

## **Management response to the Independent Evaluation of the Netherlands-UNCTAD partnership**

### ***Overall response to the evaluation***

The UNCTAD Secretariat extends its sincere appreciation for the comprehensive evaluation of the first Netherlands-UNCTAD Partnership (Phase I). The Secretariat commends the evaluation team for their thorough and highly valuable evaluation report. Furthermore, the Secretariat acknowledges the professional approach, dedication, and transparency demonstrated by the evaluator in addressing the complex and encompassing issues with far-reaching implications for development that were covered by the project.

The independent evaluation concluded that the partnership was highly relevant and was doing the right thing, as activities carried out were consistent with the scope and objectives of the Partnership and additional and complementary to activities delivered in the framework of the regular programme of work of the Division. The partnership was closely aligned with the overall objectives of DIAE, of UNCTAD in general, as well as with the broad ambitions of the Government of the Netherlands in support of development. The programme was found to be effectively contributing to the SDGs. The evaluators stressed that the partnership showed impressive results, with stakeholders pointing to the "excellent quality of DIAE research and its technical assistance". Available resources had been used effectively, thanks to the high degree of flexibility granted by the unearmarked multi-year funding, which allowed DIAE to respond to the demand of beneficiary countries and enabled the roll-over of funds to subsequent years, as required. The sustainability of the partnership results is likely to be high, while the degree to which gender mainstreaming and human rights had been addressed in the partnership-funded activities was diverse. The evaluators formulated seven recommendations, stressing the need for continuation of the activities of the partnership and the replication of those that were the most successful to an increasing number of beneficiaries.

Overall, the Subprogramme accepts most of the recommendations provided within the framework of the evaluation. These recommendations are constructive, as they confirm actions and initiatives already undertaken by the programme in the framework of a second Netherlands UNCTAD partnership funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands over four years (2023-2026).

### ***Response by recommendation***

In this section, Project Management should address each recommendation that is addressed to UNCTAD, discussing them in the order presented in the evaluation report. This should be done in the format of the Management Response matrix below (see Box 1) and include:

- a. The recommendation number and text copied from the evaluation report;
- b. Indication of whether the recommendation is accepted fully, partially, or rejected;

- c. Description of the actions to be taken, with comments as required on the conditions to be met during implementation, or on reasons leading to a partial acceptance or rejection of a recommendation;
- d. The responsible party for implementing the action/s;
- e. The time-frame for implementation and/or an implementation schedule, if required;
- f. Indication if and what resources are required for implementing the recommendation.

**Box 1. Management response matrix<sup>1</sup>**

Management response to the Independent Evaluation of the Netherlands-UNCTAD partnership					Date
Evaluation Recommendation (a)	Management response (b) Accepted, partially accepted or rejected	Management plan			
		Actions to be taken, and/or comments about partial acceptance or rejection (c)	Responsible unit (d)	Timeframe (e)	Resources required (Y or N) (f)
<p>Recommendation 1:</p> <p>1. The donor is encouraged to continue the multi-year, unearmarked funding to allow DIAE to meet evolving member States' demands.</p>	Accepted	The implementation of a second Netherland UNCTAD partnership is ongoing	-	2023-2026	Y
<p>Recommendation 2:</p> <p>DIAE should develop specific targets in its monitoring framework for the performance indicators of the second partnership with the Kingdom of the Netherlands. This would allow a more focused results-based management of the partnership and facilitate its evaluation. Indicators to be</p>	Accepted	In the framework of the second Netherland UNCTAD partnership	DIAE	Implemented	N

<sup>1</sup> Each column is cross-referenced to the bullet letters above.

selected should be within the reach of the DIAE and its timeframe for the output level.					
<p>Recommendation 3:</p> <p>DIAE should keep systematically invite embassies of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to its country-level activities funded under the partnership. For regional and global events, Ministry of Foreign Affairs members should be keep invited as speakers and panellists. This approach would further increase synergies with the Kingdom of the Netherlands, building on good practices during the first partnership. This good practice with the Kingdom of the Netherlands should be replicated with other DIAE donors.</p>	Accepted	In the framework of the second Netherland UNCTAD partnership	DIAE	Ongoing	N
<p>Recommendation 4:</p> <p>Under the second partnership with the Kingdom of the Netherlands, DIAE should replicate the benefits achieved through the use of digital tools such as eRegistration (to advance the non-code platform piloted in Bhutan in additional countries), the eAccounting tool (in Uganda and Nigeria) and other</p>	Accepted	In the framework of the second Netherland UNCTAD partnership	DIAE	Ongoing	Y

tools for tax authorities (in El Salvador in additional countries).					
<p>Recommendation 5:</p> <p>DIAE should systematically document the funds leveraged through partnership-funded activities. This data should be prominently included in the Annual Reports to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.</p>	Partially Accepted	In the framework of the second Netherland UNCTAD partnership	DIAE	Ongoing	N
<p>Recommendation 6:</p> <p>Given the positive effect of the partnership funding on UNCTAD regular programme and capacity building activities, DIAE should keep actively engaging with other UNCTAD divisions and external stakeholders, such as the United Nations regional commissions, academia and civil society, to promulgate partnership-funded research, for example on gender.</p>	Accepted	In the framework of the second Netherland UNCTAD partnership	DIAE	Ongoing	N
<p>Recommendation 7:</p> <p>DIAE should include specific indicators on gender and economic rights in its monitoring framework of the second partnership agreement with the Kingdom of the</p>	Partially accepted	In the framework of the second Netherland UNCTAD partnership	DIAE	Ongoing	Y

Netherlands to further guide its activities and strengthen reporting on both topics.					
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