**COMMENTS ON THE UNDP DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (2020-2024)**

*First regular session 2020*

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| **Comments by Sweden** | **Changes to the CPD** | **Country Office response** |
| * We welcome the overall direction UNDP is taking at country level with this program. | NA | * The CO noted the comment |
| * As regards to governance and decentralization, we would like to see a more specific language around strengthening the government’s and the provinces’ capacity to increase resources mobilisation and fight corruption through digitalization of revenue collection. This would be part of the governance priority and more specifically part of management of natural resources and territories. | None | * Paras 10, 17, 19 outline UNDP’s offer regarding fighting corruption. Digitalization of revenue collection would signal a dramatic shift in tax/revenue policy in DRC provided that, inter alia, our support is aligned with national priorities, UNDP has a comparative advantage vis-à-vis other players, resources/capacities are available, and the adequate technological infrastructure is in place in the country. Undoubtedly, this will produce a ripple effect on tackling corruption. Because of word limitation in the CPD, this aspect does not feature prominently in the narrative. The CO will take the comment into consideration during the CPD rollout.  This also applies to our support to increased effectiveness in natural resource management. |
| * We suggest a geographic focus of programming to make sure that provinces and territories with the highest prevalence of humanitarian needs are targeted before other geographical areas, while noting that needs are not only based on insecurity and conflict. Knowing that the humanitarian response plan in DRC is unlikely to be met, investment of development funds in such areas becomes even more important. | Information on geographic focus included under para 11 |  |
| * We suggest that collaboration with the EU delegation and the EU development programming is mentioned. Particularly important as UNDP and EU are present in the same sectors to a large degree. | Included under para 13 of the revised version of the CPD. |  |
| **Comments by Finland** | **Changes to the CPD** | **Country Office response** |
| CPD Section IV: Monitoring and Evaluation, based on the costed evaluation plan, consider elaborating on:   1. What other type of evaluations will be planned other than the MTR? How will they serve accountability and learning? 2. What will be produced from the generated evaluation knowledge? 3. How will the national capacity be strengthened? | The CPD has been slightly updated to   * Elaborate the other types of evaluations. * A strategy to strengthen national capacities included as follows: * *Modernizing the statistical tool for development planning, control of public finances and institutional accountability.* * *Produce data disaggregated by sex, region and other socioeconomic attributes.* * *Ensuring existence of data collection/analysis mechanisms providing disaggregated data to monitor progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals* | Comments on knowledge product well noted. Details not included in the CPD because of word limitations. |
| **Comments by France** | **Changes to the CPD** | **Country Office response** |
| France supports the priorities identified in the draft CPD for DRC, in particular the 1st priority on governance, the 3rd priority on stabilization, and the 2nd priority on environmental and climate issues. | Listed France among the potential partners/donors in the document. (see para no.13) | Comment noted |
| (item 14) In accordance with the BAPA+40 conference, accountability and transparency requirements for the south-south and triangular cooperation is being established, as well as the necessity to collect quality data on the financings provided, including via the official development assistance declarations to the OECD, and within the context of the new instrument for development finance TOSSD. We therefore would like to ask the UNDP how it plans to declare its data on the south-south and triangular cooperation in DRC. | Elaborated in the CPD briefly that the CO will support the establishment of a national policy dialogue framework to ensure transparency and effectiveness in aid coordination and management including those related to south-south and triangular cooperation. | Comment noted. |
| (item 30) France will watch with interest the results of the support to innovation for the implementation of the SDGs, and the establishment of the accelerator laboratories*.* | None | The CO will ensure that the France Cooperation Agency receives information on the activities and progress reports of the Acc Lab. |
| (item 8) We underline the importance of the results-based projects evaluations. | None | Comment noted |
| (item 17) On governance for sustainable development, it is essential that the modernization of the statistic tools be conducted in accordance with the National statistics institute (INS), as mentioned in item 33. | None | Comment noted |
| (item 39) It is important that AFRICSTAT be associated to the strengthening of the INS in DRC, so as to foster a sustainable reinforcement of the national statistical capacities. To this item, we suggest to add as follow: *“UNDP, in collaboration with United Nations agencies and the regional organization on statistics Afristat, will durably strengthen the capacity of the National Institute for Statistics […]”* | Comment integrated under para 33 of the CPD | Comment noted |
| With regard to the result indicators, we invite UNDP to use the OECD OECD SIGI index (SIGI) rather than that of the MO Ibrahim foundation. | None | The CO has opted to maintain the Mo Ibrahim Index as it is used in most strategic documents of the country. |
| **Comments by the United Kingdom** | **Changes to the CPD** | **Country Office response** |
| DFID colleagues in DRC were pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to the development of this CPD, and we know other donors were engaged too. | NA | Noted and the UNDP appreciates the collaborative working relationship with the DFID |
| We are broadly supportive of the approach articulated. We would suggest that the document is more clearly prioritised, in particular around the fragile and unstable context.  We believe this is an area where UNDP can add real value.  Conversely on economic recovery e.g. clean energy or access to finance, we would like to see either more evidence of UNDP’s added value or if not then this area of work being streamlined much more and linked more strongly with the work of other agencies.  The risk is that the breadth of the plan as currently expressed means less depth in any one area and could end up with projects not delivering strong outcomes. | None | The CO agrees with this comment and will take them into consideration during the design of subsequent flagship projects. Details on each of the activities are limited because of the word limitations for CPD (only 6000 words for the entire CPD). The CO will consult with the DFID country office and other partners during the rollout of the new CPD. |
| Building on that point, we understand UNDP have consulted other UN agencies in preparing this document and would like to see more description of how UNDP will maximise synergies with the work of others.  To assist with this, and as a more general point, we feel DFID country offices would welcome the opportunity to see a ‘package’ of UN CPDs at the same time to be able to pick up any overlaps and maximise synergies. | None | The CO takes note of the comment. Part of the response is described in the UNSDCF 20-24 (UN Cooperation Framework) which presents in more details the integration and synergy of the actions and results of the UN agencies as well as their joint contributions to the national results.   * Moreover, due to the word limitations, all UN partnership and collaborations with UNDP could not be detailed in the document. The CPD has covered some examples: interventions in the area of inclusive finance with UNCDF; the rule of law with MONUSCO and the UNHCR etc.   The UNDP DRC Country Office will inform the UN RCO to share with partners the package of CPDs and the UNSDCF 2024. |
| **Comments by Belgium** | **Changes to the CPD** | **Country Office response** |
| Belgium strongly supports the UNDS reform currently being implemented, of which the new UN sustainable development cooperation frameworks (CF) must be the baseline for a more coordinated and efficient UN action on the ground. Therefore, the alignment of country programs of all United Nations entities on the CF is essential. | None | UNDP DRC agrees with the comment and has already been addressed in the CPD. The Theory of Change of the CPD is fully aligned and linked with the UNSDCF problem analysis, solutions pathways and results framework that are built with main immediate, underlying and structural causes referring to the weight of the subsistence, rent and informal economy as well as the delay in the development of human capital. UNDP contributes to all the three strategic axes of the CF, and specifically:   * Strategic pillar no. 1 of CF involves UNDP as Co-lead on “Peace consolidation” “human rights” and “social cohesion and democracy”. * Strategic pillar no.2 of CF involves UNDP as Co-lead on “Inclusive economic growth”, “agricultural development”, “sustainable management of natural resources”. * Strategic Pillar no. 3 of CF involves UNDP on “Access to basic social services” and “humanitarian assistance “. |
| The CF proposes the creation of a United Nations Single Program whose political guidance will be provided by a Joint Government/UNS Steering Committee, which will be based on a Single Budgetary Framework and will be implemented through an Operational Framework "Operate Together". This seems essential to us and should be a prerequisite for discussions on the country programs of the various UN entities. | None | The implementation of the CPD will be done through the joint work plans which will be developed and implemented annually for each priority area by the UNSDCF result groups under UNCT coordination. In the context of the DRC (transition context) these work plans will be developed jointly with the substantive sections of MONUSCO.  The CPD also mentioned the use of an integrated approach with catalytic effects and the development of joint programs to create the conditions for a spirit "united in action" by pooling approaches, means, and monitoring systems.  In addition, through this CPD, UNDP DRC adheres to the governance mechanism of the CF Cooperation Framework structured at three levels:   * ***Strategic level***: a Joint Steering Committee (JSC), co-chaired by the Minister of International Cooperation, the Minister of Planning, and the UN Resident Coordinator. * ***Functional level***: the UN Country Team supported by four inter-agency groups. * ***Operational and thematic level***: Led by eight (8) UNSDCF Results Groups, supported by a Nexus Group, a Gender Group and a Human Rights Group. |
| Despite the fact that the CF remains general, it has also the merit of pointing out challenges facing the United Nations system in DRC. We would like to highlight some of them which are of paramount importance for us and need improvement in the future: 1) Better synergies and complementarities between United Nations entities by reducing inefficiencies, lack of coordination and inter-agency competition in seeking funding. 2) Greater impetus from the Country Team and more stable expertise of the UNS Coordination Unit 3) Better information-sharing / analysis between MONUSCO and the Country Team in order to improve the capacity for joint analysis and collective results. | None | UNDP is called upon to play an integrator role regarding the SDGs and this has been well discussed in the CPD. During the implementation phase of the CPD, UNDP will, through its integrator role, support the UNCT for an efficient achievement of the SDGs while highlighting the synergies of actions between all United Nations entities thanks to new approaches such as the Nexus and the development of integrated programs with strong catalytic effects and impacts on the reduction of human insecurity in its multiple dimensions (legal, civic, economic, etc.), peacebuilding, empowerment of women and youth and improving the quality of national, provincial and local governance. UNDP DRC is currently co-lead with OCHA on the NEXUS whose process is well advanced. Similarly, during the ending cycle, UNDP DRC has demonstrated its ability to work together and collaborate effectively with other UN agencies. We have coordinated or participated in the implementation of several joint programs / projects notably in the fight against GBV (with UNFPA and UNJHRO), elections (with MONUSCO), justice and human rights (with UNJHRO and UNHCR), early recovery (with FAO, UN HABITAT, WFP, etc.). |
| Even if we do support the alignment of the UNDP CPD on the national strategy and the CF, we would like also to underline the difficulty of assessing whether the UNDP Country Program aligns itself with the national targets given the too numerous objectives and the too high level ambition of the latter as well as the fact that the national strategy is not yet finalized. Therefore, we would like to encourage UNDP to better streamline its CPD taking into account the realities of the country with fewer, clearer and more concrete objectives. | None | The remark is noted. UNDP DRC would like to confirm that a flexible working approach has been adopted to ensure the full alignment of the CPD to the final version of the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) validated and adopted by the Government on 27 December 2019.   * CPD’s priorities no. 1 & 3 are aligned to NSPD’s Pilar II: Strengthening Good Governance, Rules of Law and peacebuilding; * CPD Priority No. 2 is linked to the NSPD Pillars III and V: Consolidation of the economy growth and Diversification and transformation of the economy –Protection of the environment, Climate Change and sustainable and balanced development. |
| We would like to receive further information with regard to the CPD level of ambition and available financial means (CPD budget of nearly 440 million USD, of which only 80 million USD on the regular budget and 370 million USD still to be found) as well as further information describing more concretely how UNDP intends to align its CPD with the CF (how, with whom, for what results). | None | The ambition (results and resources) of CPD is based on the experiences of the ending programme cycle, on the CO delivery capacity ($538 million delivered during the period of 2013-2019) and on the real dimension of the development challenges targeted for the next five years both by the country and by the UN System in the DRC.  The CO is cognizant of the challenges of resource mobilization. This aspect has been captured as a risk for the success of the country programme in Para 28 of the CPD. We have provided mitigate this risk by focusing on major integrated and transformational projects (emergency community development programme) for greater impact and efficiency, and to facilitate scaling up. The CO is working to strengthen the resource mobilization strategy to diversify the resources and funding base including from the private sector, emerging countries, foundations, international financial institutions and vertical funds including the Green Climate Fund.  For more details, please find below the UNDP DRC pipeline overview.   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | | **DRC Pipeline overview.** | | | | **Maturities** | **Amounts (US $)** | | **Definition of maturity levels** | | **A (Hard)** | 112 700 000,00 | | A pipeline: Means funding agreements signed or written confirmation available | | **B (Soft)** | 211 000 000,00 | | B(soft) means: The CO is actively engaging with partners with high likelihood of the discussion translating to funding | | **C (Soft)** | 325 000 000,00 | | C (soft): Means discussions are ongoing with some probability of some of the discussions translating to funding | | Total | **648 700 000,00** | |  | | **Update 07/01/2020** | | |  | |
| The nexus "humanitarian / development / peace and security" is essential in a country such as DRC. It would be useful that UNDP further elaborate on this by specifying concrete actions it intends to put in place, how and with whom. | None | UNDP is one of the leading UN agencies, with OCHA, on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus in the DRC. In this capacity, UNDP has contributed to the development of collective outcomes of the nexus approach, in partnership with OECD and Canada, and will also be delivering on some of them. The four collective outcomes for DRC include the following: access to basic services; population movements; fight against sexual violence; food insecurity and malnutrition. UNDP will deliver on the access to basic services outcomes through support to improved local governance, efficient administration and better service delivery, particularly in Eastern DRC. Lessons learnt from the assistance provided in the East will be replicated in other areas and synergies will be developed with MONUSCO’s stabilization projects. Fight against sexual violence is another key nexus outcome on which UNDP will be working. This will be carried out in partnership with UNFPA and the Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO) in the East, in the Centre and in the West. Lastly, UNDP is funding the position of a Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus Adviser within the office of the DSRSG/HC/RC, thus providing support to the coordination of the nexus approach efforts and building synergies in the interventions. |
| The Resident Coordinator has a key role to play in the UNDS reform on ground. Cooperation and articulation with the RC and its office would deserve to be further explored and detailed in the CPD. | None | UNDP DRC assists the RC and participates fully in facilitating coordination. At the strategic level, UNDP will continue to chair the ad hoc SDG group of the Programme Management Team and oversee the anchoring and monitoring of the SDGs in the country's development planning process in accordance with MAPS. UNDP will continue to play a leading role in the strategic repositioning of the United Nations system because of its SDG integrator role in line with the mandate received through the UN reform. UNDP will invest more in the conduct of the mission transition, notably through the technical aspects and support for strategic planning.  The CO was unable to provide details on the cooperation strategy because of the CPD word limitation (max 6000 words). The CO would engage with the Belgian mission in Kinshasa for a follow up discussion. |
| Coordination with other donors seems to be limited, at best, to an event dimension (§ 115 CF). Nevertheless, the United Nations and UNDP in particular could and should play a vital role in this coordinated approach with donors. They, along with the EU delegation, lead the Coordination Group of Technical and Financial Partners. Neither the CF nor the UNDP Country Program were presented and discussed in this forum. There is, to our knowledge, no other forum where these two documents have been shared with donors. | None | The UNSDCF was presented and discussed during the annual retreat of the Coordination Group of Technical and Financial Partners held on 29 November 2019.Here below is the summary of the stakeholder consultation (including the national and civil society part of the DRC) along the process of developing the CPD and UNSDCF 2020-2024.  **2018**  • 2&3 July 2018: Training on UNDAF Programming Principles - Participation: UN System and National Party;  • 4 July 2018: half-day discussion, Heads of Agencies and Deputies with UNDG Regional on UN System reforms, implementation of DaO in DRC and strategic priorities to be developed during the planning workshop;  • 5-7 July 2018: Strategic Planning Workshop: Participants: UN System, National Party (including representatives of the provinces), **Civil Society, Private Sector, Donors.**  **2019**  • January to June 2019: RR had a bilateral consultation on the CPD priorities with the key donors and partners;  • 16 April: Technical review meeting of the UNDP DRC CPD with the relevant ministries.  • 28 May 2019: Technical review meeting of the UNDP DRC CPD 2020-2024 with donors’ representatives.  • 2&3 July 2019: Technical review and finalization workshop of the UNSDCF-DRC 2020-2024 : **Participants:** MONUSCO, the Direction of Study and Planning (DEP) of the relevant sectoral ministries, the sectoral heads of the Ministry of Planning, representatives of the relevant national institutions (INS, National Monitoring Mechanism of the Addis Ababa Framework Agreement, Province of Kinshasa, STAREC), **civil society, private sector, Technical and Donors representatives.**  • 29 November 2019, Presentation and discussion on the CF during the annual retreat of the Coordination Group of Technical and Financial Partners.  In addition, UNDP DRC will consult with development partners and donors in the course of implementing of the CPD. |