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18 December 2012

Dear ERSG,

Proposed Non-Cost Extension – PBF/Non State Actors Programme on non-violent elections

As you know, the UN in Sierra Leone received US\$ 5 million dollars from the PBF through DEPAC in 2011 for its Non State Actor (NSA) Programme. UNDP is the Recipient Agency and UNIPSIL leads the implementation of several projects that have contributed to a peaceful atmosphere in the period prior to, during, and after the elections.

While the majority of Implementing Partners have completed agreed activities, planned post-electoral sensitization and dialogue activities have yet to be concluded. UNDP agrees with the assessment of the UNIPSIL Political Affairs Section on the importance of continued dialogue led by key national stakeholders to support reconciliation and cohesion in the post-electoral period and the suggested no-cost extension of the NSA Programme to September 2013. The extension includes an estimated US\$ 525,000 from the initial US\$ 5 million envelope. This consists of unprogrammed funds (representing 8% of the overall designated funds for the NSA Programme) and funds yet to be disbursed. This amount may vary according to the funds returned at the end of Q4 by project implementing partners. It is worth mentioning that the NSA is conceived as part of the multi- year EBF programme. As such the NSA could benefit from the proposed extension.

While UNDP as the Recipient Agency for the NSA project is supportive of the request for extension, we would like to note the following lessons learned that need to be taken into account moving forward. It is recognized that the NSA activities were dependent on the electoral cycle and flexibility was needed to allow for responses to unforeseen events. However, it is important that UNIPSIL ensures timely submission and clearance of narrative and financial reports from implementing partners and minimizes amendments made to contracts signed with concerned partners.

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Good coordination and a team effort between UNDP and UNIPSIL is important in the immediate post-electoral period.

In light of the above the request to DEPAC can now be initiated.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

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Country Director

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