**COMMENTS ON THE UNDP DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR BELARUS (2021-2025)**

*Second regular session 2020*

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| **Comments by Sweden/Sida** | **Response from the UNDP Country Office** |
| * Sweden wants to stress the importance of assuring a broad and inclusive participation by the Belarusian Civil Society in all programming. An active and inclusive civil society is an important foundation for a democratic development in Belarus. | * UNDP CO Belarus fully supports the comment and makes sure that the civil society and NGOs are actively engaged in planning, programming and implementing the next UNDP Country programme. Civil society members have actively participated in the national consultations and discussions on the next Country programme. They are included as partners in each of the outcomes of the programme and are widely engaged in UNDP activities in such areas as gender equality, women economic empowerment, healthy lifestyle promotion, environmental education, local economic development and other. |
| * Sweden wants to see UNDP elaborate further on how they are guaranteeing gender equality and a gender mainstreaming component in their programming. | * Promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women are central to the mandate of UNDP and are, among others, the key priorities of the next UNDP Country programme in Belarus. In CPD, there is also a separate outcome on strengthening gender equality policies, child and gender budgeting, broadening conditions for vulnerable groups to better realize their rights and improve the quality of their lives, including through increased opportunities for employment and better protection from gender-based and domestic violence. Currently, in its programming, UNDP is guided by [the Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2021](https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/undp-gender-equality-strategy-2018-2021.html). UNDP approach to gender mainstreaming is a dual one: UNDP supports the empowerment of women through targeted gender-specific interventions and addresses gender concerns in developing, planning, implementing and evaluating national policies and programmes. Under the next Country programme in Belarus, it will be done through piloting behavioural insights and other innovative tools to reduce barriers to women's employment; improving collection, monitoring, analysis and use of sex- and age-disaggregated data to determine underlying causes of gender inequality in Belarusian economy; promoting diversity and inclusion at the workplace as a powerful driver of innovation and growth; supporting women leadership in the IT/tech sector and other activities implemented jointly with the identified national partners under CPD Outcome 4. |
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| **Comments by Belarus** | **Response from the UNDP Country Office** |
| * Page 4, paragraph 16:   - to revise the reference to co-financing as it is a new mechanism and can not be referenced as traditional: “In addition to ~~traditional~~ co-financing of international technical assistance projects, ….”;  - to revise the wording to: “UNDP **can provide** services in such areas as development of entrepreneurship, promotion of innovation and investment, climate action, regional development, and strengthening the capacity of national partners.”. | * Revised:   - In addition to co-financing of international technical assistance projects, ….  - UNDP can provide services in such areas as development of entrepreneurship, promotion of innovation and investment, climate action, regional development, and strengthening the capacity of national partners. |
| * Page 5, paragraph 20:   to align the wording with the national priorities as it is stipulated at the latest draft of the National strategy for sustainable development- 2035, that was previously shared with UNDP. | * Revised:   This area is aligned with national priorities in environmental security, transition to rational models of production and consumption, productive employment and decent incomes. |
| * Page 5, paragraph 24:   to clarify the wording, taking into account if there is any undergoing interaction with national partners on measures preparation: “Based on its gained experience in implementing projects on green economy and local development, UNDP will design and propose a set of measures to develop a green, circular economy for the period up to 2025 that … “. | * Revised:   Based on its gained experience in implementing projects on green economy and local development, UNDP will support national efforts to develop a green, circular economy, which, in its turn, … |
| * Page 5, paragraph 25:   to broaden the list of potential partners by adding state institutions: “In close cooperation with the Ministry of Economy, **state institutions**, local authorities and the private sector, UNDP will ….” | * Revised:   In close cooperation with the Ministry of Economy, state institutions, local authorities and the private sector, UNDP will … |
| * Page 5, paragraph 28:   to align the wording with the national priorities as it is stipulated at the latest draft of the National strategy for sustainable development- 2035, that was previously shared with UNDP. | * Revised:   This area is aligned with the national priority in environmental security and transition to rational models of production and consumption and contributes to … |
| * Page 5, paragraph 29:   a small edit to the formulation: “Initiative, UNDP will assist Belarus in preparing the second nationally determined contributions, making the national commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase its absorption even more ambitious, so as to reach the previously announced overall target of 35 per cent emissions reduction by 2030”. | * Revised:   Initiative, UNDP will assist Belarus in preparing the second nationally determined contributions, making the national commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions given the increase in its absorption even more ambitious, so as to reach the previously announced overall target of 35 per cent emissions reduction by 2030. |
| * Page 6, paragraph 31:   to add the compliance with the relevant environmental conventions:  “UNDP will assist in scaling up activities aimed at reducing the risk of natural and man-made disasters and improving emergency preparedness, including transboundary wildfire risks.” | * Added:   UNDP will assist in scaling up activities aimed at reducing the risk of natural and man-made disasters and improving emergency preparedness, including transboundary wildfire risks, based on the requirements of the relevant environmental conventions. |
| * Page 6, paragraph 34:   to align the wording with the national priorities as it is stipulated at the latest draft of the National strategy for sustainable development- 2035, that was previously shared with UNDP. | * Revised:   The area is aligned with the national priorities in digital transformation of the economy and large-scale spread of innovations, developed business environment and sustainable infrastructure. |
| * Page 7, paragraph 39:   to add two more spheres to digitalization: …. in key sectors such as the judicial system and rulemaking, **justice,** health care, environmental protection, citizenship, migration, road safety, the tax system, transport corridors, **customs** and border management. | * Added:   in key sectors such as the judicial system and rulemaking, justice, health care, environmental protection, citizenship, migration, road safety, the tax system, transport corridors, customs and border management. |
| * Page 7, paragraph 42:   to align the wording with the national priorities as it is stipulated at the latest draft of the National strategy for sustainable development- 2035, that was previously shared with UNDP. | * Revised:   This area is aligned with the national priorities in productive employment and decent incomes, sustainable development of the family institution and quality growth of human capital. |
| * Page 8, paragraph 47:   - to broaden the wording by replacing the Ministry with the national partners: Another area that UNDP intends to develop together with ~~the Ministry of Labour and Social protection~~ **national partners** is volunteering;  - to revise the sentence: “In line with the Plan of Action to Integrate Volunteering into the 2030 Agenda and the national draft law on volunteering, volunteers can help the Government and the United Nations in achieving national priorities at all levels.”. | * Revised:   - Another area UNDP intends to develop together with national partners is volunteering.  - In line with the Plan of Action to Integrate Volunteering into the 2030 Agenda and the national draft law on volunteering, that will be developed in 2021, volunteers can contribute to achieving national the programme priorities at all levels. |
| * Page 8, paragraph 51:   to revise the sentence: “The key programme management principles will include joint project design, co-financing, implementation and monitoring.” | * Revised:   The key programme management principles will include joint project design, co-financing, implementation and monitoring. |
| * Page 8, paragraph 52:   to rephrase the sentence: “Accordingly, it contains a UNDP policy and programme offer and annual workplans that allow national authorities, UNDP and partners the flexibility to respond to the emerging needs and priorities of the situation.”. | * Rephrased:   Accordingly, it provides for a UNDP policy and programme offer and project annual workplans as instruments allowing UNDP the flexibility to respond to the emerging needs and priorities of the situation. |
| * Page 8, paragraph 54:   to rephrase the sentences in order to ensure a better understanding regarding the institution that would develop, review and update risk register. | * Rephrased:   To address external and internal risks, a separate risk register has been developed by UNDP listing current external, operational, programme and communication risks, with risk owners and mitigation strategies identified. UNDP reviews and updates the register on a regular basis. |
| * Annex. Results and resources framework for Belarus:   to align the wording with the national priorities as it is stipulated at the latest draft of the National strategy for sustainable development- 2035, that was previously shared with UNDP. | * Updated:   1. Environmental security; transition to rational models of production and consumption (circular economy); productive employment and decent incomes.  2. Environmental security; transition to rational models of production and consumption (circular economy).  3. Digital transformation of the economy and large-scale spread of innovations; developed business environment and sustainable infrastructure.  4. Resilient development of the family institution, quality growth of human capital; productive employment and decent incomes. |
| * Annex. Results and resources framework for Belarus:   to add national partners to the table:  Outcome 1: State Committee on Science and Technology (SCST);  Outcome 2: Ministry of Energy, State Customs Committee (SCC);  Outcome 3: State Customs Committee (SCC); State Committee on Science and Technology (SCST);  Outcome 4: Ministry of Finance. | * All added. |
| * Annex. Results and resources framework for Belarus:   to edit to Outcome 4 following the discussions with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. | * Agreed with UNFPA and RCO and reflected in the document (and in UNSDCF):   By 2025, improvements in data collection, gender equality policies, and child and elements of gender budgeting have created …. |
| * Annex. Results and resources framework for Belarus:   to update indicators with the latest data, especially Output 1.3, Output 2.1, Outcome 3, Output 3.2, Output 3.3, Outcome 4, Output 4.2. | * Revised:   Output 1.3: Indicative indicator 1.3.2 Share of SME gross value added in GDP (%)  Baseline (2018): 24.5  Output 2.1: Indicative indicator 2.1.1 Annual emissions of carbon dioxide (million tons CO2 equivalent)  Baseline (2018): 92  Outcome 3: SDG national indicator: 17.8.1  Proportion of individuals using the Internet (%), by sex and place of residence  Baseline (2019): 82.8; men – 82.5; women – 83; cities and urban settlements – 86.9; rural settlements – 71.3  Output 3.2: Indicative indicator 3.2.2. Number of concepts of the development of ‘smart cities’ developed at the national level  Baseline (2019): 1  Output 3.3: Indicative indicator 3.3.1. Number of people engaged in non-formal education and trainings in business administration, information and communication technologies  Baseline (2019): 0  Outcome 4: The Global Gender Gap Index ranking of Belarus  Baseline (2019): 29  Output 4.2: Indicative indicator 4.2.1. SDG national indicator: 8.5.1.1. Ratio of average wages of women and men (%)  Baseline (2019): 73.1 |

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