

Office of the Secretary of the UNICEF Executive Board

Template for delegations commenting on the draft country programme documents

2023 first regular session

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*

Draft country programme document: *Dominican Republic*

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.

	Delegation's comments	Response(s)
<b>General comments</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. How will UNICEF promote Climate Action in local and national communities?</li></ol>	<p>UNICEF appreciates the comments made by the US on the Dominican Republic country programme document (CPD). The comments are pertinent and timely and will serve to inform the ensuing and work-in-progress processes of elaboration of programme strategy notes, workplans and advocacy strategies.</p> <p>UNICEF Dominican Republic is planning a number of important efforts to promote climate action within its new CPD. Specifically, UNICEF will strengthen our partnership, through a MoU, with the National Council for Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanism (CNCCyMDL), in order to include a children's approach in policies and strategies for mitigation and adaptation to crises arising from climate shocks. UNICEF will also be promoting the participation and mobilization of children and adolescents in climate actions at the local and community levels. This strategy will be implemented through youth and adolescent organizations and institutions that promote their participation and involvement in civic actions.</p>

	Delegation's comments	Response(s)
	<p>2. How will UNICEF manage and obtain a risk management plan for disaster risk reduction?</p>	<p>UNICEF and its partners already work or have worked with its partners to promote the participation of children and adolescents through the Youth Town Councils "Ayuntamientos Juveniles e Infantiles (AJI)", an initiative promoted by our partner Dominican Federation of Municipalities in articulation with local governments in several municipalities of the Dominican Republic. In the CPD 2023-2027, support for adolescent participation through the AJIs will have a special focus on climate actions through local initiatives promoted and managed by adolescents and young people.</p> <p>Likewise, in alliance with our partners, we promote the "Ambassadors for Climate" initiative, which consists of training climate multipliers and facilitators in public secondary schools of the Ministry of Education.</p> <p>UNICEF also supports the formation and preparation of teams of young people who are part of the official negotiating delegations of the Dominican Republic at climate summits, such as COP27. The idea is to strengthen this process so that the young official delegates incorporate the perspective of children's rights in the discussions on climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.</p> <p>In regard to the second set of comments, UNICEF Dominican Republic has identified the main programme risks in the context of the new CPD as related to large-scale natural disasters, climate change and pandemics. To mitigate these risks, UNICEF will strengthen the resilience capacity of its partners, and maintain an integral risk management plan.</p> <p>This plan is elaborated on an annual basis according to an internal procedure and based on a risk assessment and the preparation of detailed contingency plan. UNICEF will work with UNDP, FAO and WFP on strengthening the</p>

	<b>Delegation's comments</b>	<b>Response(s)</b>
		<p>capacity of partners in preparedness and response. Efforts will be directed at building resilient systems through informed programming to enhance risk management and climate action, facilitating the humanitarian–development nexus.</p> <p>UNICEF will also be ensuring the consideration of the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, investing in capacity-building of implementing partners and service providers to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse and boosting accountability to affected population, both in development and humanitarian contexts.</p> <p>Specific actions to strengthen the resilience within the framework of the inter-institutional coordination platform, including those related to climate change and by promoting its articulation with WASH services, and the evidence generation to guide decision-making will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Technical assistance to implement and strengthen an early warning system for detecting and integrating children already out of school or at risk of dropping out, making use of digital technologies for a more significant impact.</li> <li>(b) Strengthen the capacities for integrated risk management, resilience, climate change adaptation and environmental/climate education with a focus on safe schools, advocating WASH improvement, including menstrual hygiene.</li> <li>(c) Support for strengthening of a risk-informed, child-sensitive humanitarian–development nexus fostering the social protection system's capacity to improve adaptive social protection to emergencies, crises and shocks, including the prevention of violence against children in emergency contexts.</li> </ul>

	<b>Delegation’s comments</b>	<b>Response(s)</b>
	<p>3. Where the CPD references “early unions,” the United States recommends using “child, early, and forced marriage” and early unions terminology to be most inclusive.</p>	<p>In the CPD 2018-2022 CDP, the term "child marriage and early unions (CMEU)" was used to refer to both legal marriages and informal unions in which at least one of the participants is under the age of 18.</p> <p>As a result of advocacy work by UNICEF and its partners, on January 6, 2021, the Dominican Republic amended the Civil Code to prohibit, without exception, legal marriage for persons under the age of 18.</p> <p>For this reason, the Dominican government and its institutions, which are UNICEF's main counterpart in the Dominican Republic, refer only to informal unions under the denomination of "early unions", indicating that legal child marriage was already prohibited by law. A footnote is included in the text of CPD regarding this concept.</p> <p>This vision was clearly stated in the "Policy for Prevention and Attention to Early Unions and Adolescent Pregnancy (PPA)", launched in December 2021, which establishes the strategies and interventions prioritized for the prevention and attention to informal unions between girls and adolescents, mainly with adult men.</p> <p>All strategies and lines of action to address early unions included in the programmatic components of the CPD are aligned with the PPA. Direct work with girls and adolescents for their empowerment, work with families and communities, institutional capacity building and social mobilization are part of the strategies defined by UNICEF with a focus on prevention of early informal unions, which is the predominant practice in the Dominican Republic.</p>

	<b>Delegation's comments</b>	<b>Response(s)</b>
<p><b>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme document</b></p>	<p><i>(Delegations providing comments may wish to include details, such as the page number, paragraph number, or page of the annexed results and resources framework.</i></p>	