

## 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: *Ecuador*

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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- How will UNICEF promote emergency preparedness and plans related to climate change in curriculum/training programs?</li><li>- We commend UNICEF for making it a top priority to continue the integration of climate resilience in WASH management for communities in Ecuador, specifically strengthening climate resilience policies to help support child sensitive and gender transformative WASH programs.</li></ul>	<p>UNICEF appreciates the comments made by the US on the Ecuador 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 Ecuador has been working with the Ministry of Education building the capacities of the Ministry on emergency preparedness for the last ten years. This work has included supporting the design of the current preparedness and risk management policy for the schools and its protocols; establishment of an operational emergency operations centre in charge of in real time monitoring the schools; the development of a curricula for primary and secondary schools adapted to emergencies and training the technical staff from the risk management unit, among others.</p>

In preparation of the new cooperation programme 2023-2026, UNICEF supported a study on the impact of climate change in children and adolescents, that includes the consequences of climate change in schools, to inform the national policies on climate change. In 2023, UNICEF will support the Ministry of Education to develop an early warning system that includes a mapping of all natural and anthropogenic risks, including those related to climate change. There are plans to establish a new Sustainable Development Education unit within the Ministry of Education. Once established, UNICEF will provide technical assistance to update the curriculum, methodologies and train teachers, students, care givers and other educational stakeholders on climate change preparedness, adaptation and resilience.

One of the main concerns of adolescents and youth is climate change, according to the national survey “Future of education” carried out by the Ministry of Education and supported by UNICEF. These results brought up the need to update the methodologies and pedagogical materials with information about climate change. UNICEF is supporting this review process with the objective to include their voices in the educational policy agenda, especially regarding climate change.

As for the national climate agenda, UNICEF will advocate for the inclusion of children and adolescents’ views and voices in the new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and the implementation of the current NDC, the National Adaptation Plan and other instruments.

UNICEF developed a booklet, inspired by the Young Climate Activists Toolkit, a guide to understand, how both global and national climate governance works and the impact of climate change on the local ecosystems and on the lives of children and adolescents. The booklet, also in Kichwa, will be distributed in schools, specially, in the Ecuadorian Amazon basin, so indigenous children and adolescents will have the opportunity to learn about climate change and its effects.

UNICEF, jointly with YOUNGO (official youth constituency at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), is

		<p>developing a local training strategy. It includes training adolescents coming from four regions: Sierra, Costa, Amazon and Galapagos, on climate change, governance and policy to strengthen their capacities to advocate and negotiate climate change matters at the COP 27.</p>
<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>	