**COMMENTS ON THE UNDP DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR BENIN (2024-2026)**

*Second regular session 2023*

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| **Name of the delegation/ Member State** | **Comments by Member State on the UNDP draft CPD for xxx** | **Country Office response** | **Action/Revision made in the draft CPD** |
| **Belgium** | We notes that the country programme document for Benin will cover the period 2024-2026 in order to be aligned with Beninese 2026 general elections. What measures has been taken to adapt to this new duration and how will UNDP integrate this challenge? | The UNDP Country Programme Document for Benin will cover the period of 2024-2026 to align with the Government Action Plan (PAG 2021 -2026) and with the UN Corporation Framework (UNSDCF 2023-2026).  UNDP is cognizant of this timeframe and has develop its country programme to align with the 3 years duration of the United Nations Cooperation framework. To address this shorter CPD duration, the priorities and results of the programme were designed to fit this specific duration. The targets have been set in accordance with this 3-year programme. For all new country programme UNDP organize a roll out to ensure a continuity for some intervention and a change for others to align its programming to the focus of the new programme. The same approach will ensure that changes required at the end of the 3 years programme will be successfully implemented. | no change required |
| We welcome the Cooperation Framework that will target women, youth, people with disabilities and local communities in rural areas, particularly in the north and border regions. Mutual efforts and coordination are necessary in those remote areas to prevent radicalism. How will security-related risks be mitigated and how the different agencies will address together those issues? | The deterioration of the security situation is a risk that has been taken in consideration and assess while developing the country programme. It is and will be carefully monitored and managed during the entire duration of the new programme. UNDP has already opened two project offices in Parakou and Natitingou to be closer to the population it serves and to improve collaboration and coordination with partners working in these regions.  In response to increase insecurity, UNDP has already adapted its programming and is implementing intervention in the north related to social cohesion, prevention of violent extremism and prevention of transhumance conflicts, resilience of communities affected by the negative impact of climate change.  To ensure that interventions are implemented safely, UNDP is working in close collaboration with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security to monitor, on real time basis, the situation in the northern part of Benin and.  Additionally, UNDP together with all United Nations agencies is preparing a detailed risk analysis and mitigation plan. The United Nations will implement the Programme Criticality (PC) Framework, a common United Nations system policy for decision-making on acceptable risk. The Programme Criticality approach puts in place guiding principles and a systematic structured approach to ensure that activities implemented can be balanced against security risks. The PC Framework is closely linked to the United Nations security risk management (SRM) process to determine levels of acceptable security risk for programmes and mandated activities implemented by UN personnel. | no change required |
| Food insecurity has raised despite government’s and donors efforts due to climate change and soil degradation, among other factors. How will UNDP integrate this challenge in the next programme? Which innovative approaches will be applied in order to improve the indicators ? | As articulated in the CPD, paragraph 15, UNDP will address food insecurity, in partnership with FAO, through the restoration of degraded lands and forest ecosystems for climate resilience and soil fertility. This involves supporting climate risk assessments, developing climate change adaptation strategies, and implementing climate-resilient agricultural practices. Belgium is already one of UNDP partner in these areas. UNDP will also work towards promoting sustainable agricultural practices. UNDP will support farmers and agricultural communities in adopting sustainable farming methods that enhance productivity while minimizing negative impacts on the environment. This will includes promoting the use of climate-smart and resilient agricultural techniques, efficient water management, and sustainable land use practices.  The particularity of this new CPD is strategic innovation underpinned by the application of systems change and a portfolio approach to address complex development challenges. UNDP intends to achieve larger impact through a systemic approach of development challenges that include portfolio programming addressing issues holistically rather than through projectized and silo interventions. | no change required |
| **The Netherlands** | The context analysis is thorough and well presented | UNDP acknowledge and appreciate the comments from the Government of The Netherlands on its draft country programme document 2026-2026. | no change required |
| The programme interventions’ pillars are in line with national Beninese needs and policies as described in the PAG2: a) resilience, sustainable growth and employment, and b) rule of law, democracy, governance and social cohesion.  Renewable energy transition and climate and disaster risk management are specific themes, as well as digital transition and focus on trans-border areas. |
| A lot of partnerships are being mentioned, especially with other UN agencies, such as UNICEF, FAO, WFP, IOM and with other bilateral technical and financial partners (a: EU, Japan, China, Qatar and Belgium, as well as South-South cooperation with Brazil, India and South Africa; b: Belgium, the Netherlands, USAID), as well as with financial mechanisms and institutions (GEF, GCF, various development Banks, etc.). Also private sector and civil society are mentioned regularly. The national government coordinating agency will be the Ministry of Economy and Finance. |
| Themes put emphasis on social inclusion (gender equality, women’s empowerment and youth and people with different capacities). Different ways for risk management will be used. |