

Office of the Secretary of the UNICEF Executive Board

Template for delegations commenting on the country programme documents

2021 second regular session

Country programme document posting period: 16 June to 6 July 2021

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: **United States of America**

Draft country programme document: **Albania**

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, 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 will be made public on the Executive Board website, and considered by the requesting country, in close consultation with UNICEF.

General comments	Delegations' comments	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The United States welcomes UNICEF's Country Programme Document for Albania. Particularly, we welcome the additions to the CPD of the role of private sector engagement and UNICEF's inclusion of a regional, cross-border outlook for the Western Balkans.• We strongly encourage UNICEF country office to continue to consult with stakeholders on the ground to find ways to include risk mitigation measures in the "Programme and risk management" section of the CPD, and consider specifying a commitment to assess risks, review controls, and adhere to foundational risk policies as applicable including Security Risk Assessment, Security Plan, Minimum Operating Security		<p>UNICEF Albania welcomes and appreciates the remarks submitted by the United States.</p> <p>UNICEF Albania confirms that: i) the review of risk management controls is already part of the Country Office's mid-year and annual review exercises; ii) such measures will also be further detailed in the Country Programme Management Plan 2022-2026. UNICEF Albania confirms that priorities will be further defined and finetuned together with the Government, as part of the development of the National Strategy on Development and Integration, the National Child Rights Agenda, as well as the Joint Annual Workplans of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.</p>

<p>Standards and Minimum Operating Residential Security Standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We note UNICEF’s use of an extensive list of priorities in the CPD rather than a few key themes. This approach seems to communicate that the entire program is one big priority. For example, the CPD mentions assisting with EU accession, but does not elaborate how UNICEF plans to pursue this work. 		<p>Regarding the example of the EU Accession, UNICEF Albania confirms the following (not detailed in the CPD, given the succinct nature of the document): i) UNICEF is a key stakeholder with regard to child rights in the assessment of the country’s progress, definition of priorities and alignment of indicators; ii) the Country Office is involved in the mechanisms designed to move the country towards the accession from a child rights perspective (e.g. Integrated Policy Management Group – IPMG); iii) it has been engaging Albanian children and youth in the development of the EU Child Rights Strategy and will continue to leverage this document in the framework of the new CPD.</p>
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