**COMMENTS ON THE UNDP DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR NIGER (2023-2027)**

*Second regular session 2022*

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| **Name of the delegation/ Member State** | **Comments by Member State on the UNDP draft CPD for Niger** | **Country Office response** | **Action/Revision made in the draft CPD**  |
| **Belgium**  | * The UNDP CPD is overall coherent with the (draft) UNSDCF for Niger, particularly its Pillar 1 (governance, peace and security) and Pillar 3 (modernisation of the rural world and climate change). Technical and financial partners have been invited by the resident coordinator at several consultative moments for the preparation of the UNSDCF, including an analytical workshop and a strategic consultation. However, donors have not been consulted for the UNDP CPD specifically, and the outreach of the UNDP country office towards (core) donors remains overall limited.
 | Programmatic coherence between the UNSDCF and the UNDP CPD stems from the effective consideration of the national priorities identified in the PDES 2022-2026. The UNDP team took an active part in the development of the UNSDCF by ensuring the Lead of the Working Group dedicated to Pillar 1 Governance Peace and Security. This team also provided significant contributions to the work of the working group on Pillar 3 Modernization of the rural world and climate change. The very tight deadlines for the parallel or even joint finalization of the three processes (PDES, UNDSCF and CPD) did not facilitate the holding of specific consultations with each of all the actors, in particular the donors.A national workshop was held on 28 March facilitated by the Ministry of Planning. Various partners and actors participated in this workshop and provided feedbacks on the architecture and articulation of the UNDP CPD 2023-2027. The CO will also be moving from a project approach to a portfolio approach to manage its new country programme through a strategic visioning exercise. Donors will be closely associated to this exercise for the formulation of the portfolios for greater participation and ownership.  | NA |
| * The CPD makes pertinent choices by focusing on climate change & resilience and governance & stabilisation as its main pillars. The themes not only respond to two of the main challenges of Niger, but also identify certain niches where UNDP can be of significant added value within the wider UN-system and international partner community in Niger.
 | This is well noted with thanks | NA |
| * As regards climate change, only very few donors or technical partners have specific programmes dedicated to the topic (Belgium is a notable exception with the new thematic climate portfolio). UNDP could provide important expertise on climate change in terms of supporting the government in implementing its international commitments and in donor coordination. At the operational level, actions on the promotion of clean and affordable energy and electrification are welcome, although more details on UNDP’s vision would be useful (e.g. use of solar power, household gas, biomass). For domains that are already extensively covered by other UN agencies (e.g. ecosystem conservation and restauration covered by WFP, value chains by FAO), the question remains how actions will be coordinated and what division of labour is foreseen.
 | The Country Office intends to effectively support the government in responding to the challenges related to the "Rural Modernization and Climate Change" pillar of the UNSDCF 2023-2027, in close connection with the "Rural Modernization" axis of the Economic and Social Development Plan (PDES 2022-2026), in the areas of its comparative advantages, including:* + Capacity building of institutions and communities in disaster risk reduction and climate change
	+ Promoting the use of affordable clean energy by communities
	+ Sustainable management of natural resources
	+ Mobilizing substantial public and private investment in nature-based climate solutions
	+ Supporting sustainable agricultural value chains

For the coordination of actions, the Country Office will continue to strengthen UNDP strategic positioning as the main development actor and integrator of solutions in support of the government for the implementation of the SDG at the country level during the implementation of the Economic and Social Development Plan (PDES 2022-2026).To ensure synergy and complementarity, UNDP will work in close collaboration with UN agencies from projects formulation to their implementation.  | NA |
| * UNDP is one of the few partners with the ambition to specifically work on governance and stabilisation as a self-standing sector. In this way, it fills in an important gap within the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. It provides an opportunity to further build up much-needed expertise on conflict, peacebuilding and fragility in the Nigerien context. Belgium encourages UNDP to put such expertise at the disposal of other UN agencies to ensure stronger conflict sensitivity in all CPDs. More details would be welcome on which partnerships with local knowledge institutes UNDP envisages in this regard.
 | UNDP has been taking an active part in the elaboration of the theory of change and results framework of the UNPBF Secretariat in Niger for their next programmatic cycle (2023-2027), ensuring the alignment with UNDP CPD 2023-27 in Niger. This UNPBF led exercise has encouraged UN agencies to consider these common priorities within their own programmatic cycles (in particular, through designing common indicators for monitoring progresses). UNDP has been leading the Pillar on Prevention for Violent Extremism, where its expertise has been shared with UN agencies. To inform its interventions in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and to ensure adequate follow up on the “do no harm” principles in its projects, UNDP has included several baseline studies in its UNPBF-funded new interventions (South Maradi, border Niger-Benin), covering not only the areas of intervention, but also the priority areas flagged by UNPBF-HACP Conflict Analysis (2021). The results of those baseline studies aim to contribute to building up the knowledge available at national level to inform integrated interventions and prepare scale up. Besides its existing partnership with Abdou Moumouni University, UNDP envisages to strengthen its partnership with LASDEL, a local research centre with strong data collection and analysis capacity in several areas related to peacebuilding and conflict prevention (sociology, anthropology, security sector, peace studies and development/aid). In line with its current partnership strategy, UNDP shall continue to collaborate with UN agencies and provide much needed expertise in conflict, peacebuilding and fragility in the Nigerien context, as well as its ramifications with neighbouring countries, notably as it relates to cross border cooperation. Specifically, UNDP shall make available studies on conflicts, socio-demographic analyses, perception studies on security and social contracts undertaken with knowns think-tanks and academia.UNDP is currently partnering with UNITAR and a local thinktank (LASDEL) for conflict and perception studies in the lake Chad and the Liptako Gourma regions. Additional partnership opportunities are being considered (with Timbuktu institute, Crisis Group and the University of Niamey) | Addition of LASDEL as knowledge institution envisaged for partnership in the Governance sector |
| * Belgium supports the work of UNDP in accompanying the government’s IDP return strategy in the Diffa region and equally encourages UNDP to support national stabilisation efforts in the region Tillabéri. However, while the 2021 returns in Diffa have to some extent been successful, lessons must equally be learned to ensure sustainable solutions for returnees and prevent their return to IDP sites. UNDP could play a more prominent role in mobilising government authorities, donors and implementing agencies around a common vision for stabilisation.
 | Lessons learned from the implementation of UNDP’s stabilization facilities and from the Niger’s IDP return Program has already provided opportunities to reinforce the political dialogue, collaboration among all stakeholders and better coordination of global initiatives.UNDP in Niger had a central role in mobilizing actors around stabilization objectives due to its proven experience and expertise in post-conflict and fragile areas. UNDP shall continue to play a central role as an integrator of partners as it relates to stabilization and interventions in conflict areas.Specifically, it shall (1) continue to participate at high level meetings and provide advisory support to the government as may be required, (2) organize regular meetings with actors (donors, implementing partners) to reinforce communication and knowledge sharing, and (3) Provide expertise/strengthen participation in the triple (peace-humanitarian-development) Nexus meetings as well as the IDP Program committee (at central and regional levels). | NA |
| * As regards support to conflict prevention and peacebuilding mechanisms, Belgium wonders what partnerships UNDP foresees. In particular, it would be interesting to know how UNDP aims to work with and support the *Haute Autorité à la Consolidation de la Paix* (HACP) considering its crucial role in the national conflict prevention architecture (yet also taking into account its very limited absorption capacities), and which other partners are being considered.
 | UNDP has developed a solid and long partnership with HACP, with efforts invested from both institutions to optimize their collaboration. HACP has benefited from institutional capacities support through PARSN project (2017-2022, DANIDA-funded), contributing to improve its absorption and operational capacities. New programmatic interventions will seek to strengthen the results of this support, based on additional resources mobilized. UNDP continues to work closely with HACP in all peacebuilding, conflict prevention and preventing violent extremism interventions, both in support to peace architecture and as an implementing partner. In the region of Diffa, UNDP is supporting HACP in implementing a project to prevent conflict among pastoralists, in an area already affected by insecurity. UNDP also supports HACP in playing a leading role for conflict prevention and peacebuilding at sub-regional level and disseminate its expertise and good practices with neighbouring countries (cross-border interventions). UNDP is also envisaging to partner with and support the *Ministry of Interior and Security* for the reintegration and prevention of violent extremism (in particular, through its *Direction for Religious Affairs and Decentralization*) and the *Ministry of Justice* through supporting the penitentiary system reform (aspects of prevention of radicalization within the prisons and reintegration of former detainees, in collaboration with the Ministry of Professional Training). | NA |
| * As both climate change and stabilisation are two topics of growing interest under the new Belgian-Nigerien governmental cooperation programmes, a strengthened dialogue at the country level between UNDP and Belgium as an important core contributor would be welcomed.
 | This is well noted, and UNDP welcome this suggestion to strengthen its partnership with Belgium at the national level.  | Belgium added as partner |