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

*First regular session 2021*

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| **Comments by Germany** | **Response by the Country Office** |
| * Synergies and cooperation opportunites with the programme EPIC – Economic and social participation of vulnerable IDP and local population in the South Caucasus in the fields of (A) “Inclusive growth that reduces vulnerability and builds resilience” (especially in regard to working with vulnerable population (28), working with youth (29), inclusive growth (30) and tackling gender inequalities (31)) and (B) “Stronger institutions for delivery of quality public and social services” (especially in regard to the capacity development of the public sector (33), support to IDP (37) and capacity development and involvement of commu(38)).
 | * UNDP Azerbaijan welcomes potential collaboration with the Federal Republic of Germany in Azerbaijan. Bilateral meetings with the Embassy of Germany and GIZ will be set up by the UNDP Country Office in Azerbaijan to explore opportunities for possible collaboration on the "Economic and Social Participation of Vulnerable Displaced Persons" programme. The main objective of this programme is to ensure economic empowerment and social participation of vulnerable IDPs and local population in both COVID response and ongoing recovery programmes.
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| * Potential for cooperation and synergies with PSD, therefore, need for coordination: (11). accelerating digital transformation for sustainable development; (12)., (28). promotion of employment opportunities for vulnerable groups with focus on increasing income-generating opportunities rural areas through skills development, vocational education and training and access to decent jobs, sustainable business opportunities in the non-oil sectors; (19). strengthening MSMEs in partnership with other national and international stakeholders to support sustainable, inclusive and green growth; (29). youth employment, entrepreneurship and skills development ; (32). partnership with the State Tourism Agency to further develop sustainable tourism, increasing local employment and entrepreneurship in the tourism sector through ecotourism, handicraft production, increased involvement of women in tourism start-ups, strengthened capacity of the tourism industry and the establishment of a green supply chain for MSMEs specializing in rural tourism. ; (35). development of digital skills, support for the reform of the vocational education and training system via promotion of work-based learning, new course curricula for future skills and the application of digitalization and online training, capacity building of vocational education and training providers
 | * UNDP is open for cooperation under the Private Sector Development (PSD) thematic area and finding synergies with the programmatic offers outlined in the CPD. The UNDP country office in Azerbaijan is open to discuss this issue further with the Embassy of Germany and identify possible forms for cooperation and coordination. Furthermore, UNDP is planning to expand its offer in the field of tourism development, energy, climate and vocational education in addition to the current projects on digital transformation and skills, economic empowerment, and strengthening MSMEs. Bilateral meetings as a follow-up on all of these topics will be scheduled in-country.
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| **Comments from the Permanent Mission in New York** |
| **GOA suggestions** | **UNDP response** | **Explanation** |
| *Proposed new para 3 (page 2):* The three decades-long conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan has resulted in displacement of approximately 1 million Azerbaijanis, the unprecedented looting and destruction of their private property, civilian infrastructure, historical and cultural heritage and serious damage to environment. Following the de-occupation of territories of Azerbaijan, the Government of Azerbaijan has declared its intention to rehabilitate and reconstruct the conflict affected areas, in particular in and around its Nagorno-Karabakh region. Support to Azerbaijan in its post-conflict reconstruction efforts will facilitate return of hundreds of thousands displaced Azerbaijani persons to their places of origin in safety and dignity. | *We have included the following para 3 (page 2):* The Republic of Azerbaijan has also had to address the impact of the decades-long conflict in and around its Nagorno-Karabakh region, which has resulted in massive displacement and extensive damage. The Government has declared its intention to rehabilitate and reconstruct conflict affected areas in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in preparation for the return of over 652,000 IDPs. UNDP along with UNCT will support Azerbaijan to assess recovery needs and help facilitate the voluntary, safe and dignified return of displaced persons to their homes in safety and dignity. | This new para 3 has been agreed with the Government Rather than give an exact account of the scale of destruction that resulted from the conflict the UNCT also recommended leaving this task for a recovery assessment that can be conducted jointly with the Government and inform a recovery plan. |
| *Amended para 51 (page 8):* ~~The escalation of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is exacerbating the socioeconomic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and~~ **De-occupation of territories of Azerbaijan and the post-conflict rehabilitation plans declared by the Government of Azerbaijan are** creating new needs and priorities. Adaptive programming approaches will bu put in place to adjust the agency’s programmes once the impact is better known, based on an agreed prioritization with the Government of Azerbaijan, according to the established procedures. A joint review to elaborate these adjustments will be held at the earliest possibility in consultation with the Government. | *As agreed with the Government, we have deleted para 51 (page 8)*  | It has been agreed with the Government that this paragraph will not be necessary given that a new para 51 will be added (see point below) |
| *Proposed new para 52 (page 8):* All UN activities, programmes and projects in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan, including in the Armenian populated areas, will be agreed upon with the Government of Azerbaijan and implemented through the offices of the UN system in Azerbaijan in full respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of its international border as it is stipulated in the UN Charter and the UN Security Council Resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993).  | *We have included the following new paragraph 51 (page 8):* All UN activities, programmes and projects in all districts and areas of the Republic of Azerbaijan will continue to be fully coordinated, agreed and implemented by the offices of the UN system in Azerbaijan with the respective counterparts within the Government of Azerbaijan. They will be implemented in full respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan within its internationally-recognized borders and in accordance with the UN Charter and all relevant UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. | It has been agreed with the Government that this text will be the only para 51 |
| *Proposed new para 52 (page 8):* Any UN activities with respect to any part of the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan, including its Nagorno-Karabakh region, shall not be coordinated or implemented through the offices of the UN system in Yerevan. | *As agreed with the government, this proposal is integrated in paragraph 51 above and therefore is not added to the text.* | It has been agreed with the Government that this paragraph will not be necessary given that a new para 51 will be added (see point above). |

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