**Tabulated Response to Comments on the Draft CPD Benin (2019-2023)**

| **Comment by Member State: Belgium** | **Changes to CPD** | **CO Remarks** |
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| The CPD will be presented in Benin by the Minister of Plan on June 25. Regrettably, partners in Benin, like Belgium (bureau de cooperation) have not been consulted, nor informed of the document at any stage of its development.  | n/a | * There is regrettably a confusion between UNDP CPD presentation and the UNDAF which was presented in June 25, 2018 by all the UN agencies.
* It is worth to note that the UNDP CPD was jointly presented by the Minister of State in charge of Planning and Development, accompanied by two other Ministers (the Minister in charge of higher education and the Minister in charge of social affairs and Microfinance) and the UNDP Resident Representative on May 11, 2018.
* Also attended the presentation, the Technical Advisor of the Head of State of Benin (Bureau of Analysis and Investigation), Directors of sectoral/technical ministries as well as diplomatic representatives (including bilateral and multilateral partners), UN agencies representatives, civil society organizations and private sector.
* The session was jointly organized by the government and UNDP under the leadership of the Minister of State who invited all partners including the Belgium Embassy and the “Bureau de Cooperation”.
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| The document does not seem to **take into consideration the profound changes the country** has undergone since the new political regime in 2016. It doesn’t mention any of the reforms that have been put into place since then and have influenced undeniably the implementation of the public policies. For instance, the new agencies that have been created for the implementation of the policies aren’t mentioned. Therefore, the document seems to be based on the previous CPD.  |  Paragraph 6 …… and benefits from the IMF Extended Credit Facility arrangement, approved in 2017 to address public finances and poverty challenges, whose first review was satisfactory.   | As mentioned in paragraph 6 of the programme document, the CPD is anchored and fully aligned with the Government Action Plan (PAG) - Benin Revealed 2016-2021 which is the foundation of the new regime vision and all the reforms (institutional, administrative, political, social and economic…) initiated. In addition, the CPD built upon the major reforms as reflected in different parts of the document, mainly in the following paragraphs:**The programme rationale focus on reforms**, which embraces the institutional reforms including the establishment of the new agencies for the implementation of the flagship programmes/projects.The new agencies are rather focused on programmes and projects implementation instead of the implementation of policies remaining under the line Ministries: * ***Paragraph 2***: …. “The integrated analysis of the planning system reveals that there is insufficient implementation of reforms for results-based budget management, and Sustainable Development Goals targets are poorly reflected in planning documents. Statistical capacities are low, particularly in terms of analytical data disaggregated by sector, sub region, gender, disability, and people’s vulnerabilities” ...
* ***Paragraph 6***: …” The Government is putting in place an inclusive coordination and monitoring mechanism to implement the Goals. This will include mobilizing stakeholders around the priority targets, with synergetic actions between sectoral ministries at the central and local levels, civil society organizations, and development partners. As a critical multilateral agency, in complementarity with other United Nations organizations and key partners, UNDP is well positioned to assist in implementing the programme for growth and sustainable development and the national development plan” ...; - **The CO see it worth adding the following on paragraph 6:** and benefits from the IMF Extended Credit Facility arrangement, approved in 2017 to address public finances and poverty challenges, whose first review was satisfactory.
* ***Paragraph 7***: …” UNDP, in partnership with the Government, spearheaded the promotion of e-governance, planning, gender mainstreaming, and evaluation of development policies, as well as the conduct of other key reforms” …;

**Programme priorities and partnership took well into account the dimensions related to the reforms** * ***Paragraph 9***: …”. (b) Promoting good governance and the rule of law by building capacities of public administration and local institutions to drive reforms that enable economic diversification, accelerate sustainable economic growth, increase income, and improve delivery of basic services, strengthening community and citizen participation in formulating and implementing public policies” …;
* Paragraph 17: …” UNDP will work to consolidate achievements in the areas of democracy, governance, conflict prevention, prevention of violent extremism, and citizen participation in sustaining peace, and will focus its interventions on: (a) support to government Institutional and political reforms” …;
* ***Paragraph 18***: …” UNDP will continue to support national institutions to improve coherence between planning, budget programming, and the needs related to achieving Sustainable Development Goals priority targets” …

Finally, the above demonstrates clearly that the CPD 2019-2023 has taken fully consideration the evolving context and reforms embedded in the PAG 2016-2021 as well as the other planning documents formulated by the new Government. |
| The document mentions **the comparative advantages** of Benin at several instances, without specifying concretely what those advantages or progress are.  |  n/a | The document has indeed been specific in the comparative advantages of UNDP. For instance, in paragraph 7, it is mentioned: … “UNDP contributed to national capacity development efforts for a more effective parliament and peaceful electoral processes. UNDP support is recognized as having sustained peace through the establishment of 77 communal and six departmental peace committees and the elaboration of national charter for social dialogue, and having promoted employment by establishing three entrepreneurship centres and developing millennium villages” … Regarding planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation process, UNDP played a unique role which permitted the elaboration of the national aid policy, the domestication and prioritization of the SDGs targets, the SDG-based national development plan, the alignment of the Result Based Budgeting with the public investment programme; that lead to the budget rationalization and an increase of the fiscal space. Due to the word count constraints and formatting requirements of the CPD, the focus was only on the main examples as per above, more details could be found in the UNDAF evaluation report and the three UNDP outcomes evaluation reports for the CPD 2014-2018.  |
| Both intervention pillars are the same as the pillars in previous programs. Some of the UNDP programs have been going on for more than 15 years. Eg. ‘appui à l’Assemblée Nationale’ (pilier ‘gouvernance’), and ‘appui à l’INSAE (statistics) (pilier ‘croissance inclusive’). Not adapting strategic documents to changing contexts, and continuing the same interventions for 15 years could lead to questions about efficiency and effectiveness of the previous programs as well as the current of future ones.  |  n/a | * The previous CPD was built around three pillars while this one is focused on two pillars in line with the national priorities defined in the PAG 2016-2021, the UNDAF 2019-2023 outcomes, as well as the UNDP strategic plan 2018-2021.

It is worth mentioning that support to the national assembly and the INSAE are key priorities for the country.For the Parliament, there is a new vision based on the National Assembly Strategic Plan 2016-2028 under implementation and a new legislature is going to start next year. With regard to INSAE, a national strategy for the development of statistics is being finalized in response to the statistic gaps, vital to the monitoring and evaluation of progress towards the SDGs achievement in Benin, as such it is a high priority for the Government and for UNDP for the operationalization of its Strategic Plan 2018-2021. Finally, the CPD intends to build on the national priorities of these two national strategic documents, which lay down the national vision in these two development sectors. Additionally, building on the lessons learnt and achievements of the previous programme, it is important to note that the CPD 2019-2023 focuses on the national priorities underlined in the PAG, the National Development Plan and others planning and strategic documents. Alignment to these national documents is a consensus among all Benin Development partners.  |