

**COMMENTS ON THE UNFPA DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR BELARUS (2021-2025)**

*Second regular session 2020*

Comments by Belarus	UNFPA country/regional office response
<p>1. The Republic of Belarus is committed to the implementation of Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development at Cairo, 1994. Belarus considers the outcomes of the Nairobi Summit on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ICPD as non-intergovernmentally negotiated and did not express any national commitments and targets set for 2030 with regards to the Summit.</p> <p>Therefore the Delegation of Belarus requests to delete in paragraph 20 “<del>commitments and ... set for 2030 –at the recent Nairobi Summit</del>” and [<del>In order to support the national commitments,</del>]</p> <p><i>The paragraph must be read as follows:</i></p> <p>20. The programme will support Belarus in reaching the national [<del>commitments and</del>] targets [<del>set for 2030 at the recent Nairobi Summit</del>].... [<del>In order to support the national commitments,</del>] The programme will prioritize gender-sensitive approaches and policy dialogue to improve access to family planning and family-friendly policies, make use of innovations and private-sector partnerships to address the needs of the most left behind.</p>	<p>As discussed and agreed with the Government of the Republic of Belarus, the amended para 20 (first part) will read as follows:</p> <p>20. ‘The programme will support Belarus in reaching the national targets prioritized in the course of the national consultations and voiced at Nairobi Summit ... The programme will prioritize gender-sensitive approaches and policy dialogue to improve access to family planning and family-friendly policies, make use of innovations and private-sector partnerships to address the needs of the most left behind.’</p>
<p>2. Since a gender mainstreaming methodology is not introduced during budgeting process in Belarus the Delegation of Belarus</p>	<p>The comment has been duly noted. However, as per the follow-up discussion between the UNFPA Country Office and the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, MFA as well as the</p>

<p>requests to delete “<del>and elements of gender budgeting</del>” in paragraph 20.</p> <p><i>The paragraph must be read as follows:</i></p> <p>20. The programme will support Belarus in reaching the national <del>[commitments and]</del> targets <del>[set for 2030 at the recent Nairobi Summit]</del>: (a) mainstream a gender approach, including gender analysis <del>[and elements of gender budgeting,]</del> in the key national development programmes; (b) develop and put into practice gender-sensitive, family-friendly corporate employment policies enabling both women and men to efficiently combine their professional lives with child-rearing and family duties; (c) implement the national strategy on ageing, ensuring equal rights for women and men over the age of 60 to participate in the socio-economic life; (d) remove the barriers and guarantee free access for women and men with disabilities to gender-sensitive reproductive and sexual health services and related education facilities. <del>[In order to support the national commitments,]</del> The programme will prioritize gender-sensitive approaches and policy dialogue to improve access to family planning and family-friendly policies, make use of innovations and private-sector partnerships to address the needs of the most left behind.</p>	<p>Permanent Mission of Belarus in NY, a reference has been kept as '<b>principles of gender budgeting</b>'. The same language will also be included in the Belarus United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).</p>
<p>3. The Republic of Belarus strongly calls upon UNFPA to follow the terms previously agreed in UNFPA’s country programme document for Belarus (2016-2020) and to change</p>	<p>The comment has been accepted and changes have been made to para 27 of the UNFPA draft CPD for Belarus 2021-2025.</p> <p>Para 27 will read as follows (amendments in bold):</p>

<p>“SRHR” to “sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights” in paragraph 27.</p> <p><i>The paragraph must be read as follows:</i></p> <p>27. The country programme will be taking into account the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic and address its consequences for Belarus, specifically focusing on the most vulnerable. Planned interventions will be adjusted to ensure continuity of <del>[SRHR]</del> <b>sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights</b> and gender-based violence services and address the needs of women and girls, older populations and persons with disabilities. Use of innovative digital technologies, existing and new partnerships with the Government, donors, civil society and private sector will contribute to comprehensive national response to the pandemic.</p>	<p>27. The country programme will be taking into account the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic and address its consequences for Belarus, specifically focusing on the most vulnerable. Planned interventions will be adjusted to ensure continuity of <b>sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights</b> and gender-based violence services and address the needs of women and girls, older populations and persons with disabilities. Use of innovative digital technologies, existing and new partnerships with the Government, donors, civil society and private sector will contribute to comprehensive national response to the pandemic.</p>
<p>4. The Republic of Belarus insists on following the titles previously agreed in UNFPA’s Country programme document for Belarus (2016-2020):</p> <p>1. Use in part A (page 5) the title “sexual and reproductive health” and delete “<del>and rights</del>”.</p> <p><i>The title must be read as follows:</i></p> <p>A. “Sexual and reproductive health <del>[and rights]</del></p> <p>2. Use the title “sexual and reproductive health” and delete “<del>and rights</del>” at the section which determines</p>	<p>The comments have been accepted and changes have been made to the title of Section A as well as to the results and resources framework.</p> <p>The title of section A will read as follows: Sexual and reproductive health</p> <p>The reference in the results and resources framework has been amended as follows:  ‘RELATED UNFPA STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME: <b>Sexual and reproductive health</b>’.</p>

<p>results and resources framework for Belarus (2021 – 2025) (page 9).</p> <p><i>The title must be read as follows:</i></p> <p>RELATED UNFPA STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME: Sexual and reproductive health [<del>and rights</del>]</p>	
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Comments by SWEDEN	UNFPA country/regional office response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The document states that: “Together with the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, UNFPA will chair the United Nations Thematic Group on Gender and coordinate joint United Nations efforts for gender equality in the country” (page 3).</li> <li>- Our question is whether this is a change from the current program and coordination amongst the UN agencies present in Belarus. As we have perceived UNFPA to have coordinated the thematic gender group by itself with no other UN agencies involvement.</li> </ul>	<p>There is no change from the current architecture. UNFPA remains the chair of the UN Gender Theme Group in Belarus. However, with the reinvigorated UN RC System, the UNTG benefits from the support of the RCO. This helps ensure the highest level advocacy dialogue. In addition the RC helps to bring in the technical support of UN-Women which is a non-resident agency.</p> <p>UNFPA coordinates the UN Gender Thematic Group work ensuring the voices of all UN agencies are part of the coordinated work on gender.</p>

Comments by Russia	UNFPA country/regional office response
<p>1. Para 20:delete: “commitments”, “ set for 2030 at the Nairobi Summit”, “in order to support the national commitments”</p>	<p>As discussed and agreed with the Government of the Republic of Belarus, the amended para 20 (first part) will read as follows:</p> <p>20. ‘The programme will support Belarus in reaching <b>the national targets prioritized in the course of the national consultations and voiced at Nairobi Summit</b> ... The programme will prioritize gender-sensitive approaches and policy dialogue to improve access to family planning and family-friendly policies, make use of innovations and private-sector partnerships to address the needs of the most left behind.’</p>

<p>2. Para 27: change “sexual and reproductive health and rights” to “sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights”.</p>	<p>The comment has been accepted and changes have been made to para 27 of the UNFPA draft CPD for Belarus 2021-2025.</p> <p>Para 27 will read as follows (amendments in bold):</p> <p>27. The country programme will be taking into account the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic and address its consequences for Belarus, specifically focusing on the most vulnerable. Planned interventions will be adjusted to ensure continuity of <b>sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights</b> and gender-based violence services and address the needs of women and girls, older populations and persons with disabilities. Use of innovative digital technologies, existing and new partnerships with the Government, donors, civil society and private sector will contribute to a comprehensive national response to the pandemic.</p>
<p>3. Change title “A” on page 5 to “Sexual and reproductive health”.</p>	<p>The comment has been accepted and changes have been made to the title of Section A.</p> <p>The title of section A will read as follows: Sexual and reproductive health</p>
<p>4. Change title for “Result and resources framework for Belarus to “Sexual and reproductive health”.</p>	<p>The comment has been accepted and changes have been made to the title in the results and resources framework.</p> <p>The reference in the results and resources framework has been amended as follows:</p> <p>‘RELATED UNFPA STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME: Sexual and reproductive health’.</p>