**COMMENTS ON THE UNDP DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR SOUTH AFRICA (2020-2025)**

*Annual session 2020*

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| **Comments by Finland** | **Changes to the CPD** | **Country Office Response** |
| * Current COVID crisis has been well included in the text, and it is recognized that its impacts are likely to be felt beyond this country programme period. The draft UNSDCF that is used as the result framework for the outcome level indicators does not take COVID-19 into account and does not have targets yet (as per the draft disseminated together with the draft CPD). It is unclear where the targets for the CPD “Cooperation Framework Outcome Indicators” have been taken from. The targets set at outcome level are overly optimistic. South Africa was already in recession before the COVID-19 crisis and poverty was increasing. * The CPD also uses a different UNSDCF indicator (and baseline and target) (1.1.1.) for poverty than the actual UNSDCF document. It is unclear why USD 1.75 poverty headcount is used. The UNSDCF document uses “international poverty line” which is USD 1.90. Baseline data 48.4% in 2010 does not correspond to either international (16.5%) or national (53.2%) data, and newer data is available on both poverty lines. The CPD outcome indicators, baselines and targets should be aligned with the UNSDCF. | * Indicator 1.1.1 is revised to align the numbers | * The UNSDCF is being finalised and has been subjected to consultation with the Government and other stakeholders to include the impact of covid-19. UNDP has been part of these consultations. * The UNSDCF Outcome indicators are almost final and only few adjustments will be made. Note also that UNDP technically guides the UNCT in terms of definition of economic and governance sector related indicators, meaning the Outcome level set indicators in the CPD will prevail in the UNSDCF; It is true that South Africa economy is in recession, but the Government has an ambitious MTSF that projects the economic and social transformation to revert the recession trend. The UNSDCF is informed by the MTSF, hence its ambitious targets. The targets will be adjusted at the time of Mid-Term review of both the UNSDCF and the CPD, if necessary; * This point is valid and has been raised by the Government, hence the use of the Lower Bound Poverty Line (LBPL) in the UNSDCF being finalised and in the UNDP CPD. The CPD outcome indicators, baselines and targets are aligned. |
| * The draft programme rational and priorities are well done, albeit with very limited information on some of the key priorities (e.g. circular economy value chains development and renewable energy promotion). The results and resources framework would benefit from some more elaboration. Some of the indicators are unclear and their contribution to the outcome level targets seems very limited e.g. 1.4.3 & 3.1.1 |  | * The level of details in the CPD is constrained by the mandatory size of the document. * ***Renewable Energy***: See bellow * The limitation of targets has to do with the resources mobilization possibilities and with the fact that UNDP work is transformative, and it takes time to yield results. The policies, strategies and technical support will generate the proposed targets. * Both 1.4.3 digital skills for youths to improve employability and 3.1.1 renewable energy technologies in municipalities are innovative initiatives whereby youths are taught skills to digitise their businesses and to use innovative solutions for local challenges. These have been thoroughly discussed with key partners on the ground. |
| * The plans on what is intended to be done and achieved in renewable energy promotion are not very clear in the draft document. More information would be useful. |  | * South Africa is regarded as a prime candidate for increased use of renewable energy with its abundant natural resources of sun and wind. The country is highly dependent on coal burning for power generation but does have several small-scale hydroelectric plants and only one nuclear power station. At the same time South Africa has an abundance of sunshine which lends itself very well for solar water heating and electricity generation. UNDP will work with the SA government to take advantage of the existing potential for renewable energy generation in the establishment of an enabling adequate policy environment in the sector, including for the engagement SMMEs enterprises in renewable energy production, attraction of impact investment, development of alternative and innovative to expand the access to energy to the population while contributing to job creation. |
| * Developing value chains in the circular economy for jobs (as stated in the programme priorities – Portfolio 1) is needed in South Africa. There’s only one mention in the document on this (nothing in the result framework either) and it remains unclear how this is intended to be done, what the targets are and how they are measured? |  | * Circular economy is implemented through the value chain approach mainly for SMMES. Therefore output 1.4 covers the SMMEs issues, which UNDP intends to address. The idea is not to create outputs for each activity but looking at it in a global dimension of supporting SMMEs. |
| * Gender focus in the draft CPD is very clear and strong. Result framework has disaggregated targets for women, youth and people with disabilities where possible and relevant. M&E part includes regular gender analysis for planning, decision-making and monitoring. It is not clear whether similar analysis on inclusion of people with disabilities is planned. * Finland proposes to include in the text, in line with the draft UNSDCF, the implementation of the new comprehensive UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) launched in June 2019 and its upcoming performance indicators as an important strategic framework guiding the organizational and programmatic adjustments that may need to take place. The UNDIS advocates mainstreaming a strong human rights-based approach to disability. The accountability towards this strategy will be monitored through 15 common-system indicators and country team scoreboards that focus on four different areas: 1) leadership, strategic planning and management, 2) inclusiveness, 3) programming and 4) organizational culture. These indicators will require annual reporting by all UN agencies and programs. | Para 25 is revised to consider fundamental inclusion of PLWDs in line with UNDIS | Disabilities: UNDP consider fundamental the inclusion of PLWDs as part of Leave no One Behind strategy implementation. The CPD includes some specific targets for PLWDs. In addition, as an example, as part of COVID 19 respond, UNDP engaged a disabled person exactly to ensure that disability is well mainstreamed and is taken into consideration in all interventions. Therefore, the recommendation is accepted and will be considered. |
| * Unemployment is one of the biggest challenges for socio-economic development in South Africa. This has been well established in the background part of the draft CPD, and women and youth employment are stated to be the bedrock for reducing poverty and inequality. Outcome level targets (from the draft UNSDCF) seem to some extent unrealistic considering the state of South African economy and employment prior to COVID-19 crisis, and the huge impact of the crisis (with up to additional 7 million unemployed estimated). The draft CPD does not include employment targets at output level and the Cooperation Framework Outcome level targets are not in line with the UNSDCF. Targeting ≤6% unemployment rate for all categories (women, male, and youth) is unrealistic. The draft UNSDCF has a target of 21.2% of youth who are not in employment, education and training (it is also very challenging to have a 10-percentage point decrease under the current circumstances when the tendency is the opposite). Further, the output level targets focus on the numbers of MSEMs and cooperatives receiving support, and it is not clear what is the expected contribution of that support to the outcome level employment targets. | * Target indicator 1.4.1 is revised to incorporate the comment on unemployment | * Point on unemployment target well noted and will be discussed with RC and other UN agencies. Changes made. * MSEMs and Cooperatives are an important source of job creation as the are mostly labour intensive and mostly targets the most vulnerable and poor people. This is an intentional approach and UNDP believes that this is the best way to contribute to employment expansion. |
| * The draft CPD refers to the 2017 final evaluation report and links the findings to its rationale. Section IV could briefly elaborate on what evaluations have been planned in the costed evaluation plan and how they will be used in practice, especially when the mid-term and terminal programme evaluations are relatively closely implemented to each other. | * Section IV monitoring and evaluation is revised to address this comment | * Input has been considered as follows:   The CPD Evaluation Plan will consist of various mid-term and terminal evaluations of its programme and projects including the mid CPD evaluation which will feed into the final UNSDCF evaluation |
| * In Section IV, there is a mention of gender disaggregation and other markers. The country programme could benefit from explicitly stating also the disaggregation by age and persons with disabilities, to ensure that all priority beneficiary groups (women, youth and persons with disabilities) are covered, in line with Leave No One Behind. | * Section IV is revised to consider this input | * Input has been considered   In line with Leave No One Behind, the country programme data will be disaggregated explicitly to ensure that services are equally provided to all priority beneficiary groups (women, youth and persons with disabilities). |
| * Persons with disabilities are included but it is not clear from the programme document, how they will be taken into account as part of the portfolios in practice. Persons with disabilities are a widely heterogeneous group with differing needs and priorities. | * Output indicator 2.4.1 revised | * This is noted and changes have been made in the draft CPD   Working together with the Department of Women, Youth and People with Disabilities, and in the spirit of the UN Convention on Persons with Disability and the implementation of the new comprehensive UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS), we will employ a disability equitable budgeting framework informed by the additional cost of previous disability study. This with a view to inform the budget allocation processes in the next medium-term budget framework .A partnership has already been cultivated with the department and the disability sector to prioritize disability mainstreaming into UNDP work. |
| * In view of the 2017 evaluation findings, the country programme could elaborate (e.g. in section IV), how it will implement integrated knowledge management across portfolios and at different levels. | * Section IV is revised to provide more coherence | * Input has been considered   The M&E and Knowledge Management Units will work together to implement an integrated knowledge management across the programme portfolios and will continue to share data and best practices emanating from the programme portfolios during the Joint UN-Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Monitoring and Evaluation Group meetings. |
| * It is commendable that UNDP will strengthen the capacities of national and subnational authorities to generate and use data for improved policy development and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals. We would like to encourage to elaborate briefly on how that is planned to be carried out in practice and through what type of support. |  | * Capacity building will be done through continuing hosting together Joint Africa M&E Indaba with DMPE and targeted M&E trainings and workshops. |
| **Comments by USA** | **Changes to the CPD** | **Country Office Response** |
| * UNDP priorities align well with the priorities of the Government as expressed in the National Development Plan (NDP) and addressing the priority constraints as identified by the World Bank. The UNDP priority on governance is not disproportionate to the World Bank analysis and is a valuable contribution to the donor landscape. Although there are vast development challenges, the UNDP program addresses many of them. |  | * Noted |

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| * #7. Shouldn’t inclusion of those most likely to be left behind --women, children, youth, people with disabilities and vulnerable communities, be included as a sixth priority, mainstreamed across the four strategic UNDP priorities? |  | * The UNSDCF has four strategic priorities with 9 outcomes. The UNDP CPD is contributing to 3 of these outcomes. Leave No One Behind is a key tenet of our programming principle. As such great effort was taken to mainstream those most likely to be left behind --women, children, youth, people with disabilities, vulnerable groups and marginalized communities across all the strategic priorities and outcomes. We believe this will foster a more integrated fashion of addressing challenges faced by these vulnerable groups. |
| * #14. How is the UNSDCF 2020-2025 plan to improve/expand South-South Cooperation? Will it include cooperation from countries outside its own region? Is Triangular Cooperation being contemplated based on BAPA+40 recommendations? | * Under Strategic Partnership, Paragraph 31 revised to incorporate the comment | * One of the highlights of the BAPA+40 recommendations is the importance of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. South African being a middle-income country, the focus is more on development exchanges through SSC&TC. In this regard, the UNSDCF 2020-25 is using SSC &TC as a strategic partnership framework for promoting development transformation. The UNSDCF intends to use SSC&TC to explore what South Africa can learn from other developing countries across (Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin and the Caribbean) and what it can offer to others. The UN and UNDP will leverage on global presence and partnerships with bilateral and other multilateral institutions to facilitate SSC &TC through exchange of good practices and training. It is in line with this that UNDP located the SSC&TC Advisor in the Finance Sector Regional Hub in Pretoria. |