

U.S. STATEMENT ON ITEM 8B

As Delivered

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- The United States notes and welcomes the evaluation of Phase II of the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage and its joint management response.
- We were pleased to join as a donor and member of the Steering Committee in 2023. We thank UNICEF and UNFPA for their leadership and for already seeking to engage the United States in the governance body and related activities of this program.
- We are encouraged by the positive evaluation and commend both organizations for their strategic collaboration and its catalytic effect for success, in spite of the adversities posed during Phase II, including but not limited to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We look forward to Phase III of the Global Program and to learning more about the challenges and achievements across countries and progress to improve the sustainability measures as well as the status of implementation of recommendations.
  - Can you tell us how you will expand your reach and/or the quality of programming in Phase III?
  - Could you please clarify how sustainability of the program will be strengthened during Phase III?
- We suggest for the Global Programme to address the intersection of child marriage and FGM in contexts where there is a relationship, including through the Joint Programme on the Elimination of FGM.
- How do the Joint Program and Global Program work together and ensure there is no duplication of efforts in the countries where they are both operational?
- The United States is particularly supportive of Recommendation 2 on improving adaptation for crisis contexts, so UNICEF and UNFPA can respond more quickly to spikes in child marriage prompted by disaster.
  - Are there specific crisis contexts in which both organizations would consider prioritizing this approach to spikes prompted by disaster?