COMMENTS ON THE UNDP DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT (CPD) FOR CHINA (2026-2030)

Second Regular Session 2025

Name of delegations/ Member State	Comments by Member State on the UNDP draft CPD	Country Office response	Action/Revision made in the draft CPD
UNITED STATES	• The United States opposes completion of the CPD for UNDP in China. China will become a high-income country during the next cycle of this CPD, and we condemn allocation of United Nations development resources to China rather than developing countries with true need. At a minimum, the United States insists that each CPD include an exit clause for UNDP to end programs and close country presence. The United States rejects the inclusion of China's foreign policy initiatives, especially the Global Development Initiative and the Belt and Road Initiative, in the CPDs for China. The United States seeks assurances that UNDP is not, directly or inadvertently, promoting or advancing China's signature foreign policy or economic diplomacy initiatives.	• **Income status and graduation:** As of 1 July 2025, based on World Bank data (Atlas method), China's gross national income (GNI) per capita stands at $13,660, maintaining its classification as upper- middle-income country (UMIC). Applying the Executive Board-approved four-year average formula, China may meet the threshold for graduation to Net Contributing Country (NCC) status before 2030. GNI per capita averages are reviewed biennially, with the next Executive Board assessment scheduled for 2027. Upon graduation, and in line with Executive Board decision, a two-year transition period will apply before China assumes NCC status. • **Allocation of core resources:** The annual allocation of regular programme resources (TRAC 1) for UMICs is set at $150,000 annually, as mandated by Executive Board decision. Actual disbursement may vary depending on the level of voluntary contributions to UNDP regular resources. (See: *Programmatic component of the UNDP Integrated Resources and Budget Plan*. • **Transition planning:** Considering China's anticipated transition to high-income status during the programme cycle, the CPD envisions a graduation strategy from its current form and content to advance towards an evolved presence and programmatic footprint of UNDP in line with changing development gaps and needs. This is consistent with practice in other countries undergoing similar transitions as they move up the income ladder. Paragraph 45 has been revised for clarity. • **UNDP engagement with NCCs:** UNDP engages with NCCs upon request, through instruments mutually agreed with the government. UNDP currently maintains representation in 25 NCCs.	• Edited Paragraph 45: "The country programme envisions a gradual exit strategy from its current form towards an evolved presence and programmatic footprint." • Edited Paragraph 7 to add "a national policy".

		Modalities for engagement—including physical presence, funding mechanisms, and programme support —are guided by relevant Executive Board decisions and applicable rules and regulations. • **Global Development Initiative (GDI):** UNDP does not promote or endorse national policy initiatives of Member States. This applies equally to China's GDI. As with other UMICs, the China CPD supports country-led global and South-South cooperation (SSC) development partnerships. The aim is to enhance the sustainable development impact of China's international cooperation efforts in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), through mutual learning and demand-driven approaches, building on best practices and in alignment with international norms and standards. Paragraph 7, referencing the GDI, has been revised for clarity. • **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI):** The BRI is not referenced in the CPD for China.	

GERMANY	• In its draft CPD for China UNDP elaborates on the impressive development successes China has achieved over the last decades, having reached a status of high human development. However, the document falls short of recognising that China is on the verge of graduating from upper-middle income to high income status (as defined by the organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) and World Bank), too. Consequently, we would have expected a more thorough reflexion of the current and future role of UNDP as key agency within the United Nations development system in the world's second largest economy. Instead, the draft CDP refers to the previous programme's evaluation, which apparently not only states a "limited ability to attribute specific outcomes or impacts to UNDP," but also mentions China's strong institutions thus hinting at a high level of human capacity and resources. We would be interested to learn how UNDP sees the evolution of its role in China and if it foresees some kind of transition or phasing out of its engagement in China given the country's (future) status as a high-income country / country with high human development.	• **Income Status & Graduation:** As of 1 July 2025, based on World Bank data (Atlas method), China's GNI per capita stands at $13,660, maintaining its classification as UMIC. Applying the Executive Board-approved four-year average formula, China may meet the threshold for graduation to NCC status before 2030. GNI per capita averages are reviewed biennially, with the next Executive Board assessment scheduled for 2027. Upon graduation, and in line with Executive Board decision, a two-year transition period will apply before China assumes NCC status. • **UNDP evolving role and value-add**: Given continuing development challenges in China—including multidimensional poverty in remote and rural areas— and the country's size and relevance to the global development agenda, the CPD seeks to leverage the commitments and investments made by China to maximize SDG impact and progress both domestically and internationally. Paragraphs 11 and 12 of the CPD refer. • **Transition planning:** Considering China's anticipated transition to high-income status during the programme cycle, the CPD envisions a graduation strategy from its current form and content to advance towards an evolved presence and programmatic footprint of UNDP in line with changing development gaps and needs. This is consistent with practice in other countries undergoing similar transitions as they move up the income ladder. Paragraph 45 has been revised for clarity. • **UNDP engagement with NCCs:** UNDP engages with NCCs upon request, through instruments mutually agreed with the government. UNDP currently maintains representation in 25 NCCs. Modalities for engagement—including physical presence, funding mechanisms, and programme support—are guided by relevant Executive Board decisions and applicable rules and regulations.	• Edited Paragraph 45: "The country programme envisions a gradual exit strategy from its current form towards an evolved presence and programmatic footprint."
	• Priority 3 acknowledges China's role as provider of international development cooperation and financing. We welcome the	• **Programming Principles:** The comment is well noted. The UNDP online portal provides open and comprehensive public access to project data: https://open.undp.org/	None

	reference made to the SDGs and the aim of aligning Chinese international development policies with international standards. Transparency on the type of cooperation funded from this programme would be appreciated.		

AUSTRALIA	• We welcome the CPD' reflections and learnings from the independent country programme evaluation. Australia continues to suggest a greater focus on UNDP work with China to deliver development cooperation that adheres to international standards, is transparent, meets genuine needs and is financially sustainable.	• **Alignment with international standards:** The comment is well noted. UNDP country programmes are demand-driven and aligned with national priorities and internationally agreed norms and standards.	None
	• Australia values the role UNDP plays in promoting best practice and supporting progress towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving its SDGs. The CPD should make clear that all programming and policy support is firmly grounded in this globally agreed framework. We recognise the potential value of south-south cooperation. UNDP support to south-south and third-party countries should be grounded in 2030 Agenda and achieving its SDGs. We suggest applying a consistent approach throughout the document to globally agreed standards and terms drawn from the 2030 Agenda and clarify where concepts are not UN approaches (for example, references to 'high-quality development,' 'shared	• **Grounding in globally agreed frameworks, including for SSC**: The CPD, along with the advisory and programmatic support provided by UNDP in relation to China's national development strategies and international engagements, is firmly grounded in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Given China's scale, its role is critical to accelerating global SDG progress at the speed and scale required for the last stretch towards the 2030 deadline. The CPD seeks to leverage national commitments and investments in sustainable development to maximize impact both domestically and internationally. • **Distinguishing Chinese Government policies**: The principle of national ownership requires CPDs to be developed based on national development plans and aligned to national priorities. While grounded in globally agreed frameworks, the CPD references national plans and policy priorities as outlined in the Third Plenum (2024) and likely to be included in China's 15th Five Year Plan (2026-2030). These include concepts—such as "high-quality development", "rural revitalisation", the "Beautiful China" initiative, and the Global Development Initiative (GDI). All references of China's domestic policies are enclosed in quotation	• Edited Paragraph 7 to add "a national policy". • Edited Paragraph 33: "...the country, to advance the SDGs globally through mutual learning, demand driven approaches and based on best practices."

	prosperity' and 'global development agendas'). The CPD should make clear distinction when making reference to Chinese Government policies as opposed to UNDP policies and positions. CPDs are factual documents and should avoid promoting or endorsing specific programs or signature foreign policy initiatives of any country, donor or recipient.	marks and sourced in footnotes. Paragraph 7, referencing the GDI, has been revised for clarity.	
	• Page 8 para 45 indicates the CPD was developed with a 'gradual exit strategy'. We welcome further information on what the sustainable transition plan is. This discussion would benefit from detail on how UNDP's role will adapt as China graduates from Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligibility in the future, noting also that the timeframe of the CPD (2026-2030) covers the remaining period through to the end of the 2030 Agenda.	• **Transition planning:** Considering China's anticipated transition to high-income status during the programme cycle, the CPD envisions a graduation strategy from its current form and content to advance towards an evolved presence and programmatic footprint of UNDP in line with changing development gaps and needs. This is consistent with practice in other countries undergoing similar as they move up the income ladder. Paragraph 45 has been revised for clarity. • **Graduation and Income Status:** As of 1 July 2025, based on World Bank data (Atlas method), China's GNI per capita stands at $13,660, maintaining its classification as UMIC. Applying the Executive Board-approved four-year average formula, China may meet the threshold for graduation to NCC before 2030. GNI per capita averages are reviewed biennially, with the next Executive Board assessment scheduled for 2027. Upon graduation, and in line with Executive Board decision, a two-year transition period will apply before China assumes NCC status. • **UNDP engagement with NCCs:** UNDP engages with NCCs upon request, through instruments mutually agreed with the government. UNDP currently maintains representation in 25 NCCs. Modalities for engagement—including physical presence, funding mechanisms, and programme support— are guided by relevant Executive Board decisions and applicable rules and regulations.	• Edited Paragraph 45: "The country programme envisions a gradual exit strategy from its current form towards an evolved presence and programmatic footprint."
	• Under the Monitoring and Evaluation	• **Monitoring and Evaluation Indicators:** The comment is well	None

	section, the use of indicators and outcomes would be stronger if derived from international standards and agreed frameworks. This is necessary to inform data-driven and verifiable results. Results will be difficult to measure otherwise, and learnings will not be as applicable elsewhere.	noted. UNDP adopts United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) outcomes *ad verbatim,* along with applicable outputs. A 'SMART' indicator approach is applied, and results data are aligned with the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) guidance. For more details, see: https://iatistandard.org/en/ As indicated in the Evaluation Plan (Annex), all evaluations will be implemented in accordance with UNDP Evaluation Guidelines and the United Nations Evaluation Group Quality Standards. Anchored in principles of learning, transparency, and accountability, the evaluation plan is designed to generate high-quality, credible, and actionable findings to inform adaptive management and strategic decision-making by UNDP and its partners.	
	• Australia recognises the immense potential of emerging technologies and digital transformation to address modern problems. Australia welcomes its inclusion in the CPD. Further information regarding the implementation of emerging technologies and the "regulatory sandbox for emerging technologies" is appreciated, including plans in place to mitigate associated safety, security, and privacy risks across implementation (including Artificial Intelligence).	• **Emerging Technologies and Digital Transformation:** UNDP globally advocates for open digital standards and open data to promote scale, reusability and interoperability across countries. Programmes integrate digital solutions to support a more equitable and transparent future that puts people and planet first. UNDP digital standards emphasize safeguarding rights and preventing misuse. For more information, see: https://digitalstrategy.undp.org/#Guiding-Principles	None
	• Australia recommends all UN CPDs emphasise the importance of protecting human rights, especially vulnerable groups such as ethnic minorities. We welcome more information on how UNDP will apply human rights safeguards in line with UNDP's Social and Environment Standards.	• **Programming Principles:** UNDP integrates human rights across its programming through the application of the Human-Rights Based Approach and Social and Environmental Standards (SES). All projects are screened for potential social and environmental risks during the design phase, and UNDP provides a Stakeholder Response Mechanism to address concerns that may arise during implementation. For further information, refer to: https://www.undp.org/rolhr/human-rights/mainstreaming and https://popp.undp.org/policy-page/social-and-environmental-standards. The comment is well noted and is reflected in the revised Paragraph 17 for clarity.	• Edited Para 17: "Also, UNDP integrates human rights into sustainable development programming".