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

*First regular session 2021*

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| **Comments by Sweden** | **Response by the Country Office** |
| In September 2020, UNDP made a request to the Embassy of Sweden, to comment on the e-review of the zero-draft Country Programme Document 2021-25. We reviewed the document and were happy to note that the CPD for Somalia, though general, was quite elaborate in areas of focus and was aligned to the UNCF 2021-2025 and Somalia’s NDP 9 2020-2024. It accordingly also corresponded to Sweden’s Strategy for Development Cooperation in Somalia 2018-2022. Reviewing the final draft of the CDP, it is still a general read but gives a good indication of specific areas of focus under each programme priority area. It is building on progress from the previous period but unfortunately does not mention lessons learnt and how these have informed this document, what did not work well and how that can be improved. UNDP has had challenges at the political level, with consequences for programme results - Sexual Offences Bill (SOB) and Joint Security Sector Governance Programme (JSSGP) being examples of this. Political risk is mentioned in small paragraph under programme risk. Given the extent political risks impact on programming, UNDP should elaborate how engagement at the political level can be improved and reflect more on challenges faced in working in a difficult political environment. | * Paragraph 14 (page 4) indicates that the CPD is informed by lessons learned from previous programming periods, the independent country programme evaluation 2019, and sector-specific plans. Although specific lessons learned are outlined in the evaluation reports of respective programmes/projects, these have informed the strategies proposed for taking forward the CPD (2021-2025) such as integrated programming, capacity development, area-based and joint programming modalities. * Paragraph 23 (page 7) revised to reflect mitigation measures against political risks including continuous dialogue at the political level as well as institutionalization of partnership and accountability frameworks. In addition, paragraphs 17 and 18e indicate partnership strategies that would be adopted in taking forward sensitive and political issues such as the SOB and human rights issues (see page 5). |
| Specific comments under each programme priorities:   * **Governance, inclusive politics and reconciliation**: On the Constitution Review Process, the text refers to adopting the constitution but, in the results framework, it mentions targeting 18 articles.  The target should be the adoption of all articles after the review. In elections, the target in the results framework is 50% of voters registered but not sure against what. In the preparations for one person one vote elections in 2020, the target was 3million voters. On women quota, the text refers to federal and member state levels, but the baseline used is for federal parliament (24%), which isn’t representative of the Federal Member State level.   On reconciliation, it is good to note the continued focus on the National Reconciliation Framework (NRF)/National Reconciliation Process (NRP). A reference to the inclusion of women and youth -in line with resolutions 1325 and 2250 – is missing and should be included.   * **Security, rule of law and access to justice**:  On Security, good to note promotion of civilian oversight, with increased involvement of civil society and media. There is no mention of the implementation of the Transitional plan. On Justice, restorative and transformative justice is a welcome addition pertinent to Somali context.   The CPD proposes to include an extra 27 CSOs to monitor human rights violations. However, the 13 Civil Society Organizations from the last period have not been as effective as expected. Without mention on lessons learnt or what they will do differently, it may be difficult to project more CSOs partners being more effective.   * **Sustainable natural resources management for inclusive economic growth:** Installation of Early Warning Systems is welcome, but it should extend to timely dissemination of such information. It’s important to include the private sector in Natural Resource Management, and address the legal bottlenecks that has been a challenge. | * **Constitution review:** Indicator, baseline and target under Output 1.2 on Constitutionadjusted (see page 9).   **Elections:** Target revised to read – “**50% turnout of registered voters**” based on the figures/data for the preparations for one person one vote elections in 2020 which was 3 million voters (see pp 9 and 10).  **30% women’s quota:** Kindly note that the baseline for women’s quota in 2020 is given for the Federal Parliament as well as for each of the Federal Member States while the target of 30% is for all Parliaments (Page 9, 1st column). However, the 24% baseline relates to indicator 1.4.2: Proportion of women in elected positions under Output 1.4. Strengthened electoral institutions and systems for credible elections, is specific to the federal elections for which the IESG provides support through the NIEC. Although NIEC is the mandated body for implementing federal elections and referendums (NIEC’s establishment law claims jurisdiction over all elections in the country), there is no clarity as yet that the FMS would accept the NIEC’s support for FMS elections. Currently only two of the FMS have electoral management bodies, with the others setting up own temporary election bodies with weak links to the NIEC. For the 2021-2025 CPD, the Country Office proposes to limit the support to the federal elections, thus the baseline and target indicated.  **Reconciliation**: Adjustments made (p. 5 footnote)/initiatives to be taken forward will be in line with the relevant UN General Assembly and/or Security Council Resolutions including: SCR1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security; S/RES/2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace and Security; A/RES/72/182 on the protection of and assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and; S/RES/2475 (2019): Protecting Persons with Disabilities in Conflict.   * Paragraph 19a (page 6) and Output 2.1 adjusted to reflect implementation of the Somalia Transition Plan. * Through the Joint Programme on Human Rights, the establishment of the CSO network was initiated in late 2019, as well as work on human rights monitoring by CSOs. Online trainings on human rights monitoring were provided to the 13 CSO networks. However, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted/delayed the implementation of planned activities. For the 2021-2025 CPD, it is proposed to progressively expand on the CSOs network and work with a higher number of CSOs including through online trainings and resumption of face-to-face engagements while adhering to COVID-19 prevention protocols. Further, with the establishment of the Independent Human Rights Commission as envisaged in the CPD, the CSOs can provide their monitoring reports to the Commission. * Paragraph 20b adjusted to infer the aspect of information sharing/utilization of resultant information to inform necessary actions by communities and key institutions (see page 6). In addition, the aspect of dissemination of information on/arising from Early Warning Systems is inferred in indicator 4.1.1: Number of target communities benefitting from early warning systems under Output 4.1. Enhanced capacities of government institutions and communities at federal, state, local levels to mitigate and adapt to climate change. For the communities to ‘benefit’ from the Early Warning Systems, the information generated must be disseminated (see page 18). * Paragraph 20d adjusted to strengthen the involvement/role of the private sector in promotion of equitable access to sustainable energy including through development of legal frameworks to regulate cost of energy (see page 7). |

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