



**Executive Board of the  
United Nations Development  
Programme and of the  
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**UNFPA – Country programmes and related matters**

**UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND**

**Extensions of country programmes in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region**

**Note by the Executive Director**

*Summary*

The present note contains information on the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Ecuador and Guatemala.

In accordance with established procedures, the Executive Director approves the first one-year extension of a country programme, while requests for extensions for a second year or two-year extensions are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the one-year country programme extensions for Ecuador and Guatemala.

## One-year country programme extensions approved by the Executive Director

Country	Original programme period	Year proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Ecuador	2004-2008	2009	The United Nations country team in Ecuador is seeking one-year extensions of the country programmes of the United Nations Development Group Executive Committee agencies. This is being done in order to harmonize the respective country programmes with the recently launched national development plan of Ecuador. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework is being prepared according to the priorities of the national development plan. This harmonization process will permit the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework to be aligned with the national political planning process of the Government and its timetable.	The changing political scenario and the development of a new national constitution have made it necessary for the United Nations country team to extend the duration of the respective country programmes for one year. The new constitution will bring about political, administrative and socio-economic changes to existing country structures, primarily through legal and institutional reforms and through the new presidential election. The year 2008 is therefore a crucial year from a political and institutional perspective.	Given the complex socio-political scenario of the country, the one-year extension of the UNFPA country programme will permit UNFPA to better respond to new government priorities, structures and institutional arrangements that include new implementation modalities and agreements. UNDP and UNICEF are also extending their country programmes by one year.

One-year extensions of country programmes approved by the Executive Director

Country	Original programme period	Year proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other Issues
Guatemala	2005-2008	2009	All United Nations Development Group Executive Committee agencies are extending their country programmes for one year in order to align them with the government planning cycle. In accordance with this alignment, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP have extended their country programmes through 2009.	Presidential elections were held in November 2007; the new Government took office in January 2008. The newly elected authorities are now developing their national planning framework. The new United Nations Development Assistance Framework, covering the period 2009-2012, will thus be prepared in accordance with the national planning framework that will be completed by the end of 2008.	The current country programme and the 2007 midterm review provide an adequate framework for all UNFPA-supported projects in Guatemala. The programme can easily be extended by one year. The decision to extend the country programme cycles responds to a request by the Government to harmonize United Nations programme cycles with government cycles. This will permit a more effective and efficient provision of technical and financial assistance for national priorities, in accordance with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.