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**THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**ANNEX IV**

to Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan for the Human Rights and Democracy thematic programme for 2025 to 2027

**Action Document for Promoting a global system for human rights**

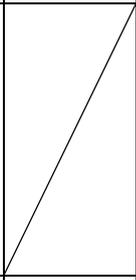
**MULTIANNUAL PLAN**

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

**1 SYNOPSIS**

**1.1 Action Summary Table**

<b>1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act</b>	Promoting a global system for human rights and democracy  OPSYS number: ACT-62894/ JAD.1605469  Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)/ Overseas Association Decision/European Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation Regulation
<b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>	No
<b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>	Worldwide
<b>4. Programming document</b>	NDICI – Global Europe multiannual indicative programme for the Human Rights and Democracy thematic programme for the period 2021-2027
<b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results</b>	The action will contribute to priority 3 of the MIP: Promoting a global system for human rights and democracy
<b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	150 - Government & Civil Society
<b>7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	Main SDG: - SDG 16: promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development; provide access to justice for all; and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.  Other significant SDGs: - SDG 5: achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; - SDG 10: reduce inequality within and among countries.
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	15160 – Human rights 15130 – Sector – Legal and Judicial Development 11420 – Higher Education

<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel</b>	41313 - Multilateral Organisations 20000 – Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society 50000 Other – National Human Rights Institutions and their formal global and regional networks 51000 - University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank			
<b>9. Targets</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
<b>10. Markers (from DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective @</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women’s and girl’s empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>11. Internal markers and Tags:</b>	<b>Policy objectives</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Digitalisation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	digital connectivity energy transport health education and research	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BUDGET INFORMATION</b>				
<b>12. Amounts concerned</b>	Budget line 14.02 02 11 Total estimated cost: EUR 24 500 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 24 500 000 The contribution is for an amount of EUR 20 500 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2025, for an amount of EUR 1 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2026 and for an amount of EUR 3 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2027, subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.			
<b>MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>				
<b>13. Type of financing<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Direct management</b> through: - Grants <b>Indirect management</b> with the entities to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.2			

## 1.2 Summary of the Action

This action exemplifies the EU's commitment to human rights, multilateralism and the international criminal justice system in the current fraught international environment marked by armed conflict, authoritarianism, disinformation and a pushback against gender equality<sup>2</sup>.

As noted in the communication on *strengthening the EU's contribution to rules-based multilateralism*<sup>3</sup>, multilateralism has been and will remain the cardinal principle of the EU as the most effective means to govern global relations in a mutually beneficial way. For this, multilateralism must be effective and deliver results.

When referring to the Strategic priorities 2024-2029, the *Conclusions of the European Council of 27 June 2024* emphasise this by stating that: "The European Union shall continue to be the strongest supporter of the international legal order, steadfastly upholding the United Nations and the principles enshrined in the UN Charter. In particular, the European Union will pursue efforts to promote global peace, justice and stability, as well as

<sup>1</sup> Article 27 of the NDICI Regulation.

<sup>2</sup> [United Nations Human Rights Fora: Council approves EU priorities - Consilium \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on strengthening the EU's contribution to rules-based multilateralism, JOIN \(2021\)3 final, 17.02.2021.](#)

democracy, universal human rights and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all international fora. We will strive for a reformed multilateral system, making it more inclusive and more effective”.<sup>4</sup>

The multilateral rules-based order has as its core the respect of international law, including international human rights law. The human rights system comprises legally-binding human rights instruments at global and regional level, and mechanisms to help implement those instruments, including at country-level through national human rights institutions. The International Criminal Court plays a particularly important role as the only permanent court able to prosecute the most serious crimes of international concern.

These mechanisms have been increasingly activated, which demonstrates their relevance. Yet they lack the resources to deliver timely, while governments may be reluctant to abide by their rulings. These mechanisms are currently facing deliberate actions to undermine their work. The EU therefore needs to sustain its long-lasting support to these mechanisms.

In addition, the EU will continue to support national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and regional/international networks of NHRIs - which play a crucial role to monitor and denounce human rights violations and abuses wherever they occur and to contribute to human rights awareness and education. Among others, they support peer learning, capacity building to prepare NHRIs to play their independent role and acquire A Status in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Furthermore, the EU will continue equipping young professionals with the knowledge and skills the future generation needs to uphold the international human rights system.

The third priority of the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-24<sup>5</sup> (extended until 2027<sup>6</sup>, aligning it with the Multi-annual Financial Framework 2021-2027) is ***promoting a global system for human rights and democracy***. The **overall objective of the action** is therefore the worldwide promotion and protection of human rights law as the foundation of cooperative relations between countries and peoples. This will be achieved through supporting the capacities of international, regional, national as well as academic institutions. The Action will contribute in particular to SDG 16.

### 1.3 Zone benefitting from the Action

The action shall be carried out primarily in countries included in the list of aid recipients published by the OECD Development Assistance Committee. Some activities may be carried out in other countries facing human rights violations, in line with the overall objective of the thematic programme to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law ***worldwide***.

## 2 RATIONALE

### 2.1 Context

Basic principles of international law, human rights, democracy and the rule of law are being challenged. As are the multilateral institutions upholding those values. The EU strongly believes growing global challenges call for more multilateral governance and rules-based international cooperation – at the national, regional and global levels. The EU will continue working on strengthening respect for, and the protection and fulfilment of, human rights and will continue to cooperate with all regions of the world, organisations and support existing mandates and efforts for a more effective and inclusive multilateralism that leaves no one behind.

<sup>4</sup> [euco-conclusions-27062024-en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> [EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-24, JOIN \(2020\) 5 final.](#)

<sup>6</sup> <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9508-2024-INIT/en/pdf>.

The **Multi-Annual Indicative Programme** for the NDICI-Global Europe Thematic programme on human rights and democracy 2021-27<sup>7</sup>, mirroring the EU action plan's priorities, supports a number of strategic partnerships with key international, regional, national actors as well as academic institutions.

In its annex III, the NDICI – Global Europe Regulation identifies the Human Rights and Democracy thematic programme as a vehicle “promoting effective multilateralism and strategic partnership, contributing to reinforcing capacities of international, regional and national frameworks in promoting and protecting human rights, democracy and the rule of law.” The same annex III advises that “Strategic Partnerships shall be boosted, with a particular attention to “relevant regional and national human rights mechanisms.”

The EU remains committed to promote global peace and security and defend the fundamental rights, universal values and international law that form the bedrock of cooperative relations between countries and peoples. It is a natural ally of the UN and regional organisations (e.g. Council of Europe, Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe) in supporting democracy and promoting and protecting human rights, fundamental freedoms<sup>8</sup> and the respect for human dignity including gender equality<sup>9</sup>, the rights of the child<sup>10</sup>, and LGBTIQ rights<sup>11</sup>.

Education in human rights and democracy is a key instrument to: raise awareness worldwide about human rights and democratic values; strengthen networks of human rights defenders; encourage international dialogue; and inform national human rights and democratisation agendas. It is also key to raising awareness about the importance of promoting gender equality, empowering young people, especially if they come from low-income countries or communities, and fighting discrimination patterns. Recognising the importance of education and training in human rights and democracy, the EU has, since 1997, supported the establishment of 8 regional Master's programmes in human rights and democratisation across the world. The **Global Campus of Human Rights** is now a unique global network of universities promoting education in human rights and democracy which has conferred a Master's degree on more than 6000 students worldwide, and has been providing training to thousands of human rights professionals. Going forward, the expansion of post-graduate education in human rights and democratisation will enable new generations of young professionals to further promote and contribute to the human rights system.

## 2.2 Problem Analysis

Multilateralism has served as a foundation for international cooperation over the past several decades. Lately, however, multilateralism has been questioned by an increasing number of States, leading to a crisis of multilateralism. The crisis seems to be rooted in the geopolitical reshape currently taking place on the global scene, the rise of nationalism, a growing disappointment with liberal ideas, and other structural problems of the existing international institutions and arrangements. But the Covid-19 pandemic was instrumental to highlight than in today's deeply interconnected world, unilateral actions alone are insufficient to address global challenges and we need international rules and institutions more than ever.

This is compounded with a number of intersecting crises, such as the emergence of new actors in the global scene, and the rise of populist nationalism which have brought a shift of geopolitical and economic powers. The coronavirus pandemic in 2020 exacerbated these trends while at the same time demonstrated the need for multilateral cooperation for the effective mitigation of cross-border threats.

As a response to these challenges, the EU emphasises the need to work towards a truly inclusive multilateralism, where the voices of civil society, the private sector, social partners and other key stakeholders count. This is a crucial part of ensuring the relevance of the multilateral system and preserving its legitimacy.

<sup>7</sup> [mip-2021-c2021-9620-human-rights-democracy-annex\\_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>8</sup> [JOIN \(2020\) 5, 25.03.2020, EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy for 2020-2024.](#)

<sup>9</sup> JOIN (2020)17 final, 25.11.2020, EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) III; see also Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025.

<sup>10</sup> COM (2020) 607 final, 24.7.2020, EU strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse; see also the upcoming EU strategy on the rights of the child (2021-24).

<sup>11</sup> [Communication on the Union of Equality: LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025](#), COM (2020) 698 final, 12.11.2020..

Specifically, the EU has committed<sup>12</sup> to defend and promote these principles, and push back against attempts to undermine them by:

- Strengthening cooperation with like-minded partners to defend universal principles and rules;
- Supporting the international judicial, arbitration, and enforcement bodies that underpin the rules-based international order as regards both their jurisdiction and their effectiveness;
- Diversifying partnerships and working with global, regional, subregional organisations to make better and more coherent strategic use of its cooperation.
- Exploring multi-stakeholder and ‘non traditional’ coalitions/partnerships between governments, the private sector, civil society, academia and the scientific community.
- Assisting partner countries to engage more effectively in the multilateral system, including through capacity building, knowledge-sharing, training or twinning.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:

#### **Global institutions:**

The **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)** has a unique mandate to promote and protect all human rights. It works to ensure the enforcement of universally recognised human rights norms, including through promoting both the universal ratification and implementation of the major human rights treaties and conventions and respect for the rule of law. It also supports the work of the UN human rights mechanisms and strengthens human rights across the UN system.

The **International Criminal Court (ICC)** investigates and, where warranted, tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. As a court of last resort, it seeks to complement, not replace, national Courts. The ICC is particularly exposed since recent developments on cases related to situations in Ukraine and Palestine. Increasing ratifications of the Rome Statute and State collaboration/support are crucial to pursue arrests and protect the ICC from attacks (cyberattacks, sanctions etc.).

#### **Regional human rights mechanisms:**

The **Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)** observes human rights conditions via on-site visits, and processes specific complaints of human rights violations. The IACHR also engages in a range of human rights monitoring and promotion activities, holds thematic hearings on specific topical areas of concern, publishes studies and reports, requests the adoption of precautionary measures to protect individuals at risk, and has established several thematic rapporteurs to more closely monitor certain human rights themes or the rights of specific communities. The Commission receives approximately 1,500 petitions every year.

The **Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR)** is the judicial organ of the Inter- American human rights system with binding authority for States that have accepted its jurisdiction. Its mandate is to decide on cases brought by States parties and the IACHR. The Court has adjudicated a significant range of rights protected by the American Convention and ancillary agreements, from extrajudicial execution and forced disappearance cases, to labor, land, and freedom of expression rights.

The **ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)** is the institution with overall responsibility for the promotion and protection of human rights in ASEAN. The AICHR is mandated to promote the full implementation of ASEAN instruments related to human rights, develop strategies for cooperation to promote and protect human rights, provide policy support to ASEAN Member States<sup>13</sup>/ASEAN Sectoral Bodies,

<sup>12</sup> [Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on strengthening the EU’s contribution to rules-based multilateralism, JOIN \(2021\)3 final, 17.02.2021.](#)

<sup>13</sup> Brunei Darussalam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

engage with stakeholders and partners, and foster capacity building and public awareness. The AICHR has an endowment fund, which consists of voluntary contributions from ASEAN Member States and possible external funding and resources.

The **Council of Europe European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission)** provides legal advice to its members. Upon request, it helps states wishing to bring their legal and institutional structures in line with international standards in the fields of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. It also ensures the dissemination and consolidation of a common constitutional heritage, playing a unique role in conflict management, and provides “emergency constitutional aid” to states in transition. The Venice Commission has 68 participating states or territories<sup>14</sup> and 9 other countries are benefiting from cooperation programmes. The Venice Commission is becoming an important player for strengthening human rights and rule of law systems regionally, including in Latin America and Asia.

#### **National institutions:**

**The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)/ GANHRI**, and the four regional networks for i) Asia-Pacific (Asia-Pacific Forum/ APF)-, Europe (European Network of NHRIs/ENNHRI), Africa (Network of African NHRIs/ NANHRI) and Latin America (Red Instituciones Nacionales de Derechos Humanos del Continente Americano/ RINDHCA) — play an indispensable role in coordination and cooperation among NHRIs at regional and international levels. NHRIs are crucial actors in the broader human rights architecture and in enabling rights-based development processes. They have an important bridge building role between governments, civil society and private sector on the one hand, and between national, regional and international human rights mechanisms on the other.

#### **Academic institutions:**

**The Global Campus of Human rights (Global campus)** is a network of over 100 universities around the world, seeking to advance human rights and democracy through regional and global cooperation in education and research. This global network is promoted through eight regional programmes based in Venice (for Europe), Sarajevo/ Bologna (for South East Europe), Yerevan (for the Caucasus), Pretoria (for Africa), Bangkok (for Asia-Pacific), Buenos Aires (for Latin America and the Caribbean), Beirut (for the Arab region) and Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan). These regional programmes offer specialised postgraduate education and training in human rights and democracy from a regional perspective, interdisciplinary content and a multiplicity of research, publications, public events and outreach activities.

**Other stakeholders include:** states; legal/human rights professionals and victims/survivors of human rights violations and civil society organisations.

## **3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION**

### **3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs**

The Overall Objective of this action is to strengthen *worldwide promotion and protection of human rights*.

The Specific(s) Objective(s) of this action is to increase effectiveness of key international, regional and national as well as academic actors in the realization of all human rights for all, with particular focus on women.

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives are:

<sup>14</sup> The 46 Council of Europe member states, 14 other participants (Algeria, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Israel, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Kosovo\*, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Mexico, Peru, Tunisia and the USA), 7 other ad hoc status (Argentina, Japan, Saint Siego, Uruguay, Belarus, South Africa, the Palestinian National Authority).

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

OP 1.1: Strengthened capacities of global actors on human rights, human rights treaty bodies and special procedures.

OP 1.2: Enhanced capacities of and cooperation between government officials, international/regional organizations, NGOs, academia, counsel and associations of lawyers in dealing with crimes under the Rome Statute;

OP 1.3: Enhanced capacities of regional human rights protection mechanisms;

OP 1.4: Strengthened capacities of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) to the accreditation to comply with the Paris Principles standards

OP 1.5: Enhanced capacities of post-graduate education in human rights and democratisation.

## 3.2 Indicative Activities

Indicative list of activities (non-exhaustive):

### **Output 1: Strengthened capacities of global actors on human rights, human rights treaty bodies and special procedures:**

- Strengthening the support to the human rights monitoring mechanisms and fact finding missions so these can provide input to the Human rights Council, the Universal Periodic Review and to the Special Rapporteurs.

### **Output 2: Enhanced capacities of and cooperation between government officials, international/regional organizations, NGOs, academia, counsel and associations of lawyers in dealing with crimes under the Rome Statute:**

- Activities to promote State's ratification of the Rome Statute and cooperation – through dialogue, knowledge and information sharing activities/tools as well as capacity building activities – with government officials, international/regional organizations, NGOs, academia, Counsel and associations of lawyers activities (to advance national capacities for investigating and prosecuting crimes within the jurisdiction of the ICC)

### **Output 3: Enhanced capacities of regional human rights protection mechanisms:**

- Case/petition/precautionary measures archiving, analysis, monitoring, reports;
- Organisational/governance policies, procedures and tools improvements/streamlining;
- Human rights education and public awareness raising activities (dialogues, communications etc.);
- Capacity building on implementation of international/regional human rights instruments;
- Drafting and dissemination of recommendations and opinions as well as targeted; research/publications/events on fundamental rights and freedoms, constitutional reforms and constitutional justice, independence of judiciary, electoral reform;
- Facilitating cross-regional cooperation, networking and exchange of good practices/lessons learned between independent regional or national institutions/practitioners in charge of safe-guarding Human Rights, Democracy, or the Rule of Law, including election management bodies.

### **Output 4: Strengthened capacities of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) to the accreditation to comply with the Paris Principles standards:**

- Development of guidance tools, peer-to-peer exchanges and training for NHRIs on the Paris Principles;
- Support and accompaniment to NHRIs undergoing accreditation process and to the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) handling the accreditation and re-accreditation;
- Establish protocols and guidelines for an effective articulation between global and regional networks as well as policies, procedures and tools to improve organisational and financial management and governance of such networks.

### **Output 5: Enhanced capacities of post-graduate education in human rights and democratisation:**

- Implementation of seven regional Master's programmes, MOOCs and self-paced e-learning, as well as summer schools and training programmes;
- Support the Alumni Association's activities.

## 3.3 Mainstreaming

### **Environmental Protection & Climate Change**

**Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening** (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category C (no need for further assessment).

**Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening** (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment)

### **Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls**

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that a gender analysis will be conducted, specific gender equality indicators are incorporated into this action and that reporting data will be disaggregated at least by sex whenever feasible to measure the impact on women and men. The monitoring and evaluation system of projects shall be gender sensitive. The action contributes to the Gender Action Plan III (GAP III, 2021-2025), through all thematic area of engagement.

### **Human rights**

The Action operationalises the human rights-based approach by ensuring that all rights are respected, and that empowerment, participation, non-discrimination, accountability and transparency are promoted. It will capacitate "rights-holders" in claiming their rights and "duty-bearers" in meeting their obligations.

A human rights-based approach will be applied, by: a) applying all human rights for all; b) meaningful and inclusive participation and access to decision-making; c) non-discrimination and equality; d) accountability and rule of law for all; and e) transparency and access to information supported by disaggregated data.

### **Disability**

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that, as mentioned above, the human rights based approach, which includes people with disabilities.

### **Reduction of inequalities**

See above.

### **Democracy**

See above. These actions are key for the rule of law generally, and supremacy of the law in particular.

### **Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience**

The action shall consider conflict sensitivity and do no harm approaches as key requirements of the Global Europe Regulation.

### **Disaster Risk Reduction**

Special considerations will be made to specific environmental risks and the interlinkages with the promotion and protection of human rights, and the fight against impunity. By supporting the capacity of human rights Courts and Institutions, the action indirectly supports the evolution of human rights jurisprudence, including the right to a clean

and healthy environment.

**Other considerations if relevant**

N/A

**3.4 Risks and lessons learnt**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Risks</b>	<b>Likelihood</b> <b>(High/ Medium/ Low)</b>	<b>Impact</b> <b>(High/ Medium/ Low)</b>	<b>Mitigating measures</b>
External environment  Political Inclusion	Shrinking civic space and attacks on human rights actors, including political pressure, cut in resources and threats undermine the capacity to act as independent actors.	<b>H</b>	<b>H</b>	EU political and financial support can contribute to decrease threats, attacks and pressure on the action stakeholders.
External environment  Political stability and commitment	Change in political environment: New governments, institutional changes or lack of political will of States to engage on human rights may affect the effectiveness and sustainability of the action.	<b>M</b>	<b>H</b>	Strong relationships with national governments (including their representatives on the inter-governmental mechanisms) will be established and/or maintained to build a sense of common purpose and enhance national ownership of the action.
Planning, processes and systems  Financial resources availability	Lack of resources and financial dependency	<b>M</b>	<b>H</b>	The EU support will provide for resources in the different components of the action. It can also be used by stakeholders to leverage further support among their Members or with other donors.
Planning, processes and systems  Corruption and fraud	Aid diversion and reputational damage  Threats to the security of implementing partners staff.	<b>L</b>	<b>H</b>	The action will follow the 5 working principles of the human rights-based approach.  Transparency and accountability will be ensured in all steps of the action by the establishment of measures and procedures.

**Lessons learnt:**

The EU support to the different stakeholders of this action has been instrumental to foster human rights and international law at national, regional and global levels.

Support to OHCHR is a political signal of the EU's support to multilateralism. It not only allows OHCHR to fulfil its core mandate but by its unearmarked nature, it has provided much needed flexibility in the use of extra budgetary

resources, in a context where demands on OHCHR are growing.

NHRIs have consolidated their regional networks and the Global Alliance, supporting NHRIs in their process to comply with the Paris principles and reinforcing their role as actors of the international human rights system.

Venice Commission remains an important player and reference body contributing to strengthening democracy, the rule of law and human rights in Europe and beyond.

The support to the interamerican system of human rights and the ICC has strengthened the access to justice for all and brought their actions closer to the broad public. Going forward, state support will be crucial to pursue arrests and protect the ICC from attacks (cyberattacks, sanctions etc.).

Global Campus has become a solid network of universities around the world. In addition to the delivery of masters on human rights, they have also strengthened their global cooperation and the network of human rights practitioners through their Alumni association.

### 3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that by supporting international organisations, human rights mechanisms and other stakeholders working on the promotion and protection human rights and international law, the EU is supporting a fundamental part of the multilateral system that is embedded in its core values.

It will support several actors of the multilateral architecture working for the promotion and protection of human rights in a context of increased multilateralism scepticism and questioning. The factors leading to the current multilateral crisis are several and interlinked, including geopolitical reshape on the global scene, the rise of nationalism, and other structural problems of the existing international institutions, as detailed in section 2.2.

However, while facing reputational criticism and resources cuts, multilateral organisations have been instrumental in dealing with the recent years crisis, with the pandemic being the best example on how in today's deeply interconnected world, unilateral actions alone are insufficient to address global challenges and the need of international rules and institutions more than ever.

As a response to these challenges, the EU emphasises the need to work towards a truly inclusive multilateralism, where the voices of civil society, the private sector, social partners and other key stakeholders count. This is a crucial part of ensuring the relevance of the multilateral system and preserving its legitimacy.

The support foreseen in this action to regional and global multilateral actors intend to strengthen the multilateral architecture working on the promotion and protection of human rights and to enhance the capacities of the future human rights experts.

By doing so, the EU expects to achieve two key strategic objectives, those of promoting the universality of human rights and the commitment to promote a well-functioning multilateral system.

### 3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

At action level, the indicative logframe should have a maximum of 10 expected results (Impact/Outcome(s)/Output(s)).

It constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.

The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results / indicators / Source of Data / Assumptions - no activities)

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To strengthen <i>worldwide promotion and protection of human rights</i> .	1. Number of countries that improve their score according to the OHCHR Universal Human Rights Index (UHRI)	1	1	1	<i>Not applicable</i>

<p><b>Outcome 1</b></p>	<p>To increase effectiveness of key international, regional and national as well as academic actors in the realization of all human rights for all, with particular focus on women.</p>	<p>1.1 Number of legislative processes to ratify the Rome Statute, its amendments and other ICJ frameworks, and/or to translate them into domestic laws initiated with EU-support</p> <p>1.2 Number of implemented Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations, disaggregated by thematic topic covered</p> <p>1.5 Number of referred cases of most serious human rights violations (including gender-based violence cases) that are investigated and adjudicated by relevant public authorities (OPSYS core indicator)</p> <p>1.6 Number of individual complaints addressed annually by Human Rights monitoring bodies and Regional Courts (OPSYS core indicator)</p> <p>1.7 Number of internationally recognized national human rights institutions (NHRIs) accredited as A-status as per the United Nations Paris Principle.*</p> <p>and non-state actors supported by the EU on security, border management, countering violent extremism, conflict prevention, protection of civilian population and human rights</p>	<p>1.1</p> <p>1.2</p>	<p>1.1</p> <p>1.2</p>	<p>1.1</p> <p>1.2</p>	<p>x</p>
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<p><b>Output 1</b> relating to Outcome 1</p>	<p>OP 1.1: Strengthened capacities of global actors on human rights, human rights treaty bodies and special procedures.</p>	<p>1.1.1 Number of global actors with improved human rights monitoring mechanisms for providing input to the Human rights Council, the Universal Periodic Review and to the Special Rapporteurs Number of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations made, disaggregated by thematic topic covered</p>	<p>1.1.1</p>	<p>1.1.1</p>	<p>1.1.1</p>	
<p><b>Output 2</b> relating to Outcome 1</p>	<p>OP 1.2 Enhanced capacities of and cooperation between government officials, international/regional organizations, NGOs, academia, counsel and associations of lawyers in dealing with crimes under the Rome Statute;</p>	<p>1.2.1 Number of representatives of governments, international/regional organizations, NGOs, academia, Counsel and associations of lawyers trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills on investigating and prosecuting crimes within the jurisdiction of the ICC</p>	<p>1.2.1 1.2.2</p>	<p>1.2.1 1.2.2</p>	<p>1.2.1 1.2.2</p>	
<p><b>Output 3</b> relating to Outcome 1</p>	<p>OP 1.3: Enhanced capacities of regional human rights protection mechanisms;</p>	<p>1.3.1 Number of organisational/ governance policies and procedures relevant for human rights protection mechanism drafted with support of the EU-funded intervention;  1.3.2 Number of xxx trained by the EU-funded intervention on implementation of international/regional human rights instruments;</p>	<p>1.3.1 1.3.2</p>	<p>1.3.1 1.3.2</p>	<p>1.3.1 1.3.2 Pre- and post-training test reports</p>	

<p><b>Output 4</b> relating to Outcome 1</p>	<p>OP 1.4: Strengthened capacities of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) to the accreditation to comply with the Paris Principles standards</p>	<p>1.4.1 Number of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) participating in regional groupings of NHRI and in the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) with support of the EU-funded intervention, disaggregated by level (regional or global participation)</p> <p>1.4.2 Number of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) representatives trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills in research and documentation of threats to democratic space, HRDs and vulnerable groups, disaggregated by sex</p>	<p>1.4.1</p> <p>1.4.2</p>	<p>1.4.1</p> <p>1.4.2</p>	<p>1.4.1</p> <p>1.4.2 Pre- and post-training test reports</p>	
<p><b>Output 5</b> relating to Outcome 1</p>	<p>OP 1.5: Enhanced capacities of post-graduate education in human rights and democratisation.</p>	<p>1.5.1 Number of state and non-state actors (individuals) trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills on human rights principles and contemporary human rights challenges in regional, national or international context, disaggregated (OPSYS core indicator)</p> <p>1.5.2. Number of universities promoting human rights education with support of the EU-funded intervention</p>	<p>1.5.1</p> <p>1.5.2</p>	<p>1.5.1</p> <p>1.5.2</p>	<p>1.5.1</p> <p>1.5.2</p>	

## 4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country.

### 4.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision. Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

### 4.3 Implementation modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures<sup>15</sup>.

#### 4.3.1 Direct Management (Grants)

##### **Grants: (direct management)**

##### **(a) Purpose of the grant(s)**

The objective of the grants is to achieve the objectives and outputs set out in Section 3.1. *supra*

##### **(b) Type of applicants targeted**

Grants will be the modality to support international/regional, national and academic institutions.

##### **(c) Justification of a direct grant**

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to relevant international/regional and national human rights as well as academic institutions selected using the following criteria: (i) its competence and expertise in the required field; (ii) its capacity to work with local civil society; (iii) its added value; and (iv) its operational capacity.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified to the Global Campus of Human Rights based on Article 198, point (d) of the Financial Regulation to bodies identified by a basic act<sup>16</sup>.

The part of the action under the budgetary envelope reserved for grants may, partially or totally and including where an entity is designated for receiving a grant without a call for proposals, be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: (i) its competence and expertise in the required field; (ii) its capacity to work with local civil society; (iii) its added value; and (iv) its operational capacity.

<sup>15</sup> Please note that the sanctions map ([www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu)) is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

<sup>16</sup> Article 27.3.c) and Annex III of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation

#### 4.3.2 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entrusted entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: (i) its competence and expertise in the required field; (ii) its capacity to work with local civil society; (iii) its added value; and (iv) its operational capacity. This implementation entails the support to part of the action as described in section 3 above.

#### 4.3.3 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

If the implementation under indirect management cannot be implemented due to exceptional circumstances, the part of the action foreseen in 4.3.2 may be implemented in direct management through the award of grant contracts and/or the procurement of services. Similarly, in the event that direct management cannot be implemented due to exceptional circumstances, the part of the action foreseen in 4.3.2 may be implemented under indirect management with an entrusted entity. This entity will be selected using the criteria described in section 4.3.2.

#### 4.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

#### 4.5 Indicative Budget

<b>Indicative Budget components</b>	<b>EU contribution (amount in EUR) 2025</b>	<b>EU contribution (amount in EUR) 2026</b>	<b>EU contribution (amount in EUR) 2027</b>
<b>Implementation modalities</b> – cf. section 4.3			
<b>Outcome 1:</b> <i>To increase effectiveness of key international, regional and national as well as academic actors in the realization of all human rights for all, with particular focus on women.</i> composed of:			
Indirect management with an entrusted entity- cf. section 4.3.2			3 000 000
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	20 500 000	1 000 000	
<b>Grants</b> – total envelope under section 4.3.1	20 500 000	1 000 000	
<b>Evaluation</b> – cf. section 5.2 <b>Audit</b> – cf. section 5.3	may be covered by another Decision		
<b>Contingencies</b>	N.A.	N.A	N.A
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20 500 000</b>	<b>1 000 000</b>	<b>3 000 000</b>

#### 4.6. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

European Commission Headquarters will carry out the contracting and management of the contracts resulting from this action.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the

Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

## 5. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

### 5.1. Monitoring and reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

Performance will be monitored and progress towards delivering expected results will be reviewed against the objectives set in Section 4.1. To this end, the following indicators will be used whenever possible: (i) the indicators set in the EU results framework; (ii) the indicators set in the multiannual indicative programme; and (iii) the indicators set in the relevant results chain.

In addition, the action will benefit from the results-oriented monitoring, implemented by independent experts, which includes project reviews and support for reporting on results.

The Commission may undertake additional project-monitoring visits: (i) through its own staff; or (ii) through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews; or (iii) through staff recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews

### 5.2. Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, an evaluation will not be carried out for this action as a whole or its components. Evaluations may be carried out for individual contracts.

In case an evaluation is not planned, the Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

### 5.3. Audit and verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

## 6. STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

In line with the 2022 Guidance for External Actions “[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility](#)”, it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union’s support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU Member States.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.