

**Office of the Secretary of the UNICEF Executive Board**  
**Template for delegations commenting on the draft country programme documents**  
**2023 second regular session**

*Draft country programme document commenting period: 13 June to 3 July 2023 [18:00 EST]*

Delegations are kindly invited to use this template to share their comments on the draft country programme document being presented to the Executive Board during the forthcoming session.

Delegation name: **BELGIUM**

Draft country programme document: **BURUNDI**

In accordance with Executive Board decision [2014/1](#), draft country programme documents are considered and approved in one session, on a no-objection basis. All comments received by the Office of the Secretary of the Executive Board before the deadline stated above will be posted on the Executive Board website.

	<b>Delegation's comments</b>	<b>Response(s)</b>
<b>General comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Belgium welcomes the joint presentation of the different CPDs (UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP) to the donor community at the end of May. This exercise, which took place at the initiative of the UN Resident Coordinator, is a good example of the One UN Approach so important to us.</li><li>• Belgium is also grateful for the many references made about the coherence with the UNSDCF and on how the CPD will contribute to the 5 pillars based on UNICEFs comparative advantage. At the same time, Belgium feels there is still room for improvement in order to reach the full potential of the UNDS reform: it is unclear to what extent prior consultation took place among the different agencies during the development of the CPDs; it appears that all three agencies used different data sources for their analysis; and we would welcome more uniformity in the development of the theories of change, result frameworks and disaggregated indicators.</li><li>• With regards to evaluations, Belgium is satisfied that the anticipated costs for the CPD evaluation plan reach the 1% of</li></ul>	

	<p>the overall budget threshold, At the same time, Belgium would like to call for further efforts to ensure joint evaluations with sister agencies in order to improve mutual lessons learned and cost-effectiveness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Belgium is grateful for the broad consultation that took place in the development of the CPD with the many different stakeholders, including the bilateral informal exchanges with our colleagues. Such exchanges are essential to us as a core donor and we would like to encourage UNICEF to continue such proactive dialogues with Belgium.</li> <li>• Belgium encourages to proactively share information about lessons learned and evaluation findings from the previous CPD during the development of the CP, which we consider helpful from a transparency, accountability and information-exchange point of view.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme documents</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Budget.</b> An overall budget of 154MUSD is foreseen of which 39.6M from regular resources and 114M from other resources. We note that while the overall amount represents an increase compared to the previous CPD, the proportion of anticipated core resources turns out to be significantly lower. As a core donor, Belgium would like to understand better the reasoning behind this approach. Given the current international budgetary context, such a heavy dependence on additional fundraising through other resources also raises the question on how realistic the proposed budget actually is, how competition for scarce resources between UN agencies will be avoided, and on what basis possible program adjustment will take place in the event of funding gaps.</li> <li>• <b>Child protection.</b> Belgium notes that even though an overall budget increase is foreseen, the program component relates to child protection is the only area where the budget would decrease compared to the previous CPD. Given the importance we attach to this area and also taking into account that – as</li> </ul>	

	<p>mentioned under §50 – children themselves have emphasized the importance of social protection, Belgium would like to understand better the reasoning behind this approach and would like to emphasize its attachment to this field of work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Adolescent empowerment and community resilience.</b> Belgium noted that this field is no longer considered as a separate program component. Given the particular challenges for adolescents and young people, in particular adolescent girls, BE would like UNICEF to elaborate further how such issues will be taken up under the other program components.</li><li>• <b>Social and behavioral change/climate change/gender.</b> Belgium underlines the importance it attaches to these areas. We understand that work on these key issues will now take place under the programme effectiveness component, but would like UNICEF to elaborate better on how these activities will be spelled out and how it will be assured they receive sufficient funding.</li><li>• Belgium would like to emphasize the importance of a continued strengthening of its <b>work with the development partners, CSOs and other third party stakeholders</b>, including our own implementation agency Enabel.</li></ul>	
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