* In response to the comments, in the revised CPD text, the wording in paragraph 10 (Leave no one behind) has been strengthened to indicate all vulnerable populations in underdeveloped areas as a priority group, many of whom are concentrated in China’s Western regions including ethnic minorities.
* In Paragraph 13, the comparative advantage of UNDP working directly at community level with the most vulnerable is also emphasized.
* Furthermore, references to values and principles enshrined in the UN Charter and transparency and accountability has been added in paragraph 14.
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| An inclusive consultation process, including bilateral and multilateral stakeholders, during implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the UNDP CDP would be highly appreciated.  | * In addition to project-specific engagement, complementary to the UNSDCF mechanisms, UNDP intends to enhance consultation mechanisms for the CPD, for example by inviting development partners to its annual review meetings, in consultation with the host government, and explore other possibilities through existing formal and informal consultation platforms in Beijing, as well as through joint field monitoring visits for enhanced information exchanges, for example.
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| We welcome UNDP‘s role as facilitator for South- South cooperation insofar as this role contributes to the application of internationally agreed standards and to achieving the 2030 Agenda. This notion should be reflected in the CPD text. While identifying „Best practice“ for replication, it should be highlighted that those need to adhere to international standards in the areas of sustainability, transparency and accountability. | * UNDP’s priority is advancing sustainable development, global progress on the SDGs and global development agendas such as the Paris Agreement. This entails the application of international best practices and standards, promoting Environmental, Social and Governance principles, and ensuring that international financing put forward by China is geared towards these objectives.
* The CPD has been edited to refer to Environmental, Social and Governance principles and transparency and accountability principles in para 35. Para 36 has also been clarified in response to comments.
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| Policies with direct benefits for enterprises and especially regarding the promotion of advanced technologies such as hydrogen fuel cells should exclusively be focussed on China’s less developed regions. | * A key emphasis throughout the implementation of the CPD at project level is ensuring that Leave no one Behind principles are being met and adhered to. This also entails working in China’s Western regions.
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| AI and Big Data focussed aspects of the CPD should be based on a rights-based approach.  | * The focus of the CPD is to take advantage of technology as a potential tool for development, to deal with existential development challenges such as climate change. UNDP is cognizant of the risks and is mindful of the need to ensure technology does not contribute to or exacerbate vulnerabilities. UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure provides guidance for due diligence in this regard.
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| **Comments by India** | UNDP Response |
| **General comments:*** **UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (Framework)**: Given that the Framework document provides the overarching framework and basis for the various agency-specific CPDs, it is important that sufficient time is given to Member States to consider the these closely linked documents in conjunction. This enables Member States and the Board to undertake more comprehensive consultations on the CPDs and provide meaningful feedback, thereby exercising effective oversight of the agencies’ work. The content and development of the Framework in respect of PRC would have benefited from a more transparent process that provided for consultations with all relevant stakeholders and partners. While the Framework is already finalised, it is hoped that all relevant stakeholders will be fully and transparently consulted during the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of this CPD.
 | * In addition to project-specific engagement, complementary to the UNSDCF mechanisms, UNDP intends to enhance consultation mechanisms for the CPD, for example by inviting development partners to its annual review meetings, in consultation with the host government, and explore other possibilities through existing formal and informal consultation platforms in Beijing, as well as through joint field monitoring visits for enhanced information exchanges, for example.
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| * **Focus on external development cooperation**: The Framework document significantly emphasizes the global development cooperation initiatives of the PRC. (*One out of the three Framework Priorities; and* **two** *out of the six Framework Outcomes*). Therefore the Framework – and as a result, this CPD - has global implications, including for UN Country Teams in third countries. Further, this focus on external development cooperation is not in keeping with the core role of the country Framework and CPD instruments, which are meant to focus mainly on the domestic development initiatives on which the UN will engage with the host country. Therefore, any discussion of PRC’s external development cooperation initiatives in this CPD should be specific and restricted in scope.
* Further, **PRC’s investments under the items listed in Framework Outcome No. 5** (“international financing, investments and business engagements, including through connectivity initiatives, programmes and projects”), are made outside the People’s Republic of China. Bearing in mind the paramount importance of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity set out therein, UNDP, as a member of the United Nations Development System subscribing to the UN Charter, has a responsibility to ensure that such investments are made with the concurrence of the member states, in whose territories such investments are being made, and are carried out without violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other member states.
 | * UNDP’s priority is advancing sustainable development, global progress on the SDGs and global development agendas such as the Paris Agreement. This entails the application of international best practices and standards, promoting environmental, social and governance principles, and ensuring that international financing put forward by China is geared towards these objectives.
* On South-South cooperation, UNDP’s role will be to inform policy and practices of the relevant Chinese partner institutions in line with global best practices, to enhance results in their development cooperation.
* UNDP China will not work on projects in other countries. Any programmatic intervention that leads to cooperation with another programme country at their request will be operationalised by the UNDP office in the given programme country, with the consent of the programme country government, fully respecting the programme country’s sovereignty.
* Thus, the work that UNDP undertakes under pillar 3 is focused within China and working with the government and relevant with Chinese institutions. The language in paras 35 & 36 has been edited to further clarify this point.
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| * **Citations**: Language directly taken from Chinese national policies or statements should be clearly referenced throughout the document, and language that could imply UN support for those policies outside China should be edited to remove that ambiguity.
 | * In response to comments, the CPD has been clarified and nomenclature that are related to Chinese policy documents has been reflected within quotes and/or footnotes, as appropriate (paras 2, 3, 5, 17).
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| **Suggested edits based on above comments**:* **Para 14, Page 4**: After “2030 Agenda” add “*and the UN Charter*”.
* **Para 15, Page 4**: Add “*that are consistent with the UN Charter*” after “Chinese priorities”.

UNDP should be clear that it only supports Chinese government priorities that are consistent with international standards and the UN Charter.* **Para 17 (c), Page 5**: Add: “*UNDP will ensure that these initiatives are undertaken with the concurrence of the member states, in whose territories such investments are being made, and are carried out without violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other member states*.”
* **Pillar 1, Page 5**: Some way should be found to indicate that the specific terminology used in this heading is Chinese national policy, and not language endorsed by the wider UN System.
* **Para 40, page 9:** Request for clarification on the potential funding modalities and partnerships UNDP will explore to supplement limited core resources and slowdown in program spending.
* **Annex: UNSDCF Outcome 6 Indicative Indicator 3.1.a**: UNDP must ensure that these partnerships and the initiatives/projects therein should be undertaken with the concurrence of the member states, in whose territories such investments are being made, and are carried out without violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other member states.
 | * The CPD has been revised and references to the UN Charter and the 2030 Agenda added.
* The language referenced in para 15 pertains to an observation by the Independent Country Programme Evaluation (ICPE) conducted by UNDP’s Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) on the closing programme cycle (2016-2020). The approach taken by UNDP in the CPD has been clarified throughout the document, in response to comments.
* The referenced text refers to the third pillar of the CPD, namely working with China as a partner for global development and South-South Cooperation. The focus will be on Chinese institutions in China. The language in paras 35-36 has been revised for greater clarity.
* While “high-quality development” has been marked in inverted commas in paras 2 and 17 to identify it as a Government of China policy, the heading of pillar 1 is kept without quotation marks in line with standard editorial convention.
* The resource envelope of the CPD is indicative based on the Results and Resources Framework (RRF). The regular resources tentatively allocated for the programme period amount to $0.75 M ($150K per year).

The other resources envelope is contingent on the mobilisation of resources for specific activities, based on the RRF. The main non-core funding sources are expected to come from vertical funds (approx. $141.7M), complemented by financing contributed by the Government of China (approx. $25.9M) at both central and local level and other sources as may become available, e.g. some private sector/ foundation funding (possibly ca. $36M).* The comment on indicator 3.1.a is duly noted; the point has been clarified in relation to South-South cooperation, above.
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| **Comments by Japan** | UNDP Response |
| * As stated in the draft CPD, China has already become the world's second largest economy and an upper-middle-income country, and is transitioning from a high-growth model to “high-quality” development, and has set a goal of eliminating extreme poverty by the end of 2020.
 | * The comment is noted
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| * Draft CPD praises China's steady progress in science and technology, mentioning that its global innovation ranking is climbing, one third of global renewable energy investment comes from China, and China is playing an increasingly important role in global development through investments in infrastructure, science and other fields. Against this background, China should take on the duties and responsibilities commensurate with the world's second largest economy.
 | * The comment is noted
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| * During the program period of 2021-2025, we would like to request a renewed scrutiny of the justification of UN assistance to a country like China, and whether there is no need to allocate more support and funding to developing countries in lower income categories.
 | * The presence of UNDP in countries is governed by the EB decision on UMIC and NCC status. China has recently advanced to UMIC status. Graduation to NCC status will be discussed when China reaches NCC classification thresholds, in line with EB rules and based on applicable transition periods.
 |
| * The monitoring plan should clearly indicate the information on the sources of funds and its allocation. In addition to the portion to be financed from international organizations including UNDP, the information on the portion to be financed from Chinese government as well as funding mobilized from the private sector should also be indicated. The information on the mobilization of the funds should constantly be updated throughout the program period of 2021-2025.
 | * The resource envelope of the CPD is indicative based on the Results and Resources Framework (RRF). The regular resources tentatively allocated for the programme period amount to $0.75 M ($150K per year).
* The other resources envelope is contingent on the mobilisation of resources for specific activities, based on the RRF. The main non-core funding sources are expected to come from vertical funds (approx. $141.7M), complemented by financing contributed by the Government of China (approx. $25.9M) at both central and local level and other sources as may become available, e.g. some private sector/ foundation funding (possibly ca. $36M).
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| * Pillar 3 of the draft CPD addresses South-South cooperation, but the details of the activities proposed under this pillar is lacking. Activities proposed under South-South cooperation should be clearly indicated, in order to ensure the accountability.
 | * The work that UNDP undertakes under the partnership pillar is focused on partnership with Chinese institutions and government. The CPD has been edited to further clarify role of UNDP in the engagement under South-South cooperation, under paragraphs 35 and 36.
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| **Comments by the Netherlands** | UNDP Response |
| * The Netherlands wishes to express its concerns regarding the absence of human rights and the human rights based approach to development in the UNDP Country Programme Document for China. The normative framework of the UN, including the realization of human rights, should always be an integral part of UNDP’s work.
* Furthermore, while welcoming UNDP’s support for South-South cooperation in China, the Netherlands reiterates its request to UNDP to retain focus within its draft Country Programme Document for China on sustainable development *within* China and to ensure that its implementation is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
 | * Integrating human rights and a human rights-based approach is a core UN programming principle that is integral to the standards of programming and quality assurance for UNDP. The mandatory safeguard measures -- Social and Environmental Screening Procedure -- which includes right based mechanisms to protect the rights and interests of partner constituencies and communities will be applied in the implementation of all UNDP projects. UNDP in China also prioritizes vulnerable groups.
* In response to the comments, in the revised CPD text, the wording in paragraph 10 (Leave no one behind) has been strengthened to indicate all vulnerable populations in underdeveloped areas as a priority group, many of whom are concentrated in China’s Western regions including ethnic minorities.
* In Paragraph 13, the comparative advantage of UNDP working directly at community level with the most vulnerable is also emphasized.
* UNDP’s priority is advancing sustainable development, and global progress on the SDGs and global development agendas such as the Paris Agreement. This entails the application of international best practices and standards, promoting environmental, social and governance principles, and ensuring that international financing put forward by China is geared towards these objectives.
* UNDP will work with relevant Chinese institutions in China to inform the application of such international best practices and principles, in their development cooperation engagement and financing. This has been clarified and strengthened in paragraphs 35-36.
* UNDP China will not work on development projects outside of China. Any programmatic intervention that leads to cooperation with another programme country at their request will be operationalised by the UNDP office in the given programme country, with the consent of the programme country government.
* On South-South cooperation, UNDP’s role will be to inform policy and practices of the relevant Chinese partner institutions in line with global best practices, to enhance results in their development cooperation.
 |
| **Comments by New Zealand** | UNDP Response |
| * Pillar 3 of the CPD focuses on UNDP facilitating aspects of China’s South-South cooperation and international development cooperation. The nature and extent of this activity is more comprehensive than it was in the 2016-2020 CPD for China, with UNDP taking a greater role in China’s international development activities.
* UNDP’s support for China’s international development/cooperation activities further shifts UNDP’s role as an agency supporting in-country development activities to one providing development expertise to emerging donors. While providing this expertise can have positive flow-on effects, these support activities have opportunity costs.
* We seek clarification about UNDP’s role and mandate in providing emergent donors with support to ensure good development practice (cf. supporting domestic development activities), especially in terms of UNDP’s available resources and relative priorities. We would also like clarification about the resources required to monitor and evaluate activities under Pillar 3 of the results framework.
 | * UNDP’s priority is advancing sustainable development, with global progress on the SDGs and global development agendas such as the Paris Agreement. This entails the application of international best practices and standards, promoting environmental, social and governance principles, and ensuring that international financing put forward by China is geared towards these objectives.
* UNDP will work with relevant Chinese institutions in China to inform the application of such international best practices and principles, in their development cooperation engagement and financing. This has been clarified and strengthened in paragraphs 35-36.
* UNDP China will not work on projects outside of China. Any programmatic intervention that leads to cooperation with another programme country at their request will be operationalised by the UNDP office in the given programme country, with the consent of the programme country government.
* On South-South cooperation, UNDP’s role will be to inform policy and practices of the relevant Chinese partner institutions in line with global best practices, to enhance results in their development cooperation. The language under pillar 3 has been edited to further clarify this point.
* Following China’s graduation to upper-Middle Income Country (UMIC) status as per EB definition, the allocation of core programme resources is limited to 150,000 USD per year. UNDP as part of its programmes has a standard budget line for M&E. The Pillar 3 will follow the same approach and process.
 |
| * The protection and realization of human rights is a fundamental principle of UNDP’s Social and Environmental Standards and the United Nations Development Group Statement of Common Understanding of the Human Rights-Based Approach to Development Cooperation and Programming to which UNDP adheres. In its Strategic Plan 2018-2021, UNDP emphasised the principles of leaving no one behind (LNOB) and reaching the furthest behind first, and core development needs, including the need to ensure the protection of human rights. A vital component of leaving no one behind is identifying and supporting those who are being left behind – i.e. vulnerable groups and populations.
* The CPD has few references to human rights or to vulnerable or marginalised groups.
* We seek clarification from UNDP on how UNDP sees its responsibility to support the protection and fulfilment of human rights is reflected in this CPD and on its approach to the application of LNOB to all vulnerable groups and populations.
 | * Integrating human rights and a human rights-based approach is a core UN programming principle that is integral to the standards of programming and quality assurance for UNDP.
* A reference to the values and principles enshrined in the UN Charter and transparency and accountability has been added in paragraph 14.
* The mandatory safeguard measures -- Social and Environmental Screening Procedure -- which includes right based mechanisms to protect the rights and interests of partner constituencies and communities will be applied in the implementation of all UNDP projects. UNDP in China prioritizes vulnerable groups. In the revised CPD text, the wording in paragraph 10 (Leave no one behind) has been strengthened to indicate all vulnerable populations in underdeveloped areas as a priority group, many of whom are concentrated in China’s Western regions including ethnic minorities.
* In Paragraph 13, the comparative advantage of UNDP working directly at community level with the most vulnerable is also emphasized.
 |
| **Comments by the UK** | UNDP Response |
| * General Comment: We note that the revised version of the CPD is much the same as the previous version, but with reference to the Belt and Road Initiative having been removed.
 | * At the request of the Government and consistent with the CPDs of UNFPA and UNICEF, a factual reference to BRI has been re-inserted in the context section of the CPD under para 3.
 |
| * Pillar 3: global development and South-South cooperation. This section is now much shorter than in the original draft, with lines of text having been removed. The lack of detail makes it difficult to know what is actually being proposed to be done under this pillar. Moreover, as we previously noted, where reference is made to challenges identified by the UNDP’s own evaluation of the previous programme (para 16), there is no mention of the fact that the evaluation states, “Expectations around the global development engagement funded by China should be clarified” (Recommendation #3). So, this section lacks clarity on the work that is envisaged, and on how it will respond to Evaluation recommendations.
* We do not think it is the UNDP’s role to ‘strengthen’ or directly support a country’s overseas engagement. If the UNDP is to work with China on its international development cooperation then the UNDP should explicitly seek to improve how it is undertaken and the development impacts it achieves.
* We suggest an emphasis under this pillar (and in other relevant sections) on the UNDP (and all UN agencies in China) seeking to inform and influence China’s international development cooperation to improve its effectiveness, increase its development impact, and ensure that it meets international norms and standards (on environmental protection, social aspects, transparency and debt sustainability).
 | * The role of UNDP under pillar 3 has been clarified. UNDP’s priority is advancing sustainable development, and global progress on the SDGs and global development agendas such as the Paris Agreement. This entails the application of international best practices and standards, promoting Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles, and ensuring that international financing put forward by China is geared towards these objectives.
* UNDP will work with relevant Chinese institutions in China to inform the application of such international best practices and principles, in their development cooperation engagement and financing. This has been clarified and strengthened in paragraphs 35-36.
* UNDP China will not work on projects outside of China.
* On South-South cooperation, UNDP’s role will be to inform policy and practices of the relevant Chinese partner institutions in line with global best practices.
 |
| * Transparency and Accountability: Para 14 states that focusing on transparency and accountability is a distinct strength of UNDP. However, this is the only substantive reference in the document to transparency and accountability. We would expect a UNDP CPD to explore issues and to propose areas of work related to transparency and accountability.
 | * Transparency and accountability principles are also now referenced in paragraph 35, as part of the overall clarification and strengthening of the presentation of UNDP’s role as a partner under pillar 3 in the CPD.
 |
| * Vulnerable Groups: Para 14 states that focusing on the most vulnerable groups is a distinct strength of the UNDP. It is surprising, therefore, that there is no reference in the CPD to ethnic or religious minorities, as particularly vulnerable groups, and that they are not included in the list of “groups most at risk of being left behind”.
 | * Integrating human rights and a human rights-based approach is a core UN programming principle that is integral to the standards of programming and quality assurance for UNDP. The mandatory safeguard measures -- Social and Environmental Screening Procedure -- which includes right based mechanisms to protect the rights and interests of partner constituencies and communities will be applied in the implementation of all UNDP projects. UNDP in China prioritizes vulnerable groups. In the revised CPD text, the wording in paragraph 10 (Leave no one behind) has been strengthened to indicate all vulnerable populations in underdeveloped areas as a priority group, many of whom are concentrated in China’s Western regions including ethnic minorities. In Paragraph 13, the comparative advantage of UNDP working directly at community level with the most vulnerable is also emphasized.
* Furthermore, a reference to the values and principles enshrined in the UN Charter and transparency and accountability principles has been added in paragraph 14, as the guiding framework.
 |
| * Graduation: The CPD refers to China as “the biggest developing country in the world”, and notes the considerable development progress that China has achieved. It is surprising that there is no reference to when China might graduate from UN assistance, and how the UNDP is working with China to achieve that.
 | * UNDP’s presence in countries is governed by the EB decision on UMIC and NCC status. China has recently advanced to UMIC status. Graduation to NCC status will be discussed when China reaches NCC classification thresholds, in line with EB rules and based on applicable transition periods.
 |
| * Digital technology: The CPD suggests that the UNDP in China will work on digitalization and data governance, smart technologies, artificial intelligence, automation and big data. We question whether this is appropriate. China is well-advanced in these areas; does it need UN support? Is this an area of comparative advantage for the UNDP? Furthermore, is it appropriate for the UN to be providing support in these areas, and if so how will UNDP ensure that privacy and civil liberties are protected in this work. There is no mention of any potential risks relating to this area of work, e.g. around privacy; the notable absence of addressing transparency and accountability in the CPD only emphasises the lack of risk awareness.
 | * The focus of CPD is to take advantage of technology as a potential tool for development, to deal with existential development challenges such as climate change. UNDP is cognizant of the risks and is mindful of the need to ensure that technology does not contribute to or exacerbate vulnerabilities. The UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure provides guidance for due diligence in this regard.
* In response to the comments, the “technology for development” wording has been preferred, and references to big data, artificial intelligence etc. has been deleted (paras 23c, 27).
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| **Comments by the US** | UNDP Response |
| * **Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (Framework):** The United States maintains its serious concerns regarding the content and development of the Framework through a rushed, opaque process without consultations with all relevant stakeholders and partners. As with the Framework, we seek assurances that all relevant stakeholders and donors will be fully and transparently consulted during the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of this CPD.
 | * In addition to project-specific engagement, complementary to the UNSDCF mechanisms, UNDP intends to enhance consultation mechanisms for the CPD, for example by inviting development partners to its annual review meetings, in consultation with the host government, and to explore other possibilities through existing formal and informal consultation platforms in Beijing, as well as through joint field monitoring visits for enhanced information exchanges, for example.
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| * **Human Rights:** The Framework does not include a discussion of one of China’s most vulnerable populations: religious and ethnic minorities. The United States seeks assurances that UNDP, in implementing this CPD, upholds its obligation to leaving no one behind and does not exacerbate the vulnerabilities of this population. The internal guidance to UN agencies regarding UN development system entity CPD’s alignment with the Framework explicitly notes that two of the guiding principles for the UN development system are “leaving no one behind” and a “human-rights based approach”. While we understand that agencies tend to adopt the outcomes of the Framework in their respective CPDs, in the interest of promoting greater UN country team coherence, the United States encourages UNDP to include additional outcomes and work "to capture normative and standard-setting activities not prioritized in the Framework" (pg. 19 of UN Guidance on Framework development). As a reputable global development-focused organization, UNDP should ensure its work does not neglect acknowledgement of and/or attention to uniquely marginalized populations in China. The CPD should make clear the work UNDP will do to improve Chinese institutions' alignment with the full suite of human rights and fundamental freedoms as defined by international human rights law. More specifically, we seek clarification of UNDP’s plan to contribute in a comprehensive and inclusive way to protecting human rights, including those of China’s most vulnerable populations.
 | * Integrating human rights and a human rights-based approach is a core UN programming principle that is integral to the standards of programming and quality assurance for UNDP. The CPD has been strengthened along these lines.
* A reference to the values and principles enshrined in the UN Charter and transparency and accountability has been added in paragraph 14.
* UNDP in China prioritizes vulnerable groups. In the revised CPD text, the wording in paragraph 10 (Leave no one behind) has been strengthened to indicate all vulnerable populations in underdeveloped areas as a priority group, many of whom are concentrated in China’s Western regions including ethnic minorities.
* In Paragraph 13, the comparative advantage of UNDP working directly at community level with the most vulnerable is also emphasized.
* The mandatory safeguard measures -- Social and Environmental Screening Procedure -- which includes right based mechanisms to protect the rights and interests of partner constituencies and communities will be applied in the implementation of all UNDP projects.
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| * **Global Impact:** The Framework repeatedly highlights that the PRC has a global development reach that is entirely unconnected to the UN system. The major emphasis on China’s global development work throughout the Framework, in particular the focus of Outcomes 5 and 6, and the subsequent focus on this work in the CPDs, is unprecedented and inconsistent with the role of the Framework and CPD instruments, which are meant to focus primarily on the domestic development work on which the UN will engage. Any discussion of external development work should be specific in scope and involve primarily engagement with domestic institutions, as is typical, or with specific other countries. The Framework – and as a result, this CPD - has global implications, including for UN Country Teams in third countries, and yet Member States and major donors were never consulted. UN development system cooperation on such an expansive global agenda through its country based programs therefore requires serious discussions with donors before it can be included in a CPD for consideration by the Executive Board.
 | * UNDP’s priority is advancing sustainable development, and global progress on the SDGs and global development agendas such as the Paris Agreement. This entails the application of international best practices and, promoting Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and transparency and accountability principles to ensure that international financing put forward by China is geared towards these objectives.
* The work that UNDP-China undertakes under pillar 3 will focus within China and with Chinese institutions and government.
* The language in paras 35-56 of the CPD, as well as para 25, has been edited to further strengthen the document along these lines.
 |
| * **South-South Cooperation:** The United States seeks assurances that UNDP is not directly or inadvertently, through its South-South related activities, promoting or advancing China’s signature foreign policy or economic diplomacy initiatives, including “the Belt and Road Initiative” (BRI). For example, UNDP has signed several agreements with Chinese government institutions to specifically promote the BRI, such as the National Development and Reform Commission (listed in the Annex as a major partner for Outcome 5). UN support should focus on helping developing countries build the capacity needed to ensure all South-South programs, projects, and investments meet the strongest sustainability standards and criteria. UN South-South cooperation assistance should not be conditioned upon or directly linked to the recipient country’s agreement to advance a single Member State’s signature foreign policy or economic diplomacy initiatives.
 | * The role of UNDP under pillar 3 has been clarified in response to the comment, centered on the UNDP core mandate. The work of UNDP under this pillar will have a dual focus of “informing Chinese international cooperation engagement including financing and investments by providing advice on environmental, social and governance and transparency and accountability principles to support government actors, development banks and other Chinese entities to consistently uphold and apply international best practices” (para 35); and of supporting the engagement in South-South cooperation in line with the UN normative framework for such cooperation, notably by facilitating sharing of international experience, analytics and global best practice with China to enhance results in its development cooperation.” (para 36).
* The South-South Cooperation work is in accordance with the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/73/291 on the outcome document from the Second UN High-Level Conference on SSC in 2019.
* UNDP’s work is neither linked to nor conditioned upon the advancement of foreign policy or economic diplomacy of any Member State.
* At the request of the Government and consistent with the CPDs of UNFPA and UNICEF, a factual reference to BRI has been re-inserted in the context section of the CPD under para 3.
 |
| * **Sharing of Best Practices:**  The Chinese government, as the second largest economy in the world, has repeatedly demonstrated its capacity to hold policy and international cooperation conferences, fora, training sessions, and other such events, both at home and abroad, and the UN necessity to facilitate this work is thus unclear. UNDP assistance to disseminate PRC “best practices” in a UN-facilitated forum could be interpreted as endorsing these practices on the assumption that Chinese internal and external development efforts align with international best practices, norms, and standards, the UN Charter, and the Sustainable Development Goals. We seek assurances that UNDP is not using limited resources and expertise to disseminate practices without a clear role in ensuring these practices protect human rights and are consistent with international best practices, norms, and standards and the SDGs. Furthermore, The United States seeks assurances that UNDP’s funding of or involvement in sharing best practices does not imply UNDP endorsement for China’s foreign policy initiatives like the BRI or China-led foreign policy exchanges, such as China-Africa Forum for Cooperation.
 | * Facilitating the sharing of best practices will be from the perspective of development innovations which bring value under the UN South-South cooperation framework, consistent with the UN Charter, sustainable development principles and international best practices. The CPD has been edited to clarify, particularly paras 35-36.
 |
| * **Proper Citations and Fair, Impartial Analyses:** Language directly taken from Chinese policies or statements must consistently be marked as such throughout the document and language that could imply UN support for those policies should be edited to remove that ambiguity. The United States requests that the agencies uphold the fact-based, impartial analysis and approach that is required for these documents and their implementation to be successful. UNDP's “fact-based, impartial analysis and support” (P14) comes into question as this CPD lacks an acknowledgment, discussion of, or commitment to protecting vulnerable ethnic and religious minorities in China, references Chinese government ideology and policies without proper citation of sources and use of quotations, does not stick strictly to the internal development needs of China and instead focuses on promoting China international economic development agenda, and inadequately accounts for UNDP resources allocated to this work.
 | * UNDP does not endorse language that does not align with the core UN principles. To avoid ambiguity, the CPD has been edited and nomenclature that is related to Chinese policy documents has been reflected within quotes and/or footnotes, as appropriate, as suggested (paras 2, 3, 5, 17).
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| * P1: Comment: While the analysis about China’s investment in renewable energy is accurate and relevant, China continues to increase its dependence on coal plants, locking in emissions for decades. While China is the largest producer of photovoltaic power and the world leader in wind power generation, its planned coal capacity additions of 259,624 MW account for over 1/3 of the global coal plant pipeline. Chinese companies also play a key role in building new coal power plants abroad, and are currently developing 59,619 MW of new coal-fired capacity in 17 countries. Almost 19% of Chinese-led coal plant development is thus taking place outside of China. As of September 2020, China had more than 200 gigawatts of new coal-fired generating capacity in various stages of development and construction, which would lock in increased emissions for decades. We recommend including the full context of the situation either here or in P.9 to provide a more objective setting for UNDP’s focus on the environment in Pillar 2.
 | * UNDP has a long history of working with China on environment and climate change. UNDP engages with China on carbon-intensive economy and resource management issues, both at policy and programmatic levels, which includes the need to shift from the reliance on coal power. The CPD as an overarching document does not go into details, this is indeed a high priority, and this is acknowledged by the host government.
 |
| * P2: Edit: Add quotation marks around “innovative, green development that is shared by all”, move the footnote “9” to after “shared by all, and add “China’s plan to implement” to clarify that this language and policy are China’s domestic policies for development and the SDGs, consistent with the use of quotation marks elsewhere in the document, and removes any implication or interpretation that UNDP endorses China's vision as consistent with the SDGs.
* Sources and Rationale: China’s 13th Five Year Plan created the five pillar plan of “innovative, coordinated, green, open, and inclusive growth” as the blueprint for China’s development Strategy. Furthermore, the 2016 “China's National Plan on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” available on the MFA’s website, ties these five pillars to how China seeks to implement the 2030 Agenda: “In the coming years, China will earnestly fulfil the tasks in the National Plan under the guidance of the people-centred development concept featuring innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development.” As such, reference to these policies should be clearly marked as such rather than providing a value judgement on whether they “reflect” the 2030 Agenda.
 | * UNDP does not endorse language that does not align with the core UN principles. To avoid ambiguity, the CPD has been edited and nomenclature that is related to Chinese policy documents has been reflected within quotes and/or footnotes, as appropriate, as suggested (paras 2, 3, 5, 17).
 |
| * P3: Edit: Add quotation marks to clarify that “moderately prosperous in all aspects” is a Chinese government policy quotation, and as such should be put in quotations marks consistently and throughout the document where they appear.
 | * In response to comments, the CPD has been edited and nomenclature that are related to Chinese policy documents has been reflected within quotes, and/or footnotes as appropriate, including in para. 3.
 |
| * P5: Edit: Add quotation marks around “the biggest developing country in the world” to clarify that this is China’s stance, such as noted in the May 15, September 25, and December 15 2019 comments by the Foreign Ministry’s spokesperson and the broader use of “largest” in numerous policy documents; the UN system does not “express a judgement about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process” per https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/.
* P5: Edit: Add quotation marks around “unbalanced growth between regions and peoples’ ever-growing need for a better life” to clarify that this is China’s domestic assessment of its situation, for example, as discussed at 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2017, including in Xi Jinping’s report on October 18, 2017.
 | * In response to the comment, the language referred to in para 5 has been revised. Nomenclature that is related to Chinese policy documents has been reflected within quotes, and/or footnotes as appropriate.
 |
| * P10: Edit: After “HIV;” add “human rights defenders; ethnic and religious minorities”. After “many of whom face biases” add “due to government policies targeting religious and ethnic minorities”. After “environmental degradation” add “certain targeted government programs”.
* Comments: As a leading global development-focused organization, UNDP should ensure its work does not neglect acknowledgement of and/or attention to uniquely marginalized populations in China. Edits serve to make this section more inclusive of these vulnerable groups. Upon acknowledging that leaving no one behind in China should include ethnic and religious minorities, the edits further down in the paragraph also underscore that these vulnerabilities are also exacerbated by targeted government interventions that have negatively affected the ability for these populations their cultures to thrive/survive. As noted in the UNSDCF Guidance, "identifying unjust, avoidable or extreme inequalities in outcomes and opportunities, and patterns of discrimination in law, policies and practice” is required to ensure that no one is left behind.
* The Cooperation Framework does not include a discussion of religious or ethnic minorities. The U.S. government seeks assurances that UNDP does not align itself with the omission of this uniquely vulnerable population and that the implementation of this CPD does not directly or inadvertently disregard or exacerbate the vulnerabilities of this population. Furthermore, the internal guidance to UN agencies regarding UN development system entity country programming allows for the inclusion of additional outcomes when normative or standard-setting activities are not prioritized in the Framework, and paragraph 19 of this guidance explicitly notes that one of the guiding principles for the UN development system is a “human-rights based approach is … normatively based on international human rights standards and principles and operationally directed to promoting and protecting human rights”.
* P13: Request for clarification: In regards to the last line that states that UNDP can work directly with the most vulnerable and consistent with our edits to Paragraph 10, the United States seeks assurances from UNDP that its understanding of China's most vulnerable populations includes ethnic and religious minorities. There is no discussion in the CPD nor in the Strategic Framework that indicates the UN acknowledges the vulnerability of ethnic and religious minorities within China. We seek clarification about how UNDP specifically will work with these vulnerable groups.
* P14: Edit: After “environmental sustainability,” add “consistency with international human rights law”. After “2030 Agenda” add “and the UN Charter”.
* Comments: Our edits serve to underscore the alignment of UNDP’s planned work with international human rights law (see previous comments about internal guidance) and the UN Charter (per the QCPR 71/243 -Reaffirms the need to strengthen the United Nations development system with a view to enhancing its coherence and efficiency, as well as its capacity to address effectively and in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations).
* Regarding the final clause “fact-based, impartial analysis and support” - UNDP's fact-based, impartial analysis and support comes into question as this CPD lacks an acknowledgment, discussion, or commitment to protecting vulnerable ethnic and religious minorities in China, references Chinese government ideology and policies without properly sourcing and quoting, does not stick strictly to the internal development needs of China and instead focuses on promoting China international economic development agenda, and inadequately provides an accounting of UNDP resources allocated to this work.
 | * The country programme has been developed with a human rights-based approach to development and gender-sensitivity principles.
* The CPD gives priority to addressing inequalities and leaving no one behind, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable groups, many of whom are concentrated in China’s Western regions including ethnic minorities.
* The language in the CPD has been strengthened to reflect more explicitly international principles in line with the UN Charter (para 14), and UNDP’s role. The reference to vulnerable groups in para 10 has been strengthened, encompassing all vulnerable groups in underdeveloped areas.
* Integrating human rights and a human rights-based approach is a core UN programming principle that is integral to the standards of programming and quality assurance for UNDP. Practically, the mandatory safeguard measures -- Social and Environmental Screening Procedure -- which includes right based mechanisms to protect the rights and interests of partner constituencies and communities is and will be applied in the implementation of all UNDP projects.
* In response, the reference to vulnerable groups in para 10 has been strengthened to encompass all vulnerable groups in underdeveloped regions. Kindly refer also to the response under “human rights,” above.
* The text in para 14 has been strengthened with a reference to the values and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as to the Charter after ‘2030 Agenda’, as the guiding framework.
* The approach and language in the CPD have been strengthened to address the comments.
 |
| * P15: Edit: After “Chinese priorities” add “that meet international standards and that are consistent with the UN Charter”
* Comments: UNDP should be clear that it only supports Chinese government priorities that are consistent with international standards and the UN Charter. There should be no room for interpretation that UNDP would seek to align its programming with Chinese government priorities that are not aligned with international standards and the UN Charter. Our edits seek to make this clear.
 | * The language referenced in para 15 pertains to an observation by the Independent Country Programme Evaluation (ICPE) conducted by UNDP’s Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) on the closing programme cycle (2016-2020). The approach taken by UNDP in the CPD has been clarified throughout the document, in response to comments.
* References to the principles and values of the UN Charter have been inserted into para 14. Efforts have been made to avoid ambiguity in the presentation of the role of UNDP.
 |
| * P16: Request for clarification: In regards to “A need to further strengthen gender aspects”, how does UNDP plan to strengthen its work in other significant challenges, particularly in promoting and protecting the full suite of political, economic, and social and cultural human rights in China? Only focusing on the right to development – which is not an agreed upon right – undermines UNDP’s alignment with the UN Charter.
 | * The CPD has been clarified with references to the UN Charter in para 14.
* Integrating human rights and a human rights-based approach is a core UN programming principle that is integral to the standards of programming and quality assurance for UNDP programme activities. The mandatory safeguard measures -- Social and Environmental Screening Procedure -- which includes right based mechanisms to protect the rights and interests of partner constituencies and communities will be applied in the implementation of all UNDP projects, and provide due diligence mechanisms with respect to human rights.
 |
| * Section “UNDP support to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework”:
* Comments: We are concerned with UNDP’s expressed support for the UNSDCF for several reasons. First, the United States is deeply concerned by the manner in which the Resident Coordinator developed and finalized the Framework. These actions were taken without transparency or accountability, which are crucial and fundamental components of sustainable development which the UN is expected to both promote and adhere to itself. This Framework has global implications, including for UN Country Teams in third countries, and yet Member States and major donors were never consulted, resulting in problematic content throughout the Framework.
* Second, the United States has significant substantive concerns with the content of the Framework, including the complete lack of human rights discussion despite the well-documented, on-going human rights infringements and destruction of cultural heritage of Tibetans, Uyghurs, and other minorities.
* Finally, the major emphasis on the PRC’s global development work throughout the Framework and in particular the focus of Outcomes 5 and 6 are inconsistent with the role of the Framework instrument, which is meant to focus on the domestic development work on which the UN will engage. Any discussion of external development work should be specific in scope and involve primarily engagement with domestic institutions or with specific other countries. The Framework highlights numerous times that the PRC has a global development reach - and UN cooperation on such an agenda is unprecedented and requires more serious discussions with donors.
 | * The CPD text has been revised to clarify that the CPD will contribute to the realisation of the UNSDCF, in line with the UN Reform.
 |
| * P17: Edit: Because of this, we ask that “fully” be deleted. Otherwise it implies UNDP support for China’s ongoing policies and priorities that are inconsistent with the UN Charter and the Sustainable Development Goals, such as its actions in Xinjiang, Tibet, and Inner Mongolia.
* P17a: Edit: Quotation marks are needed to clarify that “high-quality development” is a Chinese government policy quotation, and as such should be put in quotations marks consistently and throughout the document where they appear. “High-quality development” is the framing used by Xi Jinping during his report delivered to the 19th Communist Party of China National Congress in October 2017.
* P17c: As previously stated, we have serious concerns about this pillar. However, as this pillar is included in a non-comprehensive and non-consulted Cooperation Framework, we understand the protocol of addressing it as a pillar of the CPD. In that regard, we seek assurances and edits that make it clear that UNDP will cooperate only with the Chinese government within China to build capacity to uphold international standards, on specific third-country requested activities that do not imply UNDP support for the Belt and Road Initiative, and will avoid lending the UNDP imprimatur to a platforms in which it has no input or no clear role.
 | * In response to the comments, the guidance derived from the UN Charter, its values and principles has been strengthened and referred to in para 14 with a view to contextualising subsequent paragraphs and the normative framework of UNDP’s engagement.
* Para 17c: The role of UNDP vis-à-vis this component of the UNSDCF has been clarified in response to comments, and paras 34-36 revised accordingly, as noted above.
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| * Pillar 1: Edit: As previously noted “high-quality” is the Chinese government’s characterization and should be included in quotes. So to is a “people-centred” approach to development, which as clearly defined by the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, is a reflection of China’s preferred “path” for human rights (<http://en.people.cn/n3/2020/1015/c90000-9769281.html>) that elevates the right to development over other rights, which is inconsistent with international human rights law that emphasizes that human rights are indivisible. Moreover, China’s definition of a “people-centred approach” does not reflect “the needs of individuals, but considers the feelings, needs and aspirations of the ‘people’ as a group in the statistical sense”, which is inconsistent with international human rights law in which human rights and fundamental freedoms are inherent to all individuals (see: <http://www.chinahumanrights.org/html/2020/MAGAZINES_0921/15594.html>). Furthermore, this concept is invoked in China’s policies in Xinjiang: “Looking forward, Xinjiang will continue its commitment to the people-centered philosophy of development,” (source:

<http://english.www.gov.cn/archive/whitepaper/202009/17/content_WS5f62cef6c6d0f7257693c192.html>) | * Integrating human rights and a human rights-based approach is a core UN programming principle that is integral to the standards of programming and quality assurance for UNDP. In response to the comments, the guidance derived from the UN Charter, its values and principles has been strengthened and referred to in para 14 with a view to contextualising subsequent paragraphs and the normative framework of UNDP’s engagement.
* The mandatory safeguard measures -- Social and Environmental Screening Procedure -- which includes right based mechanisms to protect the rights and interests of partner constituencies and communities will be applied in the implementation of all UNDP projects.
* In response to this comment, the heading has been edited to read High-quality development centered on people. While high quality development has been marked in inverted commas in para 2 and 17 to identify it as a Government of China policy, the heading of pillar 1 is kept without quotation marks in line with standard editorial convention.
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| * P18: Edit: As previously noted “green” is a pillar of China’s development plan. Specific Chinese government policy quotations should be put in quotations marks consistently and throughout the document where they appear.
* Request for clarification: How will UNDP support the protection of human rights in rural communities?
 | * The CPD has been revised to identify specific Chinese policies and nomenclature within quotes and/or with footnotes. The term green development is understood here in the context of sustainable development concepts, as used by UNDP.
 |
| * P22: Request for clarification: How does UNDP have a comparative advantage in regards to AI technologies or digital solutions, or that these capabilities are lacking in China’s technology sector which, as previously noted, has enabled China to be a global leader in technology? Moreover, UNDP should clarify how it is not supporting the increased surveillance technologies, such as those deployed in Xinjiang to track people’s lives, in a manner that allows further growth of the Central Government’s authoritarian crackdown on human rights.
 | * The UNDP aims to take advantage of technology as a potential tool for development, to deal with existential development challenges such as climate change. UNDP is cognizant of the risks and is careful in ensuring technology does not contribute to or exacerbate vulnerabilities.
* In response to the comments, references to big data’, artificial intelligence etc. has been deleted (paras 23c, 27), and the concept of “technology for development” used as a better description of the approach taken by UNDP.
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| * P23: Request for clarification: China has stated that building “vocational skills” was the primary purpose of the forced “education and training centers” that are documented as a key tool in the crack down on human rights in Xinjiang. How will UNDP ensure that it is not supporting these policies in Xinjiang or elsewhere?
 | * The mandatory safeguard measures -- Social and Environmental Screening Procedure -- which includes right based mechanisms to protect the rights and interests of partner constituencies and communities will be applied in the implementation of all UNDP projects. The mandatory tools include programmatic and operational procedures and policies about private sector due diligence which will be strictly followed and is referenced in p.40 of the CPD.
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| * P23a: Request for clarification: See previous comment. We seek clarification on how UNDP will ensure it is not supporting the policies or their implementation that are used in Xinjiang.
 | * The mandatory safeguard measures -- Social and Environmental Screening Procedure -- which includes right based mechanisms to protect the rights and interests of partner constituencies and communities will be applied in the implementation of all UNDP projects. The mandatory tools include programmatic and operational procedures and policies about private sector due diligence which will be strictly followed and is referenced in p.40 of the CPD.
* The focus of CPD is to take advantage of technology as a potential tool for development, to deal with existential development challenges such as climate change. UNDP is cognizant of the risks and is careful in ensuring technology does not contribute to or exacerbate vulnerabilities. The UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure provides guidance for due diligence in this regard.
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| * P25: Edit: Delete “UNDP will foster international exchanges on knowledge and innovation”.
* Comment: China already independently and regularly hosts – both within and outside of China – large international meetings and forums on these issues and does not require UNDP assistance to foster or support. The United States seeks assurances that UNDP is not using limited resources and expertise to disseminate practices that undermine human rights and the application of international best practices, norms, standards, and the Sustainable Development goals in other countries and that UNDP’s involvement is not simply used to imply UNPD endorsement for China’s signature global foreign policy platform (the BRI) or expressly China-led foreign policy exchanges such as China-Africa Forum for Cooperation, which is inappropriate for its role as an impartial, neutral international body. Examples of major conferences include:
* *The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation:* http://www.beltandroadforum.org/english/
* *The Pujian Innovation Forum* <https://www.beltandroad.news/2020/10/17/2020-pujiang-innovation-forum/>
* *Belt and Road Forum on 5G +4K* <https://news.cgtn.com/news/3d3d414e3567544d34457a6333566d54/index.html>
* *The China-CELAC Science and Technology Innovation Forum,* held in Quito, Ecuador: http://www.chinacelacforum.org/eng/zyjz\_1/zylyflt/kjcxlt/t1339155.htm
* Request for clarification: “To harness public and private financing” - Is the goal here to harness public or private financing for UNDP or is to leverage financing for specific work in implementing SDG policies within China?
* Edit: add “for China’s domestic development” after “enterprises” to clarify that this work is intended to advance China's domestic development, the focus of this pillar.
 | * The suggested deletion and addition have been made.
* The role of UNDP with regard to pillar 3 has been clarified to reflect the value addition of UNDP as a partner in bringing to relevant institutions in China our global experience, principles and dedication to the global development agenda, as articulated in paras 35-36.
* Facilitating the sharing of best practices will be from the perspective of development innovations which bring value under South-South cooperation, consistent with the UN Charter, sustainable development principles and international best practices.
 |
| * P27: Edit: Delete “using emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and the Internet of things”
* Comment: Per previous comments, what specialization or comparative advantage does UNDP have in the development or use of these technologies for biodiversity conservation?
 | * The focus of CPD is to take advantage of technology as a potential tool for development, to deal with existential development challenges such as climate change. UNDP is cognizant of the risks and is mindful of the need to ensure technology does not contribute to or exacerbate vulnerabilities. The UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure provides guidance for due diligence in this regard.
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| * Pillar 3: Comment: The United States continues to have serious concerns about this section. While UNDP did remove the explicit references to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), we remain concerned about UNDP’s ongoing promotion of the BRI, including through numerous MOUs signed with, among other agencies the Ministry of Commerce and the National Development and Reform Commission mentioned in paragraph 36, and the activities that ‘facilitate global experience’ with China and partner countries such as the China-Ethiopia High-Level Dialogue on Sustainable Development that specifically aimed to promote investment under the BRI. While the United States fully supports assisting developing countries on building capacity to ensure all investments meet strong sustainability standards and criteria, that work must be done without being linked to the signature, global foreign policy platform of another Member State or to specifically facilitate investments from a single Member State. Conversely, working with China’s institutions to improve their capacity to enforce those standards for any project they may pursue with another country is in line with UNDP’s mandate and role.
 | * UNDP’s priority is advancing sustainable development, and global progress on the SDGs and global development agendas such as the Paris Agreement. This entails the application of international best practices and standards, promoting environmental, social and governance principles, and ensuring that international financing put forward by China is geared towards these objectives.
* UNDP will work with relevant Chinese institutions in China to inform the application of such international best practices and principles, in their development cooperation engagement and financing. This has been clarified and strengthened in paragraphs 35-36.
* On South-South cooperation, UNDP’s role will be to inform policy and practices of the relevant Chinese partner institutions in line with global best practices, to enhance results in their development cooperation.
* UNDP China will not work on projects outside of China. Any programmatic intervention that leads to cooperation with another programme country at their request will be operationalised by the UNDP office in the given programme country, with the consent of the programme country government.
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| * P34: Request for clarification: This paragraph, combined with the analysis in the country context that notes that China is the second largest economy and a leader in global innovation, the comments in regards to Paragraph 25, as well as UNDP reports that say “China has also emerged as a major global economic force” and “China is well-positioned to provide global leadership”, lays out that China has a large, well-established global presence. Why then does China need UN assistance in supporting its bilateral and regional efforts?
 | * Other UNDP programme countries that provide assistance to third developing countries under South-South cooperation receive UNDP support to strengthen their aid architecture and mechanisms. In these partnerships, UNDP is a policy partner, helping enhance the quality of the assistance these countries provide, in line with UN agendas, values and principles.
 |
| * P35: Edit: Delete “and partner countries” and replace with “with the goal of improving its domestic capacity to implement international best practices.”
* Comments: See overarching comments. The first sentence, and this pillar, only makes sense if this section acknowledges that China’s external development cooperation is consistently noted to have problems with environmental and sustainability, labor disputes, etc. The United States would request that UNDP include a ‘fact based, impartial’ analysis here. Edits clarify that UNDP will work within China to improve its domestic capacity and not serve to provide a UN-branded platform for China do use to advance its foreign policies when it is capable of doing so itself.
 | * The text of the CPD in pillar 3 has been edited to clarity the role of UNDP and strengthen the reference to international principles, in response to the overarching and specific comments provided. Kindly refer also to the response to the general comments on pillar 3.
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| * P36: Edit: Strike “taking into account various mechanisms to strengthen development results towards the Sustainable Development Goals and leaving no one behind principles” and replace with “by building capacity of the Government’s and other Chinese entities’, such as the China Development Bank, to consistently uphold and apply international best practices and international law through its global cooperation.”
* Comment: Edits bring this paragraph in line with overarching comment for this section.
 | * Paras 35-36 have been edited for greater clarity and to strengthen the document, reflecting editorial suggestions to the extent possible.
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| * P40a: Request for clarification: We ask that UNDP provide an update regarding this section. Does this imply that UNDP will shift away from supporting high-standards for growth, including inclusivity, ESG considerations, etc. in favor of accelerating growth as a result of the pandemic?
* P40c: Request for clarification: We also ask for an update on the potential funding modalities and partnerships UNDP is/will contemplate to supplement limited core resources and slowdown in program spending, and how it will be related to para 40d.
 | * The CPD has been revised to clarify that UNDP will mitigate this shift from a risk perspective:
* “This programme will adopt a five-tier risk framework: (a) programmatic risks: in case of an economic downturn, policy priorities may shift to accelerating growth, rather than its quality. UNDP must maintain agility and high-level capacities to adapt and ensure that growth does not come at the expense of sustainable development.”
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| * Annex: UNSDCF Outcome 1: Comments: Per our earlier comments, we strongly oppose the focus on the “right to development” when the Framework lacks any other discussion of human rights. The guidance issued by the UN on the formulation of the Frameworks and CPDs allows for UN agencies to include additional outcomes/work "to capture normative and standard-setting activities not prioritized in the Cooperation Framework" (pg. 19). In this case, ensuring that the documents better emphasize the work agencies will do in improving PRC institutions' alignment with international best practices or clarifying how they will protect human rights falls into this normative and standard-setting category.
* Request for clarification: Outcome 1, Major Partners/Partnerships Frameworks? Why are NGOs not included in this section? How will UNDP work with civil society to ensure its work is not contributing to human rights violations?
 | * In response to the comments, the guidance derived from the UN Charter, its values and principles has been strengthened and referred to in para 14 with a view to contextualising subsequent paragraphs and the normative framework of UNDP’s engagement.
* The UNDP mandatory safeguard measures -- Social and Environmental Screening Procedure -- which includes right based mechanisms to protect the rights and interests of partner constituencies and communities will be applied in the implementation of all UNDP projects. The mandatory tools include programmatic and operational procedures and policies about private sector due diligence which will be strictly followed and is referenced in p.40 of the CPD.
* The focus of CPD is to take advantage of technology as a potential tool for development, to deal with existential development challenges such as climate change. UNDP is cognizant of the risks and is careful in ensuring technology does not contribute to or exacerbate vulnerabilities.
* UNDP works with NGOs as part of its programming. In the current CPD, UNDP has worked with more than 40 NGOs on environment, climate change, gender, HIV /AIDs and LGBTQ.
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| * Annex: UNSDCF Outcome 6 Indicative Indicator 3.1.a: Request for clarification: We oppose UN existing and interest in signing future Belt and Road Initiative-focused MOUs with the Chinese government. We seek assurances that does not intend to increase its number of existing MOUs tied to the BRI and a clear explanation of what this target is intended to convey.
* Indicative Indicator 3.1.c.: Request for clarification: How is UNDP in China going to measure this? Is it going to directly survey every partner country independently - which would require other UNCTs to be involved - or will it use Chinese generated data? If the former, which country teams are involved, and are the resources dedicated to this included in the other UNDP CPDs? If the latter, how with UNDP verify this information? How will ‘benefits’ be calculated? Is this employment? Rides on infrastructure?
 | * The approach to pillar 3 has been clarified and will guide the implementation of the CPD.
* Indicator 3.1.a. refers to the role of UNDP in South-South cooperation partnership with relevant Chinese institutions, to bring global experience, analytics and international best practices, such as in programme cycle management, to enhance results in their development cooperation.
* Indicator 3.1.c relates to the aim to expand the partnership of UNDP with relevant Chinese South-South cooperation partners, in line with global experience and international best practices, such as gender-sensitive programming practices. The indicator will be measured using the data collected by the relevant institutions.
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| * Footnote 29: Request for clarification: Does this figure, including the footnote, indicate that there is $31 million allocated specifically for UNDP country offices in other countries to implement Chinese government South-South projects? How much of UNDP’s regular budget is allocated for UNDP-country offices in other countries implementing Chinese government South-South projects? We request full, transparent documentation of what other projects and countries are included in this figure.
 | * The $31M referenced in the footnote of the RRF referred to an estimation of funds to be mobilized via CIDCA’s South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund (SSCAF) by other UNDP country offices, and as such is not part of the resource envelope of the UNDP China country programme. In this light and in reference to the comment, this footnote has been deleted.
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