



Inspirational Guide to Danida Public Consultation Responses

Intro to this Guide

This is a short, practical guide providing inspiration on how to write a qualified response to a Danida concept note through the Public Consultations.¹ The guide builds on FORDI's "Introduction to Danida's Public Consultations" note, and focusses on general themes and approaches.

Based on a reading of selected responses to Danida Public Consultations (covering the period from June 2013² to November 2014), as well as consultation with a former civil servant of Danida, this Inspirational Guide outlines good practices used by FORDI's members.

Generally – style

- Keep it short: there is a limitation of 8,000 characters, which is approximately three pages.
- Be concrete and preferably include specific suggestions for improvements.
- Start by expressing gratitude for the possibility to comment on the paper and by explaining why your organisation is well equipped to present the perspectives that you focus on in your comment.
- Conclude by offering to elaborate on the issues raised and potentially to help with facilitating contact to local partners or networks, or offer expert help.

Generally – content

- Fact based and focused. Take point of departure in your organisation's unique experiences, knowledge, and analyses.
- Point out instances of superficiality or ambiguity as well as lacking or contradicting definitions.
- Point out any shortcomings in the analysis of human rights violations, uncertainty of Denmark's response to such violations, or ambiguity of Danish priorities.
- Check if key social indicators are included in the analysis, and if disaggregated data is available showing demographics and population dynamics.

Specific guiding questions

Below are listed a number of questions which are meant as an inspiration for the analysis of Danida's concept notes and the writing of a response from a HRBA perspective. Keep in mind the HRBA principles such as PANT (Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination, and Transparency) throughout the analysis in order to identify potential areas of inconsistency or shortcomings in the concept note.

There is, however, no set format and other areas than the four PANT and four other topics suggested below can be relevant for your response. Furthermore, you are encouraged to include analysis or responses to more thematic issues of specific concern to your organisation.

¹ <http://um.dk/en/danida-en/about-danida/danida-transparency/public-consultations/>

² Focus has been on concept notes for country policy papers and programmes, a total of 25 responses, but not included concept notes about engagement in international organisations (for example the "Concept note for an organisation strategy for the GGGI").

Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination, and Transparency

1) Participation of citizens and inclusion of civil society

To what extent are barriers for citizens' and civil society participation included (e.g. political participation, access to information, media, enabling environment for civil society etc.)?

- Does the concept note take into account poor and marginalised women and men's possibility of active, free, and meaningful participation in decision-making structures?

2) Accountability

To what extent are accountability frameworks and the situation of rights-holders analysed (especially those of marginalised groups)? Moreover, is both horizontal and vertical accountability included in the analysis?

- Does the concept note take into account duty bearers' obligations to respect, protect, and fulfil human rights?
- Are adequate information to rights holders ensured?

3) Non-discrimination and equality

To what extent is addressing discrimination and inequalities reflected in choice of sectors, geographical focus, intervention areas, and target groups?

- Does the concept note focus on combatting poverty among the poorest, most vulnerable, and marginalised groups?
- Are discriminatory rules, norms, and practices being challenged – also from a gender perspective?
- How elaborate is the analysis and strategy for building capacity and response of duty-bearers?

4) Transparency

To what extent is information about the interventions and the motivations behind available to the rights-holders?

- Is such information available in relevant languages and is it easily accessible for or well distributed amongst the local population, including marginalised women and men?

Other relevant topics

5) Legislation and policies

Is there a comprehensive analysis of the human rights situation in the country and of the country's compliance with its national and international human rights obligations?

- To what extent are relevant Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and treaty body recommendations included in the analysis?
- Are relevant conventions included in the analysis?
 - o Various conventions, including signing of optional protocols, and comments from reports and concluding observations: ICERD, ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW, CAT, CRC, ICMW, CPED, CRPD.

- Are sector-relevant findings from other international or regional human rights mechanisms included in the analysis?
 - o Regional human rights institutions or commissions (e.g. African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights).
 - o UN Special Rapporteurs on specific issues (e.g. UNSR on Indigenous Peoples, IDPs etc.).
 - o The constitution and national human rights institutions or commissions – if they are compliant with human rights standards. If not, gaps should be addressed.
 - o Reports and documents from OHCHR, EU HR Strategy, or relevant analysis from major donors.
- To what extent are human rights violations being addressed nationally or regionally through relevant policies and allocation of resources?

6) Consistency in Denmark's positions, priorities, or approaches

Does the concept note display consistency with Denmark's position, priorities, statements, or approaches towards the country/programme/issue presented on other occasions?

- Denmark's UPR priorities and recommendations to the country in question (in the UPR Denmark especially focusses on three areas: anti torture, women's rights and participation, and indigenous peoples and their right to land and resources).
- Official Danish strategies such as the "Right to a Better Life" or "Strategic Framework for Gender Equality, Rights and Diversity".
- Other policy areas such as trade, climate, or foreign policy.

7) Window of opportunity

Does the paper adequately take into consideration undergoing or upcoming events that could have an impact on the situation or proposed interventions?

- Links to ongoing or upcoming local, regional, or international processes of relevance for the situation.
- Any potential synergies or linkages that the MFA is not sufficiently aware of in the paper.

8) Allocation of funds

Is the allocation of Danish funds consistent with the priorities or problem areas identified in the paper?

- Is the paper presenting a plan of how Denmark will economically prioritise the area? Is sufficient funds allocated to specific programmes/engagements?
- If not, has there been any indication in other statements?
- Draw on the experiences of your organisation and those of local partners in terms of Denmark's typical willingness or reluctance to fund related activities.
- Compare the allocation of Danish funds with budgets in earlier country policies or programmes.