

COMMENTS ON THE UNFPA DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR CHINA

First regular session 2021

Comments by the United States of America	UNFPA country/regional office response
The United States would like to thank UNFPA for sharing its draft country programme document for China.	This is well noted.
<p><u>Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework:</u></p> <p>The United States maintains its serious concern regarding the content and development of the Cooperation Framework through a rushed, opaque process without consultations with all relevant stakeholders and partners. As with the Cooperation Framework, we seek assurances that all relevant stakeholders and donors will be fully and transparently consulted during the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of this CPD. We also note that the description of “extensive” consultations with stakeholders in P10 is inaccurate in this regard.</p>	<p>The UNSDCF was developed in consultations with key national stakeholders over a period of 14 months, including necessary steps such as preparation of the CCA, UNCT prioritization exercise, preparation of the UNSDCF document, and the negotiation and signing of the Cooperation Framework with the Government.</p> <p>The UNCT organized several rounds of briefings on the Cooperation Framework in Beijing between August - December 2020, with Member States; the last one was held on the 9th December. The UNCT in China, in consultation with the host Government, has noted that it plans to continue dialogue with Member States during the UNSDCF implementation and monitoring phase through finalization of the results matrix of the UNSDCF, annual reviews and expanded UN Results Groups and Thematic groups.</p> <p>As elaborated in paragraphs 35 and 41 of the country programme, UNFPA and the Government of China, through the Ministry of Commerce as the coordinating entity, will jointly be responsible for management of the programme and will plan, monitor and evaluate the programme in accordance with UNFPA policies and procedures, using results based management and accountability frameworks. In the case of non-core donor-funded activities/projects within the programme, regular consultations, monitoring and reporting will be guided by the terms and conditions agreed in co-financing agreements signed between concerned donors and UNFPA.</p> <p>If, in addition to the dialogues related to the UNSDCF implementation and the information provided on the implementation of the UNFPA country programme through that, there is a demand for further information about UNFPA’s programme related activities in China, UNFPA stands ready to provide additional information and is prepared to organize separate updates for Member States as and when needed.</p>

<p><u>Human Rights:</u></p> <p>The Cooperation Framework does not include a discussion of one of China’s most vulnerable populations: religious and ethnic minorities. The United States seeks assurances that UNFPA, in implementing this CPD, upholds its obligation to leaving no one behind and does not inadvertently exacerbate the vulnerabilities of this population. The internal guidance to UN agencies regarding UN development system entity CPD’s alignment with the Cooperation Framework explicitly notes that one of the guiding principles for the UN development system is a “human-rights based approach”. The United States would like to see the CPD, underpinned by the Cooperation Framework that only references the ‘Right to Development’, better emphasize the work UNFPA will do to improve Chinese institutions' alignment with the full suite of human rights and fundamental freedoms as defined by international human rights law. Additionally, we seek assurances that UNFPA, in implementing this CPD, upholds its commitment to leaving no one behind does not disregard or inadvertently exacerbate the vulnerabilities of this population, particularly in regard to UNFPA’s “focus on rural areas in less developed provinces in western China”. We welcome more information of what UNFPA is doing to directly serve these populations and to engage the PRC on its human rights obligations.</p>	<p>UNFPA’s CPD is firmly anchored in rights-based approaches and is aimed at realizing universal access to SRH and RR towards the completion of the unfinished aspects of the ICPD agenda and 2030 Agenda in China, as mentioned in CPD paragraphs 11 and 13. The UNFPA Country Programme has multiple references to rights throughout the document and in the Results and Resources Framework.</p> <p>In line with the aim of leaving no one behind, UNFPA’s programme will be driven by available data and as outlined in the CPD Results and Resources Framework, and will address inequalities in access to high quality, rights-based, and gender-sensitive reproductive health programmes and services (i.e. CPD paragraphs 23 and 24 and 31 and 32) with a focus on the most vulnerable population groups. A revision has been made to paragraph 15 of the CPD to add “...persons with disabilities and other groups at risk of being left behind”; this would include groups not specifically mentioned and provides yet further emphasis on the focus on leaving no one behind.</p> <p>UNFPA’s work in China continues to be in full alignment with the ICPD Programme of Action and all activities supported by UNFPA, including those in rural areas in less developed provinces in western China, are in conformity with universally recognized international human rights as stated in the ICPD Programme of Action. For example, with regards to adolescents and youth and rural populations part of the work under the programme, it is aimed at strengthening the policy environment to enable vulnerable women and young people to access integrated and high-quality SRH services, with a focus on rural areas in less developed provinces in western China.</p> <p>UNFPA’s work is anchored in and guided by the UN Charter, the ICPD Programme of Action (PoA) and the 2030 Agenda.</p>
<p><u>Global Impact:</u></p> <p>The major emphasis on China’s global development work throughout the Framework, in particular the focus of Outcomes 5 and 6, and the subsequent focus on this work in this CPD are inconsistent with the role of the Framework and CPD instruments, which are meant to focus primarily on the domestic development work on which the UN will engage. Any discussion of external development work should be specific in scope and involve primarily engagement with domestic institutions or with specific other countries. The Framework – and as a</p>	<p>The CPD outputs are derived from and linked to outcomes 2 and 6 of the UNSDCF but not Outcome 5 referenced in the comments.</p> <p>The primary focus of the CPD is to reduce, within China, inequalities in accessibility and quality of public services and programmes by advocating integrated, rights-based, gender-sensitive and comprehensive SRH programmes for the most vulnerable groups and through addressing major aspects of the unfinished ICPD agenda as elaborated in CPD paragraphs 13, 15, 16 and 17, for example.</p>

<p>result, this CPD - has global implications, including for UN Country Teams in third countries, and yet Member States and major donors were never consulted. UN development system cooperation on such an expansive global agenda through its country-based programs in is unprecedented and requires more serious discussions with donors. We seek assurances that UNFPA will cooperate primarily with the Chinese government within China to build capacity to uphold international standards.</p>	<p>To further underscore this point, paragraph 26 has been adjusted to stress that the CPD will support SDG attainment “in China”. Output 2 under SRH in the RRF has also been amended to add “in China”.</p> <p>UNFPA’s work in China aims to provide technical support and international best practices towards China’s achievement of its national development goals, in line with internationally agreed development frameworks, including the ICPD PoA and the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>The key role of the UN system including funds and programmes in supporting and promoting SSC is reaffirmed in the outcome document of the second UN High Level Conference on SSC (General Assembly resolution 73/291), a reference to which has been added in paragraph 18 of the CPD.</p> <p>In addition, supporting international standards is an integral part of the work related to SSC. For example, as paragraph 25 of the CPD notes in output 2 under sexual and reproductive health: “The Government and other Chinese institutions have strengthened capacity to design and deliver evidence-informed development and humanitarian cooperation, which is in line with international economic, social, and environmental sustainability standards and priorities of partner countries and other stakeholders.” To provide further emphasis on this point, paragraph 15 has been amended to add “enhancing effectiveness of [SSC] efforts in line with the ICPD Programme of Action.”</p>
<p><u>South-South Cooperation:</u></p> <p>The United States seeks assurances that UNFPA is not directly or inadvertently, through its South-South related activities, promoting or advancing China’s signature foreign policy or economic diplomacy initiatives, including its signature global foreign policy platform “the Belt and Road Initiative” (BRI). For example, UNFPA has signed several agreements with Chinese government institutions to specifically promote the BRI, such as the National Development and Reform Commission (listed in the Annex as a major partner for Outcome 5). The United States fully supports South-South Cooperation and UN entities’ efforts to promote sustainable development through South-South cooperation. UN support should focus on helping developing countries build the capacity needed to ensure all South-</p>	<p>The CPD outputs are derived from and linked to outcomes 2 and 6 of the UNSDCF but not the mentioned Outcome 5.</p> <p>Mutually beneficial South-South Cooperation, where China and other countries in the South learn from each other, is an important element of achieving the ICPD agenda and is embedded in the ICPD PoA itself in chapters 14 and 16.</p> <p>The CPD emphasizes facilitation of such a two-way approach to South-South cooperation initiatives on population data, maternal health, and humanitarian assistance to ensure these initiatives are linked to the achievement of the SDGs and contributes to China’s own achievement of the ICPD PoA. This point is made in paragraph 11 and elaborated in paragraph 18 and 26.</p>

<p>South programs, projects, and investments meet the strongest sustainability standards and criteria. UN South-South cooperation assistance to developing countries should not be conditioned upon or directly linked to a third country's UN programme nor to any single Member State's signature foreign policy or economic diplomacy initiatives. Finally, language from the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation ("good governance, human rights, fundamental freedoms, and equal access to fair justice systems") would help emphasize important aspects of South-South cooperation that are missing from this CPD and the underlying Framework.</p>	<p>The South-South Cooperation work is in accordance with the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/73/291 on the outcome document from the Second UN High-Level Conference on SSC in 2019, including its principles found in paragraph 8 and with good governance, rule of law, human rights, fundamental freedoms, equal access to fair justice systems, mentioned in paragraph 14. To make this more explicit a reference to the aforementioned GA resolution has been made in paragraph 18 of the CPD.</p> <p>UNFPA will support SSC in China, as it does elsewhere, towards the fulfilment of the internationally agreed development frameworks such as the ICPD PoA, the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, and the UNFPA's Strategic Plan 2018-2021.</p> <p>UNFPA's work is neither linked to nor conditioned upon the advancement of foreign policy or economic diplomacy initiatives of any Member State. UNFPA has not signed any agreement with the National Development and Reform Commission on the promotion of the BRI.</p> <p>Consistent with the CPDs of UNDP and UNICEF, a factual reference to BRI has been made at the end of paragraph 7.</p>
<p><u>Sharing of Best Practices:</u></p> <p>The Framework repeatedly highlights numerous times that the PRC has a global development reach that is entirely independent of the UN system. The Chinese government, as the second largest economy in the world, is demonstrably capable of holding policy conferences, fora, training sessions, and more both within China and abroad. The United States seeks assurances that UNFPA's funding of or involvement in sharing best practices does not imply UNFPA endorsement for China's foreign policy initiatives like the BRI or China-led foreign policy exchanges, such as China-Africa Forum for Cooperation, which is inappropriate for its role as an impartial, neutral international body. The CPD should better reflect that UNFPA's primary work is to build capacity of Chinese institutions, not to only serve as a platform for China to share its experiences using the UN's imprimatur.</p>	<p>As noted in paragraph 25, the CPD includes as part of its overall activities the aim to strengthen the capacity of the Government and other Chinese institutions to design and deliver development and humanitarian cooperation, which is in line with international economic, social, and environmental sustainability standards.</p> <p>To achieve this result, under the CPD UNFPA will share and exchange UNFPA guidelines and international norms and standards through capacity building workshops and policy dialogues and advocate for enhanced attention on key ICPD and SDG issues within SSC efforts. This work will be carried out in line with values and principles enshrined in the UN Charter.</p> <p>The SSC work will be bi-directional, focused on sharing development knowledge and expertise in line with the ICPD PoA. Substantively, UNFPA's support to South-South cooperation will be focused on areas of the ICPD agenda where China has been able to make significant progress - for instance in terms of maternal mortality reduction, evidence-based population analysis and projection, and reproductive health commodity security. The South-South cooperation component also includes areas where</p>

	<p>China will be learning from other countries such as on adolescent reproductive health, prevention of sexual transmission of HIV, and multi-sectoral approaches to prevention and response to gender-based violence. These points are made notably in paras 11, 25, 26, 28 and 30 of the CPD; paragraph 26 has been adjusted to underscore that the CPD will support SDG attainment in China.</p> <p>UNFPA’s work is anchored in and guided by the UN Charter, the ICPD PoA and Agenda 2030.</p>
<p><u>Proper Citations and Fair, Impartial Analyses:</u></p> <p>Language directly taken from Chinese policies or statements must consistently be marked as such throughout the document and language that could imply UN support for those policies should be edited to remove that ambiguity. This language includes “high quality development”, “world’s largest developing country”, unbalanced and inadequate development”, “high-quality, people centred development”, and “mutually beneficial progress”. The United States requests that the agencies uphold the fact-based, impartial approach required for these documents and their implementation to be successful, including by noting that language such as “high quality development” is part of China’s plan to implement the 2030 Agenda rather than implying that UNFPA endorses this vision as consistent with the SDGs. UNFPA’s commitment to the CPD being “robust in development and evidence based” (UNFPA CPD Policies and Procedures) and to "United Nations’ common understanding of the human-rights based approach” (UNFPA Strategic Plan Annex 3) in its work comes into question as this CPD lacks an acknowledgment, discussion, or commitment to protecting vulnerable ethnic and religious minorities in China.</p>	<p>As per the UN internal guidance on UNSDCF and UNFPA’s programming guidelines, both the Cooperation Framework and Country Programme of any country must be aligned to that particular country’s development plans and national development visions. This point was underscored in paras 71-74 of the new QCPR.</p> <p>We have taken note of the comment and, as applicable, adjustments to language in paras 1, 4, and 13 have been made. The reference to “high-quality, people-centred development” in paragraph 13 is clearly and directly linked, in that sentence, to the relevant national policy document.</p> <p>The CPD is based on a thorough UNFPA analysis and evidence as elaborated throughout the section on “programme rationale” of the CPD. On the commitment to protecting certain minorities, the CPD has references to addressing the needs and rights of vulnerable groups, including in the CPD results framework.</p> <p>A reference to “other groups at risk of being left behind” has been added in paragraph 15 to capture the inclusiveness of UNFPA’s work.</p>
<p>The CPD for China includes discussion of the PRC’s external development work. The CPD instrument should be focused on UNFPA’s own work in a country to assist with that country’s development. Most basically, CPDs should not include discussion of work that country may be doing outside of its own borders as part of its conduct of foreign policy.</p>	<p>UNFPA’s proposed country programme for China aims at moving forward the ICPD agenda in China and contributing towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in China.</p> <p>Mutually beneficial South-South Cooperation, where China and other countries in the South learn from each other, is an important element of achieving the ICPD agenda, as stated in the ICPD PoA (para. 16.19): “South-South cooperation at all levels is an important instrument of</p>

	<p>development. In this regard, such cooperation - technical cooperation among developing countries - should play an important part in the implementation of the present Programme of Action.”</p> <p>UNFPA will support SSC in China, as it does elsewhere, towards the fulfilment of the internationally agreed development frameworks such as the ICPD PoA, the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, and the UNFPA’s Strategic Plan 2018-2021.</p> <p>The work on South-South Cooperation is done in accordance with the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/73/291 on the outcome document from the Second UN High-Level Conference on SSC in 2019.</p>
<p>The U.S. Government has made numerous interventions urging UNFPA not to partner with the Chinese government, which continues to include coercive practices that prevent women and couples from exercising their right to decide for themselves the number, spacing, and timing of their children.</p>	<p>The cooperation between UNFPA and China has included more than 25 years of implementation of country programmes anchored in ICPD principles, including a rights-based approach to SRH and family planning information and services.</p> <p>UNFPA’s work in China under the 9th Country Programme will remain anchored in the right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so, as enshrined in the ICPD Programme of Action. UNFPA is not providing any support that is not fully aligned with the ICPD Programme of Action.</p>
<p>The Chinese Government’s Population and Family Planning Law and related regulations and practices at the central and provincial levels, clearly constitute a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization. Since 2017, the U.S. Secretary of State has annually determined that -- for the purposes of the Kemp-Kasten Amendment, as included in the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2020 as well as previous Acts dating back to 1985 -- UNFPA's partnership with China's National Health Commission (NHC), the entity responsible for implementing and enforcing China’s population control program, demonstrates UNFPA's support for or participation in the management of China's coercive policies. As a result of this determination, the U.S. Government is prohibited from providing funding to UNFPA from the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Assistance Act.</p>	<p>In every country where UNFPA works, including in China, UNFPA promotes access to safe, quality, and fully voluntary family planning as a human right and rejects coercion in all its forms, including birth limits. Consistent with paragraph 8.25 of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, UNFPA does not promote abortion as a method of family planning in China.</p> <p>UNFPA accords the highest priority to voluntary family planning to prevent unintended pregnancies. Consistent with the policy of the U.S. Government, UNFPA opposes coercive abortion, forced sterilization, and the discriminatory practice of prenatal sex selection. Furthermore, UNFPA does not promote changes to the legal status of abortion in countries.</p> <p>For UNFPA’s response to the latest Kemp-Kasten Amendment determination, we refer to our “Statement on the United States Decision to</p>

	Again Withhold Critical Funding for UNFPA, amid Global Pandemic ” of 1 July 2020.
<p>After review of the draft China Country Program Document (2021-2025), and based on what we currently know of China's coercive population policies, similar concerns about UNFPA's partnership with Chinese government agencies responsible for implementing these coercive policies remain.</p>	<p>Reference is made to the responses provided in the previous sections.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Comments by New Zealand</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">UNFPA country/regional office response</p>
<p>The CPD includes a focus on UNFPA facilitating aspects of China’s South-South cooperation and international development cooperation. The nature and extent of this activity is more comprehensive than it was in the 2016-2020 UNFPA CPD for China, with UNFPA taking a greater role in China’s international development activities.</p> <p>The increase in UNFPA support for China’s international development/cooperation activities, and the emphasis on strengthening China’s capacity to design and deliver development cooperation shifts UNFPA’s role to one providing development expertise to emerging donors. While providing this expertise can have positive flow-on effects, these support activities have opportunity costs for UNFPA.</p> <p>We seek clarification about UNFPA’s role and mandate in providing emergent donors with support to ensure good development practice (cf. supporting domestic development activities), especially in terms of UNFPA’s available resources and relative priorities.</p>	<p>The primary focus of the CPD is to reduce, within China, inequalities in accessibility and quality of public services and programmes by advocating integrated rights-based, gender-sensitive and comprehensive SRH programmes for the most vulnerable groups and through addressing major aspects of the unfinished ICPD agenda in China. This is elaborated in CPD paragraphs 13, 15 and 16 and 17, for example, and through a strengthened policy environment as mentioned in paragraph 24. To further underscore this point, paragraph 26 has been adjusted to stress that the CPD will support SDG attainment “in China”.</p> <p>The programme rationale section of the CPD focuses on remaining gaps and vulnerabilities in China. UNFPA’s work in China aims to provide technical support and international best practices towards China’s achievement of its national development goals, in line with internationally agreed development frameworks, including the ICPD PoA and the 2030 Agenda 2030.</p> <p>The key role of the UN system in supporting and promoting SSC is reaffirmed in the outcome document of the second UN High Level Conference on SSC. Those SSC principles mentioned in the outcome document are referred to in paragraph 18 of the CPD and a direct reference to the pertinent General Assembly Resolution 73/291 on SSC has been added in paragraph 18 of the CPD.</p> <p>Aligned with the outcome document of the second UN High Level Conference on SSC, the CPD emphasizes that SSC will be of mutual benefit. Substantively, UNFPA’s support to South-South cooperation will be focused on areas of the ICPD agenda where China has been able to make significant progress - for instance in terms of maternal mortality reduction,</p>

	<p>evidence-based population analysis and projection, and reproductive health commodity security. The South-South cooperation component also includes areas where China will be learning from other countries such as on adolescent reproductive health, prevention of sexual transmission of HIV, and multi-sectoral approaches to prevention and response to gender-based violence.</p> <p>These points are made notably in paras 11, 25, 26, 28 and 30 of the CPD.</p> <p>In addition, supporting international standards is an integral part of the work related to SSC, as paragraph 25 of the CPD notes in output 2 under sexual and reproductive health where it says: “The Government and other Chinese institutions have strengthened capacity to design and deliver evidence-informed development and humanitarian cooperation, which is in line with international economic, social, and environmental sustainability standards and priorities of partner countries and other stakeholders.” To provide further emphasis on this point, paragraph 15 has been amended to add “enhancing effectiveness of [SSC] efforts in line with the ICPD Programme of Action.”</p>
<p align="center">Comments by Australia</p>	<p align="center">UNFPA country/regional office response</p>
<p><u>Global development and South-South cooperation</u></p> <p>In supporting progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Australia values the UN’s role promoting best practice in development assistance. The Country Program Document (CPD) outlines a significant role for UNFPA in facilitating international cooperation in third countries, and includes this function under almost every outcome. The CPD would be improved through a greater focus on UNFPA’s work with China to deliver development cooperation that adheres to international standards, is transparent, meets genuine needs and is financially sustainable, rather than emphasising UNFPA’s role in facilitating China’s development cooperation in other countries. We recommend the CPD results and resources framework also outline how UNFPA will measure progress, such as through indicators which assess effectiveness and quality of activities in line with international standards.</p>	<p>The primary focus of the CPD is to reduce, within China, prevalent inequalities in accessibility and quality of public services and programmes by advocating integrated rights based, gender sensitive and comprehensive SRH programmes for the most vulnerable groups and through addressing major aspects of the unfinished ICPD agenda in China as elaborated in CPD paragraphs 15, 16 and through a strengthened policy environment. To make this more explicit, paragraph 26 has been adjusted to stress that the CPD will support SDG attainment in China.</p> <p>The CPD emphasizes supporting a two-way approach to South-South cooperation initiatives on population data, maternal health, and humanitarian assistance to ensure these initiatives are linked to the achievement of the SDGs in other developing countries, and contributes to China’s achievement of the ICPD Agenda through harnessing knowledge solutions to help address gaps around adolescent reproductive health, prevention of sexual transmission of HIV and multisectoral response to</p>

	<p>GBV, etc. These points are made notably in paras 11, 18, 25, 26, 28 and 30 of the CPD.</p> <p>The South-South Cooperation work is done in accordance with the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/73/291 on the outcome document from the Second UN High-Level Conference on SSC in 2019, including its principles found in paragraph 8. To make this more explicit we have made a reference directly to the aforementioned GA resolution in paragraph 18 of the CPD.</p> <p>In terms of international standards, paragraph 25 of the CPD notes that output 2 under sexual and reproductive health is: “The Government and other Chinese institutions have strengthened capacity to design and deliver evidence-informed development and humanitarian cooperation, which is in line with international economic, social, and environmental sustainability standards and priorities of partner countries and other stakeholders.” To provide further emphasis on this point, paragraph 15 has been amended to add “enhancing effectiveness of [SSC] efforts in line with the ICPD Programme of Action.”</p> <p>Output indicators represented in the RRF are measurable and imply expected positive changes/results in line with international development frameworks such as the ICPD PoA and the SDGs. For instance, indicator 1 for output 2, indicates that when UNFPA is involved in the design of SSC projects, it will ensure that these projects will contribute to attainment of the goals set forth in the ICPD PoA and the SDGs.</p> <p>UNFPA has developed metadata for the CPD indicators with indicators’ definitions, targets, measurement tools, etc., which will be further refined taking into account the comment made to better assess the effectiveness and quality of activities in line with international standards.</p>
<p><u>Safeguards</u></p> <p>Australia recommends the CPD include additional detail on how UNFPA will manage potential risks and apply its safeguards, including for activities with the private sector, specialised surveys and in emerging areas like ‘Big Data’. Australia recommends all UN CPDs emphasise the importance of protecting human rights, especially vulnerable groups such as ethnic minorities, and outline how UNFPA will meet its</p>	<p>Potential risks to and mitigations of those risks for the successful implementation of the programme are included in paragraph 38 of the CPD. Any data collection activities, including surveys and use of big data, will be guided by the existing UN instruments, standards and guidelines concerning data privacy, data protection and data ethics. UNFPA has its due diligence process for potential partners including business enterprises and corporate foundations to assess their environmental, social and governance policies and business conduct before engaging and pursuing a partnership. UNFPA</p>

<p>commitment to monitor compliance with human rights safeguards in line with UN safeguard policies.</p>	<p>uses a set of exclusionary criteria for business practices considered as unacceptable to the organization; these include violation of human rights among others.</p> <p>The programme will provide advocacy and capacity development support to Government, CSOs and private sector institutions to strengthen adherence to sexual and reproductive health and rights related international and national commitments; this point is made in paragraph 17 of the CPD. UNFPA advocates and promotes access to sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, particularly the most vulnerable groups.</p> <p>Further the programme itself, as stated in paragraph 15, will “...focus on reducing prevalent inequalities in accessibility and quality of public services and programmes by advocating integrated rights-based, gender-sensitive and comprehensive SRH programmes for the most vulnerable populations especially unmarried youth, persons with disabilities and other groups at risk of being left behind.” The reference to “persons with disabilities and other groups at risk of being left behind” has been added in paragraph 15 to capture the inclusiveness of UNFPA’s work.</p>
<p>Paragraph 25: seek clarity around which ‘international economic, social, and environmental sustainability standards’ are referred to.</p>	<p>The output statement in paragraph 25 is in line with UNSDCF output 6.1 that will be achieved jointly by the UN, including UNFPA. Therefore, economic, social and environment standards refer to relevant UN and international norms and standards such as labour standards, environmental and health standards outlined in multilateral agreements and consensus documents, such as the ICPD Programme of Action.</p>
<p>Australia notes UNFPA’s increased efforts outlined in the CPD towards addressing low fertility. Australia looks forward to further detail on UNFPA’s rollout of this work stream, which has been flagged as a component in its proposed successor Asia-pacific strategy.</p>	<p>The sustained low fertility and population ageing issues are driven by a mix of socio-economic factors, and hence solutions must be long-term and rights-based. At the heart of this lies the need for gender equality, SRH and reproductive rights. UNFPA will continue to promote a rights-based, gender-responsive and lifecycle approach grounded in the principles of the ICPD Programme Action through evidence generation, policy analysis, advocacy, and technical support for addressing low fertility and population ageing.</p>
<p><u>Engagement with Member States</u></p>	<p>UNFPA will be part of the UNSDCF coordination mechanisms such as the UNSDCF Steering Committee, Results Groups and Thematic Groups for</p>

<p>Australia recommends the CPD outline specific mechanisms for how UNFPA commits to strengthen consultation and coordination with all development partners in China and in third countries, to enhance transparency and accountability of activities. This could include reference to activities related to ‘knowledge exchange’ and ‘capacity transfers’ (outlined in paragraph 17).</p>	<p>effective coordination and contributions to the UNSDCF implementation, review and reporting as elaborated in paragraph 35 of the CPD. Currently the UNCT is in consultations with development partners at country level on effective ways of engaging with development partners through these mechanisms and UNFPA has taken note of the proposal to include activities related to ‘knowledge exchange’ and ‘capacity transfers’ as part of that.</p> <p>If, in addition to the dialogues related to the UNSDCF implementation and the information provided on the implementation of the UNFPA country programme through that, there is a demand for further information about UNFPA’s programme related activities in China, UNFPA stands ready to provide additional information and is prepared to organize separate updates for Member States as and when needed.</p>
<p><u>Resourcing</u></p> <p>The CPD should provide more detail on “other” resources which will be used to fund CPD activities, including detail of funding partners.</p>	<p>Other sources indicated in the CPD are indicative and are yet to be mobilized from various sources. Hence the sources of funds are not known at this stage. Should further information specifically related to the funding of the implementation of the UNFPA country programme through other resources be needed, this can be provided.</p>
<p><u>COVID</u></p> <p>The CPD would be improved by greater discussion on current and expected long-term impacts of COVID on poverty in China.</p>	<p>As elaborated in paragraph 12 and 24 (c), UNFPA will work with other UN agencies to strengthen post-pandemic cooperation with China and ensure sustained accessibility of vulnerable population groups to quality SRH services during health emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic, and also engage with the government on strengthening of essential SRH service package for universal health coverage, which would reduce health vulnerability to poverty and inequality.</p>
<p><u>Terminology</u></p> <p>Paragraph 13: reference to “high-quality, people-centred development”: Australia’s position is that people-centred approaches are only truly people-centred if the human rights of individuals are protected, respected and fulfilled. Suggest clarity around what is meant by ‘rights-based’ approaches, used extensively throughout the CPD.</p>	<p>As per the UN internal guidance on UNSDCF and UNFPA’s programming guidelines, both the Cooperation Framework and Country Programme of any country must be aligned to that particular country’s development plans and national development visions. This point was underscored in paras 71-74 of the new QCPR.</p> <p>We have taken note of the comment and, as applicable, it has been made clearer where the use of the specific language refers to specific Chinese policies and plans and made adjustments to language in paras 1, 4, and 13.</p>

	<p>The reference to “high-quality, people-centred development” in paragraph 13 is clearly and directly linked, in that sentence, to the relevant national policy document.</p> <p>Key features of UNFPA’s rights-based approach are: i) equality and non-discrimination ii) quality and iii) accountability.</p> <p>UNFPA’s CPD is firmly anchored in rights-based approaches and is aimed at realizing universal access to SRH and RR towards the completion of the unfinished aspects of the ICPD agenda and 2030 Agenda 2030 in China, as mentioned in CPD paragraphs 11 and 13. The UNFPA Country Programme has multiple references to rights throughout the document and in the Results and Resources Framework.</p> <p>In line with the aim of leaving no one behind, UNFPA’s programme will be driven by available data and as outlined in the CPD Results and Resources Framework, and will, address inequalities in access to high quality, rights - based, and gender- sensitive reproductive health programmes and services (i.e. CPD paragraph 23 and 24 and 31 and 32) with a focus on the most vulnerable population groups.</p> <p>UNFPA’s work is anchored in and guided by the UN Charter, the ICPD PoA and 2030 Agenda.</p>
Comments by the Netherlands	UNFPA country/regional office response
<p>The Netherlands appreciates UNFPA’s focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights in the Country Programme Document (CPD) for China, noting that human rights should always be an integral part of UNFPA’s work. In this regard, the Netherlands wishes to underscore that strengthening universal access to SRHR, including among marginalized and vulnerable minorities as well as other persons left behind, is crucially important for the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p>	<p>UNFPA notes and appreciates the comment.</p> <p>UNFPA’s CPD is firmly anchored in rights-based approaches and is aimed at realizing universal access to SRH and RR towards the completion of the unfinished aspects of the ICPD agenda and 2030 Agenda 2030 in China, as mentioned in CPD paragraphs 11 and 13. The UNFPA Country Programme has multiple references to rights throughout the document and in the Results and Resources Framework.</p> <p>In line with the aim of leaving no one behind, UNFPA’s programme will be driven by available data and as outlined in the CPD Results and Resources Framework, and will, address inequalities in access to high quality, rights - based, and gender- sensitive reproductive health programmes and services (i.e. CPD paragraph 23 and 24 and 31 and 32) with a focus on the most vulnerable population groups. A revision has been made to paragraph 15 of</p>

	<p>the CPD to add “...persons with disabilities and other groups at risk of being left behind”; this would include groups not specifically mentioned and provides yet emphasis on the focus on leaving no one behind.</p> <p>UNFPA’s work is anchored in and guided by the UN Charter, the ICPD PoA and 2030 Agenda.</p>
<p>The Netherlands furthermore welcomes UNFPA’s support for South-South cooperation, noting however that UNFPA’s draft CPD for China and its implementation should remain focused on sustainable development within China.</p>	<p>The primary focus of the CPD is to reduce, within China, inequalities in accessibility and quality of public services and programmes by advocating integrated rights based, gender sensitive and comprehensive SRH programmes for the most vulnerable groups and through addressing major aspects of the unfinished ICPD agenda in China as elaborated in CPD paragraphs 15 and 16 and through a strengthened policy environment as mentioned in paragraph 24. To make this more explicit, paragraph 26 has been adjusted to stress that the CPD will support SDG attainment “in China”.</p> <p>UNFPA’s work in China aims to provide technical support and international best practices towards China’s achievement of its national development goals, in line with internationally agreed development frameworks, including the ICPD PoA and the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>UNFPA will support SSC in China, as it does elsewhere, towards the fulfilment of the internationally agreed development frameworks such as the ICPD PoA, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs, and UNFPA’s Strategic Plan 2018-2021.</p> <p>The SSC work will be bi-directional, focused on sharing development knowledge and expertise in line with the ICPD PoA. Substantively, UNFPA’s support to South-South cooperation will be focused on areas of the ICPD agenda where China has been able to make significant progress - for instance in terms of maternal mortality reduction, evidence-based population analysis and projection, and reproductive health commodity security. The South-South cooperation component also includes areas where China will be learning from other countries such as on adolescent reproductive health, prevention of sexual transmission of HIV, and multi-sectoral approaches to prevention and response to gender-based violence.</p>
<p>Comments by the United Kingdom</p>	<p>UNFPA country/regional office response</p>

South-South and Global Cooperation

There are numerous references in the document (e.g. paragraph 23) to UNFPA ‘facilitating’ and ‘promoting’ SSGC between China and other developing countries, and ‘supporting’ China to participate in South-South Cooperation. It is not clear that such support is required or appropriate. On the other hand, there is a useful aim of evidence-informed Chinese development and humanitarian cooperation being in line with international economic, social and environmental sustainability standards (Output 2), and to enhancing the effectiveness of China’s SSGC efforts (paragraph 26). We would like to see a consistent emphasis on UNFPA seeking to inform and influence China’s international development cooperation to improve its effectiveness, increase its development impact, and ensure that it meets international norms and standards (on environmental protection, social aspects, transparency and debt sustainability).

This suggestion is well-noted and is particularly germane to Output 2 of sexual and reproductive health, where the aim, as stated in the CPD, is to strengthen the capacity to design and deliver evidence-informed development and humanitarian cooperation, which is in line with international economic, social, and environmental sustainability standards.

To provide further emphasis on the link to international standards, paragraph 15 has been amended to add “enhancing effectiveness of [SSC] efforts in line with the ICPD Programme of Action.”

The language used in the CPD is consistent with the framing of the associated outputs in UNSDCF upon which they are based. The key role of the UN system in supporting and promoting SSC is reaffirmed in the outcome document of the second UN High Level Conference on SSC. Those SSC principles mentioned in the outcome document are referred to in paragraph 18 of the CPD and a direct reference to the pertinent General Assembly Resolution 73/291 on SSC has been added in paragraph 18 of the revised CPD.

Mutually beneficial South-South Cooperation, where China and other countries in the South learn from each other, is an important element of achieving the ICPD agenda and is embedded in the ICPD PoA itself in chapters 14 and 16.

Substantively, UNFPA’s support to South-South cooperation will be focused on areas of the ICPD agenda where China has been able to make significant progress - for instance in terms of maternal mortality reduction, evidence-based population analysis and projection, and reproductive health commodity security. The South-South cooperation component also includes areas where China will be learning from other countries such as on adolescent reproductive health, prevention of sexual transmission of HIV, and multi-sectoral approaches to prevention and response to gender-based violence.

The CPD will be implemented within the overall principles of ICPD and SSC towards the fulfilment of the internationally agreed development frameworks such as the ICPD PoA, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

	<p>For example, output 1 on adolescents and youth and the opening sentence in paragraph 32 (on output 1 under gender equality) indicate that UNFPA activities are focused on development in China and contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, including by collaborating with partners to promote positive social norm change to support the realisation of gender equality and women’s rights.</p>
Comments by Germany	UNFPA country/regional office response
<p>We welcome the CPD for China and thank UNFPA for their work in this regard. We appreciate the enormous improvements which have been made in the areas of childcare, education and healthcare services. The programme is well integrated into national priorities and provides a solid evidence base regarding existing and expected population dynamics. We especially welcome the emphasis on a rights-based approach to SRH and family planning and would welcome a specific note that this applies to all vulnerable groups, including religious and ethnic minorities.</p>	<p>UNFPA notes and appreciates the comments.</p> <p>UNFPA’s CPD is firmly anchored in rights-based approaches and is aimed at realizing universal access to SRH and RR towards the completion of the unfinished aspects of the ICPD agenda and 2030 Agenda 2030 in China, as mentioned in CPD paragraphs 11 and 13. The UNFPA Country Programme has multiple references to rights throughout the document and in the Results and Resources Framework.</p> <p>UNFPA consistently advocates for fulfilment of the basic rights of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children in China in line with the ICPD PoA.</p> <p>In line with the aim of leaving no one behind the programme will, driven by available data and as outlined in the CPD Results and Resources Framework, address inequalities in access to high quality, rights based, gender sensitive reproductive health programmes and services (i.e. CPD paragraph 23 and 24 and 31 and 32) with a focus on the most vulnerable population groups. To address the concern related to how this applies to all vulnerable groups a revision has been made to paragraph 15 of the CPD to add “...persons with disabilities and other groups at risk of being left behind”, which includes groups not specifically mentioned.</p> <p>UNFPA’s work is anchored in and guided by the UN Charter, the ICPD PoA and 2030 Agenda.</p>
Comments by Canada	UNFPA country/regional office response
<p>Canada shares member state concerns over the transparency and adequacy of consultations for the development of the UN Sustainable</p>	<p>This is well noted and stakeholders will be consulted with regards to the CPD as part of the already initiated consultative process on the implementation of</p>

<p>Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for China. Recognising that these are still early days for this new way of working, we wish to highlight the importance of the preparatory process and sequencing of the UNSDCF and CPD in helping to avoid the issues now being raised in connection with the CPD. As with the Framework, we seek assurances that all relevant stakeholders and donors will be fully and transparently consulted during the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the CPD.</p>	<p>the UNSDCF, which includes the implementation of UNFPA’s country programme.</p> <p>The UNCT in China, in consultation with the host Government, plans to continue those dialogues with member states during the UNSDCF implementation and monitoring through expanded UN Results Groups and Thematic groups.</p> <p>If, in addition to the dialogues related to the UNSDCF implementation and the information provided on the implementation of the UNFPA country programme through that, there is a demand for further information about UNFPA’s programme related activities in China, UNFPA stands ready and is prepared to organize separate updates for Member States as and when needed.</p>
<p>“Leaving no one behind” and a “human-rights based approach” are among the guiding principles for the preparation of UNSDCFs and CPDs. We find clear reference to the latter to be lacking in this document. We note that the list of “groups most at risk of being left behind” does not include ethnic and religious minorities and would seek clarification on how UNFPA under this country program will protect core UN principles of human rights, in particular for these minorities.</p>	<p>The UNFPA Country Programme is anchored on and has multiple references to rights throughout the document and in the Results and Resources Framework.</p> <p>UNFPA consistently advocates for fulfilment of the basic rights of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children in China in line with the ICPD PoA.</p> <p>In line with the aim of leaving no one behind the programme will, driven by available data and as outlined in the CPD Results and Resources Framework, address inequalities in access to high quality, rights based, gender sensitive reproductive health programmes and services (i.e. CPD paragraph 23 and 24 and 31 and 32) with a focus on the most vulnerable population groups. To address the concern a revision has been made to paragraph 15 of the CPD to add “...persons with disabilities and other groups at risk of being left behind”, which includes groups not specifically mentioned.</p>
<p>Though the CPDs are intended to align with and support national development plans and priorities, UN and member states need to ensure that the language used in these documents supports core UN principles, and does not undermine a rules-based international system that upholds human rights and democratic governance. We see some seemingly</p>	<p>UNFPA’s work in China is and will be under the proposed new country programme in full alignment with the ICPD Programme of Action and universal human rights principles.</p> <p>UNFPA’s work is anchored in and guided by the UN Charter, the ICPD PoA and 2030 Agenda. A reference has been added to paragraph 26 to note</p>

<p>benign language in this document that could be interpreted as undermining these core principles and way of working.</p>	<p>that the work is “in line with values and principles enshrined in the UN Charter”.</p>
<p>The CPD should be focused on the work of the organisation in China and not their partnership with China, leveraging South-South Cooperation, in other countries. UNFPA has a role to play in promoting best practice in development assistance, including by ensuring that the assistance provided by countries including China, adheres to international standards of, inter alia, human rights, labour, transparency, environmental protection and debt sustainability, and with clear reference to relevant the SDGs. We would have expected to see this reflected in this section.</p>	<p>The primary focus of the CPD is to reduce, within China, inequalities in accessibility and quality of public services and programmes by advocating integrated rights based, gender sensitive and comprehensive SRH programmes for the most vulnerable groups and through addressing major aspects of the unfinished ICPD agenda in China as elaborated in CPD paragraphs 15 and 16 and through a strengthened policy environment as mentioned in paragraph 24. To make this more explicit, paragraph 26 has been adjusted to stress that the CPD will support SDG attainment “in China”.</p> <p>The CPD will be implemented within the overall principles of ICPD and SSC towards the fulfilment of the internationally agreed development frameworks such as the ICPD PoA, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.</p> <p>In addition, the CPD will support international standards, as paragraph 25 of the CPD notes in output 2 under sexual and reproductive health where it says: “The Government and other Chinese institutions have strengthened capacity to design and deliver evidence-informed development and humanitarian cooperation, which is in line with international economic, social, and environmental sustainability standards and priorities of partner countries and other stakeholders.” To provide further emphasis on this point, paragraph 15 has been amended to add “enhancing effectiveness of [SSC] efforts in line with the ICPD Programme of Action.”</p> <p>The key role of the UN system in supporting and promoting SSC is reaffirmed in the outcome document of the second UN High Level Conference on SSC. To make this more explicit, a reference directly to the aforementioned GA resolution in paragraph 18 of the CPD has been made.</p>
<p>Given that China has aspirations of supporting international development cooperation, we would seek clarification on when China is expected to graduate from UNFPA support. If this is not in the near future, the question could be reasonably asked why China is supporting other developing countries globally while receiving UN support.</p>	<p>The UNFPA China Country Programme 2021-2025 has been designed to meet the remaining development needs of China. The programme rationale section of the CPD focuses on remaining gaps and vulnerabilities in China in relation to UNFPA’s mandate. UNFPA’s work in China aims to provide technical support and international best practices towards China’s</p>

	<p>achievement of its national development goals, in line with internationally agreed development frameworks, including the ICPD PoA and the 2030 Agenda 2030.</p> <p>The core resources proposed for approval under the proposed new Country Programme will decline by 49%, from USD 15 million under the current Country Programme (2016-2020) to USD 7.7 million proposed for approval under the new country programme (2021-2025).</p> <p>UNFPA’s engagement with MICs is in line with UNFPA’s Strategic Plan, as well as GA Resolution A/RES/74/231 on Development Cooperation with MICs, paragraph 8.</p>
Comments by France	UNFPA country/regional office response
<p><u>Sexual and reproductive health and rights</u></p> <p>The list of objectives could benefit from being included within a wider framework referring to the reduction of gender inequalities, human rights and the identified SDGs.</p>	<p>The Country Programme is derived from and aligned with the UNSDCF, which itself, as stated in paragraph 11, is anchored in the 2030 Agenda and aimed at providing support to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the ICPD Programme of Action, which are rooted in human rights and aimed at achieving gender equality</p> <p>The UNFPA Country Programme is anchored on and has multiple references to rights throughout the document and in the Results and Resources Framework.</p> <p>UNFPA consistently advocates for fulfilment of the basic rights of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibility the number, spacing and timing of their children in China in line with the ICPD PoA.</p> <p>In line with the aim of leaving no one behind the programme will, driven by available data and as outlined in the CPD Results and Resources Framework, address inequalities in access to high quality, rights based, gender sensitive reproductive health programmes and services (i.e. CPD paragraph 23 and 24 and 31 and 32) with a focus on the most vulnerable population groups. To address the concern a revision has been made to paragraph 15 of the CPD to add “...persons with disabilities and other groups at risk of being left behind”, which includes groups not specifically mentioned.</p>

<p>There is no exhaustive definition of “SRH services”: we recommend specifying that this includes family planning, comprehensive sexuality education, sexual health services, care after unsafe abortions, etc.).</p>	<p>UNFPA supports countries to effectively meet the SRH needs of people. In doing so UNFPA acknowledges that a comprehensive approach to SRH is required. This entails providing an essential package of SRH interventions within a life course approach. As mentioned in the document. UNFPA will provide support, for instance, to maternal health, voluntary family planning, HIV/STIs, youth sexual and reproductive health.</p>
<p>Paragraph 24 “(d) promoting midwifery as an autonomous health profession to enhance the quality of SRH services especially in underserved areas.” : this activity is relevant but could be widened to include all SRH professions when reinforcing health services.</p>	<p>The focus under the Country Programme is on midwives given the critical role midwives have in improving sexual and reproductive health services and given the limited resources available under the country programme.</p>
<p>There is no mention of gender-based violence and combating harmful practices (mutilations, forced marriages, sexist and sexual violence).</p>	<p>Gender-based violence and harmful practices including GBSS is an integral and important part of the country programme as spelled out under the Outcome on Gender equality and Women Empowerment covered in paragraphs 31 to 32.</p>
<p>The CPD focuses on the reinforcement of sexual and reproductive health services but with no specific definition of what that implies. Several dimensions are lacking: a human rights based approach, the change of norms and social behaviours, violence, and the link with civil society.</p>	<p>Output 1, under the Sexual and Reproductive Health outcome of the Country Programme, includes a clear focus on rights: “National policies and programmes to enable women and young people, particularly groups left behind, to access high-quality, rights-based, gender responsive, affordable SRH services are strengthened”.</p> <p>Social norm change is clearly referenced under the outcome on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, where it is stated that UNFPA will collaborate with partners to promote positive social norm change among partners, families, communities and service providers to support the realisation of gender equality and women’s rights.</p> <p>Civil society is identified as partners under all the outputs related to Sexual and Reproductive Health, as reflected in the Results and Resources Framework.</p>
<p>Welcome the inclusion of humanitarian activities.</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation.</p>
<p><u>Childhood and Youth</u> We regret the lack of mention of comprehensive sexuality education, especially in B. Adolescents and Youth.</p>	<p>Sexuality education has been included as an activity under the Adolescents and Youth outcome. UNFPA will provide evidence-based advocacy and technical assistance to inform the design and implementation of policies, programmes and innovative information technology-based solutions on life skills-based sexuality education to prevent unplanned pregnancy, STIs/HIV</p>

	and promote gender-equitable attitudes among unmarried and marginalized young people.
Comments by the European Union	UNFPA country/regional office response
<p><u>China as a global development cooperation partner</u></p> <p>We welcome the inclusion of this important dimension and it would be useful that the CPD provides greater clarity on the work and partnerships envisaged in this area. We also question the appropriateness and added value of UNFPA to foster alliances between private sector organisations in China and those of developing countries as part of these efforts.</p> <p>To improve the effectiveness of China’s role in global development, we endorse UNFPA’s proposal to support exchanges on international human rights standards on development through capacity building workshops and policy dialogues (paragraph 26). We would welcome further clarity on how these would be carried out.</p>	<p>The planned work referred to under Output 3 under Sexual and Reproductive Health is aimed at strengthening global and South-South cooperation and partnerships for the achievement of the unfinished agenda of ICPD Programme of Action and the SDGs in China and other developing countries. Mutually beneficial South-South Cooperation, where China and other countries in the South learn from each other, is an important element of achieving the ICPD agenda and is embedded in the ICPD PoA itself in chapters 14 and 16.</p> <p>Substantively, UNFPA’s support to South-South cooperation will be focused on areas of the ICPD agenda where China has been able to make significant progress - for instance in terms of maternal mortality reduction, evidence-based population analysis and projection, and reproductive health commodity security. The South-South cooperation component also includes areas where China will be learning from other countries such as on adolescent reproductive health, prevention of sexual transmission of HIV, and multi-sectoral approaches to prevention and response to gender-based violence.</p> <p>The South-South Cooperation work is in accordance with the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/73/291 on the outcome document from the Second UN High-Level Conference on SSC in 2019. To make this more explicit, a reference directly to the aforementioned GA resolution in paragraph 18 of the CPD has been made.</p> <p>Indeed, the CPD will be implemented within the overall principles of ICPD PoA and SSC towards the fulfilment of the internationally agreed development frameworks such as the ICPD PoA, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.</p> <p>Leveraging UNFPA’s expertise, UNFPA is planning to support policy dialogues and workshops for enhancing capacities of experts and institutions involved in the SSC on international norms, standards, and principles set forth in the international treaties and consensus documents such as the ICPD PoA, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For instance, UNFPA</p>

	<p>will provide technical support for improving understanding of Chinese partners including pharmaceutical industry and reproductive commodity supply authorities on WHO quality standards for reproductive health commodities to expand the global supply base for quality RH commodities.</p> <p>UNFPA will not undertake work to promote partnerships between private sector companies in China and those of developing countries.</p>
<p><u>Vulnerable groups</u></p> <p>The CPD places emphasis on unmarried youth and rural populations in Western China among the most vulnerable groups but it makes no reference to ethnic or religious minority groups which face significant challenges in a number of relevant areas including sexual and reproductive health.</p>	<p>In line with the aim of leaving no one behind, UNFPA’s programme will be driven by available data and as outlined in the CPD Results and Resources Framework, and will, address inequalities in access to high quality, rights - based, and gender- sensitive reproductive health programmes and services (i.e. CPD paragraph 23 and 24 and 31 and 32) with a focus on the most vulnerable population groups. To address the concern a revision has been made to paragraph 15 of the CPD to add “...persons with disabilities and other groups at risk of being left behind”; this would include groups not specifically mentioned and provides yet emphasis on the focus on leaving no one behind.</p> <p>UNFPA’s work in China is and continues to be in full alignment with the ICPD Programme of Action and all activities supported by UNFPA, including those in rural areas in less developed provinces in western China, are in conformity with universally recognized international human rights as stated in the ICPD Programme of Action. For example, with regards to adolescents and youth and rural populations part of the work under the programme, it is aimed at strengthening the policy environment to enable vulnerable women and young people to access integrated and high-quality SRH services, with a focus on rural areas in less developed provinces in western China.</p>
<p><u>Gender-based violence and women empowerment</u></p> <p>The CPD could envision the participation of a wider range of partners, including civil society organisations, legal and health experts, to more effectively support the implementation of the Anti-Domestic Violence Law, gather evidence on the issue of gender-based violence and facilitate best practice sharing in this area.</p>	<p>Civil Society Organizations and legal and health experts will be part of this work under the country programme. Reference is also made to the “Partner Contributions” column of the Results and Resources Framework of the CPD.</p>
<p><u>Allocation of resources</u></p> <p>Gender equality is comparatively the programme outcome area with the lowest allocation out of the four. Given the pervasiveness of this issue</p>	<p>The amount of regular resources planned to be allocated for gender is US\$1.5 million, while for adolescents and youth it is US\$1.3 million. The amount indicated under other resources is higher under the adolescents and youth</p>

<p>and the findings of the referenced independent country programme review (paragraph 9), we would suggest reviewing the current allocation to ensure a more appropriate balance between gender equality and other programme outcomes such as adolescents and youth.</p>	<p>outcome than under the gender outcome, however this amount is not yet secured and will have to be mobilized. It is possible that more than the estimated US\$2.1 million for gender can be mobilized.</p> <p>It is also important to note that work related to gender equality is integrated into the work under other outcomes including for instance as part of life skills-based sexuality education under the adolescents and youth outcome.</p>
<p>Comments by Japan</p>	<p>UNFPA country/regional office response</p>
<p>As stated in the draft CPD of UNFPA and UNDP, China has already become the world's second largest economy and an upper-middle-income country, and is transitioning from a high-growth model to “high-quality” development, and has set a goal of eliminating extreme poverty by the end of 2020. Draft CPD praises China's steady progress in science and technology, mentioning that its global innovation ranking is climbing, one third of global renewable energy investment comes from China, and China is playing an increasingly important role in global development through investments in infrastructure, science and other fields. Against this background, China should take on the duties and responsibilities commensurate with the world's second largest economy.</p>	<p>UNFPA has taken note.</p>
<p>During the program period of 2021-2025, we would like to request a renewed scrutiny of the justification of UN assistance to a country like China, and whether there is no need to allocate more support and funding to developing countries in lower-income categories.</p>	<p>The UNFPA China Country Programme 2021-2025 has been designed to meet the remaining development needs of China. The programme rationale section of the CPD focuses on remaining gaps and vulnerabilities in China in relation to UNFPA’s mandate. UNFPA’s work in China aims to provide technical support and international best practices towards China’s achievement of its national development goals, in line with internationally agreed development frameworks, including the ICPD PoA and the 2030 Agenda 2030.</p> <p>The core resources proposed for approval under the proposed new Country Programme will decline by 49% from U\$15 million under the current Country Programme (2016-2020) to the U\$7.7 million proposed for approval under the new country programme (2021-2025).</p>

	<p>UNFPA’s engagement with MICs is in line with UNFPA’s Strategic Plan, as well as GA Resolution A/RES/74/231 on Development Cooperation with MICs, paragraph 8.</p>
<p>The monitoring plan should clearly indicate the information on the sources of funds and its allocation. In addition to the portion to be financed from international organizations including UNFPA, the information on the portion to be financed from Chinese government as well as funding mobilized from the private sector should also be indicated. The information on the mobilization of the funds should constantly be updated throughout the program period of 2021-2025.</p>	<p>Other sources indicated in the CPD are indicative and are yet to be mobilized from various sources. Hence the sources of funds are not known at this stage. Should further information specifically related to the funding of the implementation of the UNFPA country programme through other resources be needed, this can be provided.</p>
<p>Output 2 and 3 of the draft CPD addresses South-South cooperation, but the detail of the activities proposed under this pillar is lacking. Activities proposed under South-South cooperation should be clearly indicated, in order to ensure the accountability.</p>	<p>The SSC work will be bi-directional, focused on sharing development knowledge and expertise in line with the ICPD PoA. Substantively, UNFPA’s support to South-South cooperation will be focused on areas of the ICPD agenda where China has been able to make significant progress - for instance in terms of maternal mortality reduction, evidence-based population analysis and projection, and reproductive health commodity security. The South-South cooperation component also includes areas where China will be learning from other countries such as on adolescent reproductive health, prevention of sexual transmission of HIV, and multi-sectoral approaches to prevention and response to gender-based violence.</p> <p>The South-South Cooperation work is in accordance with the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/73/291 on the outcome document from the Second UN High-Level Conference on SSC in 2019. To make this more explicit a reference to the aforementioned GA resolution in paragraph 18 of the CPD has been made.</p> <p>The Resources and Results Framework of the country programme indicates the results to be achieved under each output with specific indicators with baselines and targets to indicate whether or not the results have been achieved.</p> <p>Stakeholders will be consulted with regards to the CPD as part of the already initiated consultative process on the implementation of the UNSDCF, which includes the implementation of UNFPA’s country programme.</p>

The UNCT in China, in consultation with the host Government, plans to continue those dialogues with Member States during the UNSDCF implementation and monitoring through expanded UN Results Groups and Thematic groups.

If there is a demand for further information about UNFPA's programme related activities in China, UNFPA stands ready to respond.
