COMMENTS ON THE UNDP DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (2025-2029)

Second regular session 2024

Name of the delegations/ Member State	Comments by Member State on the UNDP draft CPD	CO response	Action/Revision made in the draft CPD
GERMANY	Very broad portfolio in many and partly very diverse areas (six impact areas: governance of natural resources; gender equality; structural transformation; youth and women empowerment; climate change; and peace and security). The goals are very general and overarching; the indicators of the Resources Framework are more quantitative, and it is not clear how it is planned to move from the objectives to the achievement of the indicators.	The broad and general nature of the outcomes is justified by the fact that agencies such as UNDP have the obligation to copy verbatim the goals/outcomes from the UNSDCF. Therefore, UNDP outputs which are more specific aim to contribute to the outcomes of the UNSCDF. With regard to the impact areas, UNDP will adopt the portfolio approach which will allow the delivery of integrated solutions adapted to each geographical zone.	This does not necessitate the revision of the CPD.
	It is mentioned that the country faces complex security and humanitarian issues. And it is also mentioned that MONUSCO withdrawal/transition and the consequences are rightly seen as a risk to UNDP program implementation in certain provinces. However, UNDP`s own role in the transition is not described (take over coordination in July for South Kivu and then later for North Kivu and Ituri?).	- UNDP already assumes the lead role and will coordinate the implementation of the three main joint programmes that contributes to a successful transition in the areas of police, justice, and stabilization. - UNDP will also support provincial authorities in the coordination of international assistance after MONUSCO withdrawal. The above will be reflected in all projects and programme documents during the implementation phase.	This comment is relevant for the implementation phase and may require the revision of the CPD.

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	It is outlined that UNDP will support the Government to strengthen institutional and human capacities. What role and relationship are foreseen for NGOs and CSOs with regards fostering local capacity, the sense of ownership and the trust in state actors?	NGOs and CSOs are important partners to UNDP. Partnership with these organizations will be established during the CPD implementation phase. Various modalities are often used by UNDP including using CSOs as implementing partners and promoting complementarities and synergies with their projects funded by other donors.	This is also about the implementation phase.
	We welcome that it is mentioned that UNDP, in order to consolidate peace, security and social cohesion, will support government initiatives that promote access to quality justice for all and the restoration of state authority in conflict areas, combat gender-based violence and ensure the protection of vulnerable groups. UNDP also wants to continue to work closely with P-DDRCS authorities *("UNDP will strengthen the resilience and stabilization of conflict-affected areas by addressing the root causes of conflicts. To this end, UNDP will work closely with the national Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme (P-DDRCS)…")* Since the beginning of the P-DDRCS in 2021, this has been a major challenge for all donors, including the World Bank's STAR-EST program. How close UNDP will be working with the World Bank and other donors with regard to the P-DDRCS implementation and what alternatives are there if this national program also "fails" due to lack of state ownership?	UNDP is committed to working closely with the World Bank (STAR-EST) and other partners to support the implementation of the P-DDRCS. To mitigate risks associated with potential failures, UNDP has been supporting and will strengthen political engagement with the government at central and local levels. The current UNDP stabilization programme offer has a strong component on political engagement, community resilience, and conflict transformation.	This is related to the implementation phase of the CPD.
	We welcome that UNDP aims at addressing root causes of the complex conflict in Eastern DRC. Yet, it remains unclear, which root causes are to be addressed concretely by the P-DDRCS.	The P-DDRCS has identified the following areas as key to addressing the root causes: security governance, local governance, land governance, and mining governance. UNDP will focus on these areas.	This was captured under point #18 of priority #2 of the CPD and the result framework# output 3.3. So, no further revision needed.

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	It is mentioned that UNDP will create greater synergy between governance and peace consolidation, stabilization and resilience interventions. How will this synergy be fostered, especially with regards to challenges in the area of local ownership and coordination?	The synergy will be fostered through: - Supporting provincial authorities in taking into account the specific needs of displaced or resettled populations, ex-combatants, and community members. - Supporting the decentralization process and inclusive, conflict sensitive, participative local governance that is accountable to the local population, placing the general interest and the needs of the most vulnerable at the heart of its operations. - Supporting the provision of high-quality, reliable formal justice in these areas, which protects human rights and victims, as well as alternative conflict resolution mechanisms, adapted to local priorities and accessible. - Supporting the fight against impunity for serious crimes by strengthening the penal chain and providing holistic support for victims of SGBV.	This is related to the implementation phase.
	We welcome that UNDP is guided by the program priorities of the updated National Strategic Development Plan (the development process of the PNSD was also supported and accompanied by UNDP). In this context we welcome that UNDP will support the Government in the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Agenda 2063 of the African Union.	Positive comment acknowledged	No action required.

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	We welcome the focus on gender-equality, and a gender-responsive and gender-sensitive (unfortunately not gender-transformative) approach (also in the context of combatting SGBV). It is not very clear how women`s needs and rights are reached and through which approaches. Gender equality probably is a cross-sectional subject. How does that fit with a "corporate gender marker to ensure 15 per cent is budgeted for advancing gender equality"?	UNDP will integrate gender analyses and regularly consult with women's groups to include their voices in the development projects. Gender equality will be a cross-cutting priority across all sectors. As per the "corporate gender marker", UNDP DRC already systematically adopts the allocation of 15% or programme budgets to advance gender equality. This will continue throughout the programme cycle.	This will be done during the implementation phase.