



FRAMEWORK ARRANGEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF BELGIUM
AND
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

September 12, 2016

Framework Arrangement

This Framework Arrangement (hereinafter referred to as “the Arrangement”) is concluded between the Government of Belgium, (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”), represented by the Minister for Development Cooperation and the United Nations Environment Programme (hereinafter referred to as "UNEP"), hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Participants", on the collaboration in the implementation of UNEP’s Medium Term Strategies and Programmes of Work.

Introduction

The Government is committed to the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. The Government will focus on two main policy areas: sustainable, inclusive economic growth and the rights-based approach to development. Furthermore, the Government is committed to spend at least 50% of its Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the least developed countries (LDC’s). The current partner countries of the Belgian Development Cooperation (Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, DRC, Guinea, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda) include 12 LDCs.

The mission of UNEP is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

Poverty eradication and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (ASD2030) and its Sustainable Development Goals is impossible without promoting sustainable management of natural resources and addressing environmental degradation, while sustainable development cannot be achieved without poverty eradication.

The protection of the environment and natural resources is legally one of the two transversal themes by which the Belgian Development Cooperation is bound. The Government and UNEP wish to strengthen their relationship through a coherent framework for policy dialogue and programmatic collaboration.

The Government acknowledges the importance of UNEP's role and mandate as further elaborated in the Medium Term Strategies and the biennial Programmes of Work and the need for a strengthened, stable and predictable UNEP’s financial base.

The Government has been providing significant support to UNEP from its establishment and desires to further strengthen its co-operation with UNEP by making predictable and stable contributions to UNEP to better enable the implementation of its Programme of Work.

The Participants have agreed as follows:

PARAGRAPH I: Contributions to regular resources

1. The purpose of this Framework Arrangement is to set out the general terms concerning the scope, transfer and administration of the Government's contributions to UNEP and the overall collaboration between the Participants.
2. The Government aims to provide stable and predictable contributions to UNEP's core funding mechanism, the Environment Fund, and will take into account the Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions (VISC) in this regard. The Government intends to commit itself to a multi-annual funding framework. The first multi-annual funding framework would start in 2017 and end in 2020. Within its financial means and within this framework, the Government will contribute yearly to UNEP's Environment Fund and strive towards maintaining at a minimum the same level of regular contributions from the previous multi-annual framework.
3. The Participants will work in close collaboration and consultation on the priority programme areas identified in the overall framework of UNEP's Medium Term Strategies.

PARAGRAPH II: Contributions to other resources

1. In addition to the contributions to regular resources, the Government may provide specific, supplementary contributions to UNEP's Programmes, projects and trust funds at global, regional or country levels ("specific contributions").
2. Contribution agreements for single contributions to support programs or projects will be annexed to this Arrangement whenever concluded.
3. The Government will consider including UNEP in its Junior Professionals Programme.

PARAGRAPH III: Consultation and exchange of information

1. The Participants undertake to meet every two years to review the implementation of this Arrangement, alternatively in Brussels and Nairobi. During this meeting UNEP will inform the Government about its overall policy and present an overview of the implementation of this Arrangement over the past year. Priority programme areas will be discussed and reviewed in accordance with previous results and developments. In addition to these bi-annual meetings, the Participants' representatives will consult regularly on matters covered by this Arrangement.
2. Whenever required, substantive consultations will be organized in the context of specific contributions.
3. The Participants intend to enhance information and knowledge sharing, in conformity with their existing rules, policies and procedures, with a focus on local information

regarding the current partner countries of the Belgian Development Cooperation. A focal point per partner country, will be designated in UNEP's regional offices. These focal points will regularly exchange information with Belgian diplomatic representatives in the field on programs and projects of both parties in those partner countries, in light of their mutual further advancement.

4. The participants recognize the importance of transparency and communication relevant to their partnership. In this regard, an outreach event may be organized in the context of bilateral consultations. The format and financing modalities around such an event would be discussed by the participants at least three months before the bilateral consultation.

PARAGRAPH IV: Administration of the funds

1. All Belgian payments which cannot be channelled through the Environment Fund will be made in the form of contributions to the UNEP Trust Fund for Belgium.
2. The UNEP Trust Fund for Belgium will be managed in accordance with the UN Financial Regulations and Rules.
3. UNEP will maintain standards of conduct in line with UN regulations and, including UN Code of Ethics, relating to good governance and administration of funds, and prohibition of corrupt practices and unethical behaviour and practices in connection with the management of funds, award and administration of contracts, grants and other benefits.
4. Any interest accrued from the contributions will be used to supplement funds available to the activities funded under this Arrangement, except where agreed otherwise in separate contribution agreements.
5. Remaining funds and interest or profits from investments of unspent funds –when these amounts exceed 5000 EUR- will be transferred at the end of the program to the UNEP Trust Fund for Belgium.
6. UNEP will return the balance or will use the balance for a purpose mutually agreed between the Participants.

PARAGRAPH V: Reporting and Evaluation

1. UNEP will annually provide the Government with copies of its statutory progress reports and financial reports prepared for its Governing Bodies, and with separate reports upon request, in accordance with UNEP's standard reporting procedures and at a mutually agreed date. To the extent possible, UNEP will report on its activities for the benefit of LDC's.

2. UNEP will carry out evaluations in accordance with the UN standard and norms for evaluation and may also choose to undertake thematic evaluations. The Government may during the annual consultations suggest areas for in-depth evaluations that are in line with its priorities.
3. The Government will evaluate its cooperation with UNEP under this Arrangement. UNEP will, upon request, assist in providing relevant information within the limits of its existing business processes, rules and regulations.
4. UNEP will inform and welcome the Government's representatives, as observers, to participate in programme review, evaluation and field visits for purposes related to the use of the multi-year contribution to regular resources or contributions to other resources.

PARAGRAPH VI: Miscellaneous

1. This Arrangement will come into effect on the date of its signature by the Participants and will remain effective until terminated by the Participants
2. This Arrangement may be terminated by either of the Participants upon six months prior notice to that effect to the other party. Termination will take effect from the date of reception of the notice. The activities to be carried out by the Participants under this Arrangement in relation to ongoing activities financed by the Government will not be affected by such termination; unless otherwise mutually agreed. Contribution agreements will be valid until date of expiry, unless otherwise specified in the terms of the contribution agreement.
3. This Arrangement may be amended as mutually agreed in writing by the Participants.
4. If any dispute arises relating to the implementation or interpretation of this Arrangement, the Participants will consult with each other with a view to reaching a mutually agreeable solution.
5. Unless specified otherwise in the Paragraphs above or in separate contribution agreements, all written communication related to this Arrangement will be directed to:

Director D2
Thematic Direction-
Directorate General for Development
Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid-
Federal Public Service for Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Trade and Development
Cooperation
Karmelietenstraat 15, 1000 Brussels
Belgium

Deputy Executive Director
United Nations Environment Programme
P.O. Box 30552 -00100
Nairobi
Kenya
Fax: +254-20-762 30 70

6. This framework Arrangement does not constitute a Treaty.

In witness thereof, the Participants have signed this Arrangement, in the English language, in two originals, both copies equally authentic.

For the Government of Belgium

For the United Nations Environment Programme



ALEXANDER DE CROO

Minister for Development Cooperation

Date: 12-09-2016



ERIK SOLHEIM

Executive Director

Date: 12 09 16