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ANNEX I

to the 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 Global actions for human rights and human rights defenders

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

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Global actions for human rights and human rights defenders OPSYS number: ACT-62891/JAD.1598796 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	Global
4. Programming document	NDICI – Global Europe multiannual indicative programme for the Human Rights and Democracy thematic programme for the period 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Priority 1: Protecting and empowering individuals
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	The proposed Action intends to contribute to the four axes of action of priority 1: i. Uphold all human rights as they are essential to human dignity; ii. Promote equality, inclusion and respect for diversity; iii. Support human rights defenders and counter shrinking space for civil society; iv. Strengthen the rule of law, ensure fair and effective administration of justice and close the accountability gap.
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: - SDG16 - 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

8 a) DAC code(s)	15160 – Human rights			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	2000 – Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society			
9. Targets	<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 type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	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"/>
	11. Internal markers and Tags	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective
Digitalisation @		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
digital connectivity		YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/
digital governance		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
digital entrepreneurship		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
digital skills/literacy		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
digital services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
digital connectivity	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/	

	energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/
	transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	education and research			
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities ¹ @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

BUDGET INFORMATION

12. Amounts concerned	<p>Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.02 02 11</p> <p>Total estimated cost: EUR 42 000 000</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 42 000 000</p> <p>The contribution is for an amount of EUR 14 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2025 and for an amount of EUR 28 000 000 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</p>
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MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

13. Type of financing²	Direct management through: Grants
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1.2 Summary of the Action

The action will be implemented in a **context** marked by challenges to democracy and human rights. The world faces serious challenges in many regions, including the rise of armed conflicts, authoritarianism and blatant violations of international human rights law. It registered an increase in attacks against human rights defenders, especially targeting environmental human rights defenders and indigenous communities, accompanied by an increase of incidents of serious violations of human rights. At the same time, the right to life and human dignity are challenged by the persistent use of the death penalty, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Also creating immense human suffering, impunity for the most serious violations of human rights law, including those amounting to international crimes, threatens the international rules-based order and the respect of international human rights law. Against this backdrop, the capacity of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and human rights defenders to monitor human rights, document violations and assist survivors and others at risk must be supported, alongside other accountability mechanisms, especially as civic space itself is under threat in more and more countries.

This action will address **Priority 1** of the programme, ‘Protecting and empowering individuals’. The overall objective of the priority is to *contribute to the full enjoyment of all human rights, be they civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, by all.*

The action will be achieved by consolidating **mechanisms for protection** (‘EU Human Rights Defenders Mechanism’) **and accountability** (‘Global Initiative Against Impunity’) established by the EU. It will be complemented by strategic focus on thematic areas to defend and promote **human dignity**, and to defend and voice

¹ For more information, please consult: The European Commission inequality marker - Publications Office of the EU (europa.eu) and Inequality Marker – Complementary Guidelines Application of the I-Marker to SSC fiches and Action Documents | Capacity4dev (europa.eu)

² Article 27 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

the rights of **Indigenous Peoples**, as set out in the UNDRIP, through partnership with key organisations.

The action contributes to and is structured along the four axes of action of the Priority 1 of the programme:

- i. *Uphold all human rights as essential to human dignity*: the action will in particular federate and strengthen initiatives toward the abolition of death penalty and the eradication of all forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
- ii. *Promote equality, inclusion and respect for diversity*: the action will in particular catalyze the participation of Indigenous Peoples in decision making
- iii. *Support human rights defenders and counter shrinking space for civil society*: the action will provide effective protection and support to Human Rights Defenders and their families
- iv. *Strengthen the rule of law, ensure fair and effective administration of justice and close the accountability gap*: the action will fight against impunity for serious human rights violations

The action will be implemented through **grants** to (consortia of) international NGOs. It is in line with priority 1. 'Protecting and empowering individuals' of the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (2020-2027), and delivers on the treaty mandate (Articles 2 and 21 TEU) to uphold the values of respect for human rights and human dignity. It contributes to the implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan³ (GAP III), notably in relation to women's rights and protecting women human rights defenders. It will thus contribute to the 360-degrees approach to Global Gateway, ensuring that its implementation is fair, sustainable and beneficial to people.⁴

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

Protecting and empowering individuals, civil society organisations and human rights defenders is a cornerstone of the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law worldwide. It is also a key priority of EU's external action and a pre-condition for sustainable development and for building more inclusive, open and resilient societies. As stated under priority 1 of the Multi-Annual Indicative Programming for the NDICI-Global Europe Thematic Programme on Human Rights and Democracy 2021-2027 ('MIP'): Protecting individuals means ensuring the full enjoyment of all human rights, be they civil and political, economic, social and cultural rights by all, free from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse.

At the core of MIP Axis of action 1.1. '**Uphold all human rights as essential to human dignity**', feature actions that aim at 'progressing towards the abolition of death penalty', and 'striving for the eradication of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment'. The global abolition of the death penalty is at the heart of the EU's human rights external priorities. The positive trend towards the worldwide abolition of the death penalty is evident. While in 1960, only 25 countries were abolitionist, today more than two-thirds of the worlds' countries have abolished the death penalty in law or in practice. However, progress towards abolition is not straightforward and certain regions of the world continue to use the death penalty in a substantial manner. Even in states that have abolished the death penalty in law, pro-death penalty movements continue to question abolition and setbacks are not to be excluded. At the most recent vote for a universal moratorium on executions in the United Nations General Assembly in December 2022, the abolitionist bloc remained stable with 125 states in favour of abolition, but 32

³ [Gender equality and empowering women and girls - European Commission](#)

⁴ Article 8.2 of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

abstentions and 27 votes against the moratorium were registered.

In recent years, the global consensus on the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment has become fragile, with some countries becoming openly unapologetic about abuses of human dignity and bodily integrity, especially using the pretext of the fight against terrorism, drugs and organised crime. Detention, sometimes extra-judicial or accompanied by ill-treatment, is used as a tactic to silence opposition and dissent. Challenges in places of deprivation of liberty include prisoners and detainees' access to lawyers, their families, basic goods and food, as well as adequate healthcare, while inhuman crowded contexts expose them disproportionately to the risk of violence and infectious diseases. Some restrictions imposed in response to the COVID pandemic still remain. Capacities for monitoring by National Prevention Mechanisms under OPCAT, international monitoring mechanisms and specialised civil society organisations must be reinforced to avoid continued and unpunished acts of torture and ill-treatment, as must cooperation with justice systems and law enforcement to eliminate its use. State violence outside of detention contexts, such as police brutality, has become more visible as a form of torture and ill-treatment.

Meanwhile, UNCAT ratification is still slowly spreading and newer international initiatives to prevent and fight torture are gaining momentum, for instance the ongoing UN process towards 'Torture Free Trade' and the Alliance for Torture-Free Trade, inspired by the EU's groundbreaking "Anti-Torture" Regulation⁵; the Méndez Principles on non-coercive investigations; and the 2024 Model Protocol for Law Enforcement to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the context of peaceful protests. A survivor-centred approach, including recovery and redress, includes support to medical, psychological, legal and forensic capacities. The EU is a potential global leader in these areas, backing policy and regulation with global investment in anti-torture work.

Axis 1.2. of the MIP aims to '**Promote equality, inclusion and respect for diversity**', including for **Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous Peoples** protect nearly a quarter of the world's land surface, despite making up only 6% of the global population, while being disproportionately exposed to human rights violations as well as being particularly impacted by adverse corporate behaviour for which only weak accountability mechanisms exist. In 2023, 31% of HRDs killed were indigenous people or worked on indigenous people's rights⁶. Globally, more than 476 million indigenous women and men lag behind in all measurements of human development. They suffer higher levels of discrimination in relation to decent employment, access to traditional livelihoods, access to education and health, housing conditions, access to clean water and sanitation.

The EU has a longstanding commitment to Indigenous Peoples' participation in decision making, underpinning EU external action policy and its implementation worldwide. The EU has endorsed the principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), as defined by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), in its Regulation on deforestation-free products of June 29, 2023 (EUDR). It is mentioned as an additional standard that can be applied to the Directive on corporate sustainability due diligence (CSDDD).

The commitment to Indigenous Peoples' meaningful participation is contributing to the EU implementation of the 2030 Agenda and is part of the values-based approach to the Global Gateway. The EU is committed to supporting their full, effective and active participation in policy and development processes and mechanisms affecting them both at global and national level.

Bridging the gap between the international normative framework on Indigenous Peoples' rights and its concrete implementation, the EU builds on its support to two initiatives that inform policymaking:

The Indigenous Navigator provides, since 2014, a framework to monitor the level of recognition and implementation of Indigenous Peoples' rights. Developed to generate data on the recognition, protection and fulfilment of the rights enshrined in the UNDRIP, it has facilitated indigenous communities' own generation of quality data, enhanced their awareness of their rights and equipped them to hold duty-bearers and other external stakeholders accountable.

The Indigenous Peoples' Centre for Documentation, Research and Information (DOCIP) has served as Secretariat of the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) representatives at the United Nations level for the past forty years, with EU support for over a decade that has increased to ensure indigenous peoples' rights are mainstreamed in EU policy and/or legislative measures.

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32019R0125>.

⁶ [Front Line Defenders. Global Analysis 2023/24.](#)

Axis 1.3. of the MIP aims to ‘**Support human rights defenders and counter shrinking space for civil society**’. Human rights defenders (individuals, groups and organisations) are essential to defend human rights and democracy worldwide. But HRDs and other independent civil society actors face significant restrictions on their working environment and operating capacity. Independent civil society actors, including human rights defenders, such as journalists, media workers, trade unionists, lawyers and other individuals promoting and defending human rights and fundamental freedoms face surveillance, transnational repression, travel bans and asset freezes, confiscation and destruction of working materials, physical and psychological threats, harassment, and attacks, arbitrary arrest, detention and imprisonment, torture and ill-treatment, enforced disappearances, and even extrajudicial execution, including for HRDs in exile.

Specific groups of human rights defenders are particularly vulnerable, such as those working on environmental and land rights, indigenous peoples’ rights, labour rights, women human rights defenders and LGBTI defenders, young human rights defenders, and those pursuing accountability for grave human rights violations and transitional justice, as well as journalists. Human rights defenders working in areas affected by crisis and conflict are particularly at risk. A major problem is the lack of accountability and the absence of legal remedies for violations and abuses against human rights defenders. This difficult situation is compounded by the erosion of funding sources for human rights organisations and defenders.

Needs are growing and demand far exceeds capacity: while in 2015 the ratio of eligible support requests to available resources was roughly 6:4, it has now deteriorated to an alarming ratio of 2:8. The single-entry points of the EU HRD mechanism alone received over 20,000 requests for assistance in 2023.

MIP Axis of action iv aims to ‘**Strengthen the rule of law, ensure fair and effective administration of justice and close the accountability gap**’. Over the past years, there has been a sharp increase in serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law worldwide. Despite a few convictions of violations amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity, impunity in times of war and peace remains the norm. **Impunity** represents a major challenge for the consolidation of the democratic governance and the rule of law, since it constitutes a denial of human rights, in particular the right to truth and justice, and the right to effective remedy, encompassing full and adequate reparation for victims and guarantees of non-recurrence. Furthermore, the lack of accountability for serious human rights violations and abuses greatly undermines the legitimacy of the State not only in the eyes of the victims, but also in the eyes of the whole society.

While many actors and discussions still equate ‘impunity’ with the absence of criminal justice, policy frameworks define the term more broadly as ‘the impossibility, de jure or de facto, of bringing the perpetrators of violations and abuses to account whether in criminal, civil, administrative, or disciplinary proceedings, since they are not subject to any inquiry that might lead to their being accused, arrested, tried, and, if found guilty, sentenced to appropriate penalties, and to making reparations to their victims⁷.’ The EU is committed to support the work of international bodies that underpin the international rules-based order – in particular the International Criminal Court - to move from an era of impunity into an age of accountability.

2.2 Problem analysis

The action will be implemented in a **context** marked by a steady decline in democracy and human rights. The world faces unprecedented challenges, including the rise of armed conflicts, authoritarianism and blatant violations of international human rights law. It registered a surge in attacks against human rights defenders, especially targeting environmental human rights defenders and indigenous communities, accompanied by an increase of manifestations of serious violations of human rights. At the same time, the right to life and human dignity are challenged by the persistent use of the death penalty, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Also, impunity for the most serious violations of international human rights law, including those amounting to international crimes threatens the international rules-based order and the respect of international human rights law.

This situation illustrates the need to support the capacity of CSOs and human rights defenders to monitor human rights, document violations and assist survivors and others at risk, alongside other accountability mechanisms, especially as civic space itself is under threat in more and more countries. Advancements in combating capital

⁷ Updated Set of Principles for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights through action to combat impunity, 8 February 2005, E/CN.4/2005/102/Add.1, p. 6.

punishment and torture, as well as accountability for human rights defenders and vulnerable groups in society, represent opportunities for sustained and long term support to civil society and enabling alliances among key actors, for greater impact.

The present programme accelerates progress by adopting a **longer-term strategic partnership approach**⁸. It shall support civil society actions that, consistent with the EU Guidelines on the Death Penalty, contribute to repealing/limiting the scope of **death penalty** laws as well as reforming criminal justice systems - enhancing their transparency and respect for minimum safeguards⁹. The programme should enable civil society to engage with all key actors, including political leaders, youth and the private sector.

Civil society actions shall, in line with the revised Guidelines on EU Policy towards third countries on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, contribute to setting up a legal and regulatory framework that prohibits all harmful and unlawful conduct amounting to **torture**, ensuring its full and effective implementation and establishing monitoring and accountability mechanisms. Preventive and protective measures shall be an integral part of these actions ranging from training and education, including for professionals, regular monitoring of places of detention (mitigation) to investigation, evidence collection and documentation of past cases, reporting, litigation, prosecution, conviction and sanctions for perpetrators (deterrence) and reparation, rehabilitation and compensation for victims.

The EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy prioritises supporting the realisation of **indigenous Peoples' rights** as set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples¹⁰. This Action will operationalise these commitments by supporting the respect and protection of Indigenous Peoples' rights and promoting their full and effective participation in relevant human rights and development processes, with particular attention to ensuring observance of the principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) in all decisions affecting them. This approach will also support the recognition in 2021 by the Human Rights Council of a right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right, promoting and defending Indigenous Peoples rights and enhancing their direct participation in decision making in line with commitments made under the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and will address the vulnerability of Indigenous Peoples in the face of harmful business behaviour.

Considering the intensifying crackdown on **human rights defenders (HRDs)** and other independent civil society actors, effective support for HRDs in situations where they are most at risk is a growing EU priority since 2004. In 2015, the EU established the EU Human Rights Defenders Mechanism managed by the ProtectDefenders.eu consortium to scale up support provided through its EU Emergency Fund for HRDs at Risk. Since 2014, these two global programmes supported over 60,000 HRDs at risk and family members, allocating crucial emergency assistance, enabling organisations to carry out their activities in extremely challenging conditions, temporarily relocating HRDs away from danger and managing the EU Temporary Relocation Platform (EUTRP), enhancing shelter capacities, providing training and building capacities of HRDs, conducting outreach to remote and marginalised HRDs, monitoring the situation of HRDs and advocating to address urgent cases. The EU Human Rights Defenders Mechanism continues to prove instrumental for EU Delegations to support human rights in difficult and/or crisis contexts.

Under the current action, it will continue to provide multifaceted support to HRDs under threat globally through the provision of emergency assistance, support to organisations and groups, holistic temporary relocation programmes, shelter initiatives support, capacity-building, monitoring, advocacy and outreach. The Mechanism will also further develop protective legal actions, the provision of psychosocial support, how to address crisis and longer-term needs, and the strengthening of HRD protection networks.

Numerous CSO actors engage in the collection of information about serious human rights violations and abuses for different purposes. In 2023, a **Global Initiative Against Impunity** was set up by the EU. Its scope includes serious human rights violations or abuses, including those amounting to international crimes such as genocide, and crimes against humanity, , in line with the framework for targeted restrictive measures under the EU Global Human Rights

⁸ [Strengthening the abolitionist movement: launch of the Global Consortium for Death Penalty Abolition - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁹ UN Safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty ([Economic and Social Council Resolution 1984/50](#)).

¹⁰ [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – United Nations.](#)

sanctions regime. The initiative contributes to addressing major challenges as to the need to gather information, share knowledge provide support to victims of serious human rights violations and abuses, strengthen capacities of CSOs, in particular local actors, establish partnerships and networks at local, national, regional and global levels, and promote international criminal justice.

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

Rights-holders

Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous organisations at local, national and regional levels in the concerned countries. They play a crucial role in ensuring respect and protection of indigenous peoples' rights, advocating these rights with duty-bearers. They also contribute to more inclusive and sustainable societies.

Victims and survivors have suffered an injustice to which no remedy has been given. It is not only important to provide them with appropriate compensation but support the legal processes that can reduce the space of impunity and the probability of future harm.

Human rights defenders operate in difficult situations and under constraints. They are also at risk of retaliation or public defamation for protecting human rights and gender equality worldwide. They must be given protection to speak up to ensure sufficient of public and corporate accountability.

Duty-bearers

National human rights institutions play a key role in the monitoring of human rights violations and abuses and violations at country-level. In particular, they can examine domestic legislation in force, follow up on complaints or play a mediating role between parties; linked are National Protective Mechanisms (NPM) charged with monitoring places of detention under the UNCAT optional protocol (OPCAT).

Government representatives and governmental institutions at national and local levels play a crucial role to enact laws, build trust and ownership among stakeholders, providing access to remedies and support for legal enforcement and policy reviews.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and expected outputs

The **Overall Objective** of this action is the full enjoyment of all human rights, be they civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights by all.

The **Specific Objectives** (outcomes) of this action are to:

1. Uphold human rights as essential to human dignity, by progressing towards the universal abolition of the death penalty and striving for the eradication of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
2. Increase engagement opportunities and participation of Indigenous peoples in all their diversity in policy and development processes as well as recognition of their rights
3. Support human rights defenders and counter shrinking space for civil society
4. Contribute to justice and the rule of law through an increased accountability for serious human rights violations and abuses, including gender-based violence.

The **Outputs** to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (outcomes) are

- 1.1 contributing to Specific Objective 1: Strengthened capacity of civil society to advocate for global abolition of the death penalty and the eradication of all forms of torture, cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment.
- 1.2 Contributing to Specific Objective 1: Strengthened capacity of civil society to effect a survivor-based

approach to the abolition of the death penalty and the fight against torture and ill-treatment through legal assistance, advocacy, rehabilitation and redress for victims.

- 2.1 contributing to Specific Objective 2: Strengthened global advocacy and self-determined development processes by Indigenous People
- 3.1 contributing to Specific Objective 3: Enhanced protection mechanisms and material support for Human Rights Defenders and their families
- 3.2. contributing to Specific Objective 3: Strengthened capacities of human rights defenders and civil society to work in restrictive contexts
- 4.1 contributing to Specific Objective 4 : Enhanced oversight and strengthened role of civil society in monitoring and responding to human rights violations and abuses

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities relating to **Output 1.1:**

- Documenting and reporting on cases of human rights violations;
- Advocacy, lobbying and development of strategies by CSOs to push for legal reform, to influence policy-making and to support relevant multilateral processes;
- Facilitating policy dialogue processes and mediation activities;
- Awareness-raising and communication campaigns on human rights, gender equality, and democracy issues, as well as training and education of professionals (police, judiciaries, journalists);
- Innovation and reform of detention centre monitoring, and related mitigation activities;
- Promoting the signature, ratification and the effective implementation of the relevant international and regional human rights instruments;
- Monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of ratified international human rights instruments in-country;

Activities relating to **Output 1.2:**

- Provision of psychosocial, medical, and legal assistance including in the area of sexual and gender-based violence;
- Ensuring access to remedy for victims, accountability and prosecution of perpetrators and related deterrence activities;
- Provision of basic services and facilitation of access to employment for persons in vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalised situations.
- Promoting inclusive and strategic partnerships, networking and cooperation with CSOs and other relevant stakeholders or among CSOs with particular focus on women's rights organisations;
- Sub-granting to local registered and non-registered CSOs.

Activities relating to **Output 2.1:**

- Expansion and improvement of a data collection portal that compiles the development needs self-identified by Indigenous Peoples including possible risks posed by global supply chains;
- Support to Indigenous communities and local partners to conduct disaggregated data collection, verification and analysis of their development priorities and the human rights violations affecting them;
- Support to translation, interpretation, and participation of Indigenous Peoples in global human right fora and mechanisms;
- Support to international as well as global governance advocacy for Indigenous Peoples and by Indigenous Peoples themselves;
- Spreading information and implementing trainings and workshops to improve Indigenous Peoples' informed decision-making about the legal and policy processes affecting them;
- Legal advice and advocacy support (UN, EU) for indigenous representatives and victims of human rights violations from Indigenous Peoples;
- Alliance building through advocacy visits and meetings with strategic partners for action, such as NHRIs, government and international bodies, Special procedures and their rapporteurs;
- Implementation of small grants projects with the aim to improve response to rights-based, gender-responsive, culturally adequate and participatory development needs;

- Collect and archive all statements made by Indigenous Peoples (IPs) before the UN.

Activities relating to **Output 3.1:**

- Emergency support is allocated to HRDs at risk to implement security and holistic protection measures (e.g. legal assistance, medical treatment and rehabilitation, urgent relocation, physical and digital security measures, subsistence and basic needs, family support, etc.);
- Longer-term support is provided in accordance with the needs of HRDs and scope/duration of threats and attacks (e.g. long term judicial harassment and imprisonment) with a strong focus on well-being (e.g. access to psycho-social support) and the development of protective legal actions (access to judicial and non-judicial remedies), also with a view to prevent further deterioration;
- Particular attention will be devoted to the situation and needs of environmental human rights defenders.
- Temporary relocation programme grants and accompaniment provided to HRDs at risk in close coordination with members of the EU Temporary Relocation Platform (EUTRP);
- Management and coordination of the EUTRP;
- Funding and capacity building of new shelter initiatives and temporary relocation programmes, with a focus at the regional and local levels.

Activities relating to **Output 3.2:**

- Financial assistance, material support and accompaniment provided to local HRD organisations, groups and communities at risk so that they can continue operating and mitigating threats (e.g. activities, core funding, capacities, etc.);
- Training programmes and capacity development initiatives made available to HRDs at risk (including with a focus on women human rights defenders) according to their needs and vulnerability (e.g. risk prevention and security, including digital security, as well as human rights monitoring, documenting, reporting and advocacy);
- Reinforcing HRD protection networks especially at local level with grassroots actors.
- Implementation of monitoring activities, including field missions (e.g. comprising prison visits and trial monitoring), which will feed reporting and advocacy initiatives (e.g. reports on the situation of HRDs as well as new trends and crisis situations, provision of referenced data to inform decision-makers and policies, publication of urgent appeals and thematic analysis, lobbying for pro-HRD laws and protection frameworks, promoting dialogue with and access to international and regional human rights mechanisms and procedures, etc.);
- Outreach and coordination activities involving inter-alia grassroots HRDs, international non-governmental and inter-governmental actors;
- Increase coordination and interaction with EU institutions and EU Delegations as well as UN presence on the ground with regards to specific cases of concern, crisis situations and policy exchanges.

Activities relating to **Output 4:**

- Monitoring the human rights situation in a given context and documenting acts such as genocide, crimes against humanity and other serious human rights violations and abuses, in close cooperation with local, national, regional and international bodies and mechanisms. This includes documenting diverse sources of information;
- Analysing contextual information and other evidence and producing research, data analysis and reports to denounce serious human rights violations and abuses, including those which are underreported or receiving less attention from the authorities and/or the international community, and identifying those responsible for, involved in or associated with human rights violations and abuses;
- Establish or support partnerships and networks at local, national, regional and global levels to raise awareness and knowledge about serious human rights violations and abuses (including gender-based violence);
- Dialogues and meetings with CSOs, legal professionals, policy makers and national and international institutions, events and exchanges of experience and best practices;
- Technical studies, comparative analysis, legal analysis and strategic reports on specific issues to better inform public policies and actions in the fight against impunity;
- Support initiatives from civil society to facilitate access to justice for victims through research and awareness

raising campaigns;

- Consultation, advice, assistance, evidence-building and legal assistance for civil society actors, affected communities and victims;
- Engagement with national and international state and non-state judicial bodies to support reparation processes and legal cases;
- Strengthening capacities and expertise of CSOs for strategic litigation via sharing of best practices and lessons learnt;
- Legal analysis and comparison with international frameworks and best-practices for CSOs to be better equipped to advocate for reform and provide legal services to victims at country level;
- Trainings and workshops on key impunity themes;
- Technical assistance to foster judicial cooperation between EU and third countries;
- Support CSOs in mapping resources and actors and identifying relevant evidence upon which to base joint actions.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the Action as Category C (no need for further assessment). The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this Action is low risk (no need for further assessment).

Furthermore, Human rights defenders working inter-alia on environmental, land rights and Indigenous Peoples' rights are prominently targeted by threats and attacks worldwide. Considering that Aid to environment, Biological diversity and Climate change mitigation are significant objectives for this action, the latter intends to devote particular attention to the situation and needs of environmental human rights defenders through multifaceted support, and to the needs of indigenous peoples who are at the forefront of the fight to preserve the environment.

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. The action will place specific emphasis on addressing the situation and protection needs of women human rights defenders, and HRDs working to advance women's rights and gender equality, as well activities targeting specifically victims of sexual violence in conflicts.

The Action will be implemented in respect of gender mainstreaming and will contribute to the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP III) which stresses the need for an equal participation and enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Human rights

The action will contribute to the defence of the human rights of those who are most at risk, vulnerable and marginalised by supporting the work of HRDs and providing assistance to the most affected ones, such as members of minority communities, and in particular indigenous peoples. The action explicitly supports rights holders with a particular focus on conflict-affected, marginalised and/or disempowered individuals and communities and in particular victims of violence, the families of the disappeared, youth, women, children, and people living with disabilities. A human rights-based approach is mainstreamed throughout the Programme.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that although persons with disabilities are not the specific target population of this Action, they will be among the beneficiaries if they belong to a group targeted under this action.

Reduction of inequalities

The action will be labelled as I-1, as it will support the work of civil society actors fighting for human rights for all. It will target in particular Indigenous Peoples who are a socio-economically disadvantaged group.

Democracy

Progress made towards abolition of death penalty, torture and ill-treatment, the protection of HRDs and accountability for serious human rights violations contribute to strengthening the rule of law and improving justice systems.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

Conflict sensitivity mainstreaming strategies will be duly considered across all components, informed by specific country situations (conflict analysis)

Disaster Risk Reduction

N/A

Other considerations if relevant

N/A

3.4 Risks and lessons learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
External environment (component 3)	HRDs/CSOs are increasingly persecuted, defamed, harassed, arbitrarily arrested and imprisoned, tortured and even killed. Pervasive impunity leads to a vicious cycle of abuse.	H	M	The EU HRD Mechanism will address this growing and overwhelming demand to provide urgent assistance thanks to its experience and additional resources. Confidentiality and flexibility are crucial to act adequately in the context of emergency and sensitive situations. Strong partnership and coordination with other key donors Advocate for the removal restrictions/barriers ...
Political (component 4)	Lack of State commitment and willingness to reform	H	M	Building awareness among civil society and government
Social (component 2)	Local civil society actors/communities lack the sufficient awareness and capacity-building to claim and advocate for their rights.	L	M	Building awareness based on evidence, empowering vulnerable groups' participation in human rights monitoring and reporting processes. Ensure regular dialogues with CSOs and grassroots organisations. Privilege flexible procedures that respond to smaller organizations challenges and provide tailor-made capacity building for CSOs.
Political	Activities are perceived as	M	H	The EU is a community of values based on the respect for human rights and is

	motivated to promote EU political agenda or are viewed negatively with accusations of ‘double standards’			widely seen a staunch supporter of rule-based multilateralism. Political benefits from strong EU support are expected to outweigh the risks.
Planning, processes and systems (component 3)	Difficulty to provide financial support due to foreign funding bans/restrictions; freezing or interception of funds; potential misuse of funding and fraud; impediments on funding delivery channels.	M	L	Consortium partners are able to provide funding in most countries in a low profile manner, regularly assessing ways to channel funding in restrictive environments. Strict due diligence is conducted when selecting beneficiaries. Implementing partners collect relevant information and documentation before, during and after transfer of funds. Precautionary measures and mitigating measures in place to prevent fraud and misuse of funds.
Communication and information (component 3)	Security and political risks related to the provision of direct support	M	H	This will be mitigated by confidentiality policy, use of encrypted means of communication and management of the Action at the level of DG INTPA HQ and EU Delegations.

Lessons Learnt:

A **meta-evaluation** of human rights & democracy thematic projects (2014-2021) was published in 2023¹¹. The evaluation looked at over 50 project evaluations, including in the field of ‘torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment’. The evaluation highlighted the relevance of EU support in often extremely difficult contexts to highly sensitive areas that are often ignored or underfunded by other development partners. It confirmed the need to maintain flexibility and responsiveness of EU support, and recommended to prioritise longer-term and iterative interventions, consolidating significant results with sustained commitments.

Self-determination and participative approaches to identify **Indigenous** development needs are key to understand local needs. Previous grants on the Indigenous Navigator consortium (EIDHR/2019/414-404) or to the Indigenous Peoples’ Centre for Documentation, Research and Information (EIDHR/2018/402-201) have demonstrated their relevance in informing policymaking. Sustaining these efforts is key but stronger collaboration with state bodies, national human rights institutions and other development actors is required to ensure sustainability of the intervention. At the same time, advocacy on Indigenous issues needs to be more tailored and more in line with key development issues such as natural resources management, biodiversity, climate mitigation or business and human rights.

Studies and civil society consultations organised in the identification phase highlight the importance of adopting a broader/holistic approach to combatting **impunity**; of avoiding duplications among existing structures/initiatives; and of cooperation between diverse accountability-seeking stakeholders/ (local, national, regional, and international human rights monitoring mechanisms).

¹¹ [Meta evaluation of human rights & democracy thematic projects \(2014-2021\) - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/11111111-1111-1111-1111-111111111111).

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that, to contribute to the full enjoyment of *all* human rights by *all*, one must provide human rights defenders (HRDs) with an environment conducive to their work. Selected consortia of specialised human rights international NGOs do have the necessary capacity and leverage.

The action will increase emergency assistance and holistic **protection** avenues for human rights defenders at risk, including longer term support. Support will be provided to HRD organisations and groups facing pressure and difficulties to operate in the context of shrinking civic space and restrictions of rights and freedoms. HRD protection and solidarity networks will be reinforced. If these assumptions hold true, HRDs at risk will be able to have increased access to multifaceted and holistic support in order to continue their work and enhance their security. HRDs and their organisations will reinforce their skills, capacity and resilience in the face of increased restrictions. The so-called ‘EU Human Rights Defenders Mechanism’ will continue to be operated by the ‘ProtectDefenders.eu’¹²NGO Consortium (component 3).

HRDs are operating in a context of growing **impunity** for serious human rights violations. They need support in effectively monitoring, documenting and reporting on such violations, in advocating for justice, reparations and truth-seeking, and in providing support to victims. Greater **accountability** will lead to a decrease in serious human rights violations. The ‘*Global Initiative Against Impunity*’, operated by a consortium of specialised international NGOs, provides the necessary expertise and capacity to foster joint actions with a holistic, integrated and multidimensional approach (component 2).

Beyond *protection* and *accountability* mechanisms, a more **integrated approach** is required to defend and promote *human dignity*, and to defend and voice the concerns of a particular category of right-holders benefiting from rights: *Indigenous Peoples*.

At the heart of universal human rights are the **right to life** and the absolute **prohibition of torture**, as basic guarantees of human dignity. The action shall continue to federate and empower the civil society movements that, in line with relevant EU Guidelines¹³, and matching the EU’s diplomacy and regulatory efforts, contribute to establishing and monitoring legal and regulatory frameworks that i) repeal death penalty laws, and ii) prohibit all harmful and unlawful conducts amounting to torture. A decrease in death sentences and torture cases will foster the Rule of Law and an environment more conducive to the respect of human rights. Two consortia of NGOs are already engaged in Financial Framework Partnership Agreements (FFPA) with the European Commission to mobilise these specialised areas of work.

Indigenous peoples benefit from distinctive rights over the lands, territories and natural resources they have traditionally occupied and used. Highly dependent on their lands for their livelihoods, particularly targeted by land grabbing actions and poorly represented in national structures, Indigenous Peoples are disproportionately at risk of human rights violations. This Action will ensure a full, effective and active participation of indigenous peoples in policy and development processes and mechanisms affecting them both at global and national level. The action is implemented in accordance with the key principles of indigenous peoples’ rights. The action promotes and supports the direct participation of indigenous peoples in accordance with their right to self-determination as defined by UNDRIP. Improved participation, advocacy, dialogue and engagement of indigenous peoples is expected to lead to policy change and enjoyment by indigenous peoples of their human rights and better access to development. National laws, policies and development programmes will be more responsive to indigenous peoples’ rights and development needs.

¹² <https://protectdefenders.eu/about-us/>.

¹³ EU Guidelines on the Death Penalty; Guidelines on EU Policy towards third countries on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

Results	Results chain (a): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (a): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To contribute to the full enjoyment of all human rights, be they civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, by all.	1.Number of state ratifications of international human rights instruments: ICCPR and its 2 nd protocol on death penalty, Rome Treaty, Convention Against Torture or its protocols	1.1. TBD	1. TBD	1.National Databases of Adopted Laws, National Gazette, Ministries' official policies	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	Human rights upheld as essential to human dignity, through progress towards the universal abolition of the death penalty and the eradication of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	Number of government policies developed or revised with civil society organizations' participation through EU support (GERF 2.29, OPSYS predefined indicator	1.1 TBD	1.1 TBD	1.1 National Human Rights Institutions' (annual) reports, National Gazette, Ministries' official policies	- Governments are willing to engage in dialogue or legal reforms on the death penalty and torture. - International pressure and advocacy

Outcome 2	Increased engagement opportunities and participation of Indigenous People	<p>2.1 Number of national and sub-national laws and public policies, which directly or indirectly protect and promote human rights, adopted or amended thanks to the critical role played by civil society organizations through EU support (matching GERF 2.29/EURF 2.25/ OPSYS predefined indicator)</p> <p>2.2 Number of (indigenous) Civil Society Organizations (CSO) reports presented to regional and international human rights bodies per year (OPSYS predefined indicator)</p>	2.1 TBD	2.1 TBD	2.1 National Human Rights Institutions' (annual) reports, documents, websites	<p>continue to support abolition movements.</p> <p>- Legal and judicial systems in target countries allow for the implementation of international human rights standards.</p>
			2.2 TBD	2.2 TBD	2.2 National Human Rights Institutions' (annual) reports, documents, websites	<p>- Local authorities and political leaders have the capacity and resources to enforce legal reforms once enacted.</p> <p>- Indigenous communities have the leadership and organizational structures needed to participate effectively.</p> <p>- Development processes in target regions allow for inclusive participation by Indigenous peoples.</p> <p>- Governments and institutions do not block or prevent civil society from documenting abuses.</p> <p>-Victims of human rights abuses are willing to come forward and engage with civil society actors.</p>

<p>Outcome 3</p>	<p>Human rights defenders are supported</p>	<p>3.1 Number of victims (<i>appropriately disaggregated, including HRDs at risk and intersectionality</i>) of human rights violations and abuses, directly benefitting from assistance funded by the EU (GERF 2.30/EURF 2.26/OPSYS core indicator)</p>	<p>3.1 TBD</p>	<p>3.1. TBD</p>	<p>3.2 National Human Rights Institutions' (annual) reports, documents, websites</p>	
<p>Outcome 4</p>	<p>increased accountability for serious human rights violations and abuses contributes to justice and the rule of law</p>	<p>4.1 Number of persons (victims/survivors of human rights violations) directly benefitting from legal aid interventions supported by the EU (GERF 2.25/EURF2.27/ OPSYS predefined indicator) 4.2 Number of referred cases of most serious human rights violations (with particular attention to gender-based violence cases) that are investigated and adjudicated by relevant public authorities (OPSYS predefined indicator), <i>disaggregated by country, topic, number of gender-based violence cases</i></p>	<p>4.1 TBD</p>	<p>4.1 TBD</p>	<p>4.1 National Human Rights Institutions' (annual) reports, documents, websites</p>	
			<p>4.2 TBD</p>	<p>4.2 TBD</p>	<p>4.2 National Human Rights Institutions' (annual) reports, documents, websites</p>	

Output 1 relating to Outcome 1	1.1 Strengthened capacities of civil society, including advocacy and public awareness, to effectively operate for the worldwide abolition of the death penalty, the eradication of all forms of torture, cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment or punishment	1.1.1 Number of national and sub-national laws and public policies on the abolition of the death penalty, adopted or amended thanks to the critical role played by civil society organisations through EU support (GERF 2.29/EURF 2.25/ OPSYS predefined indicator)	1.1.1 TBD	1.1.1 TBD	1.1.1-1.1.2 EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: (i) interim and final reports from implementing organisations, (ii) ROM reviews and (iii) evaluations
		1.1.2 Number of national and sub-national laws and public policies for the eradication of all forms of torture, cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment or punishment, adopted or amended thanks to the critical role played by civil society organisations through EU support (GERF 2.29/EURF 2.25/ OPSYS predefined indicator)	1.1.2 TBD	1.1.2 TBD	
		1.1.1 Number of persons (victims/survivors of human rights violations) directly benefitting from legal aid interventions supported by the EU, disaggregated by sex (GERF 2.25, predefined/EURF2.27/ OPSYS predefined indicator)	1.1.3 TBD	1.1.3 TBD	1.1.3-1.1.4 EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: (i) interim and final reports from implementing organisations, (ii) ROM reviews and (iii) evaluations
		1.1.2 Number of victims/survivors receiving non-legal support (trauma/psychosocial, security, financial, other) supported by the intervention, disaggregated by sex and type of support received (GERF 2.30, proxy, predefined OPSYS predefined indicator)	1.1.4 TBD	1.1.4 TBD	

<p>Output 1 relating to Outcome 2</p>	<p>2.1. Strengthened global advocacy and self-determined development processes by indigenous communities</p>	<p>2.1.1 Number of grassroots civil society organisations benefitting from (or reached by) EU support (GERF 2.28)</p> <p>2.1.2 Number of people trained by the EU-funded intervention who increased their knowledge and/or in consultations and decision-making processes, <i>disaggregated by sex, age, disability status and population group</i> (predefined OPSYS core indicator)</p> <p>2.1.3 Number of people supported by the EU to participate in local, national, regional and international decision-making bodies, <i>disaggregated by sex, age, population group and disability status</i> (HR results chain thematic indicator)</p>	<p>2.1.1 TBD</p> <p>2.1.2 TBD</p> <p>2.1.3 TBD</p>	<p>2.1.1 TBD</p> <p>2.1.2 TBD</p> <p>2.1.3 TBD</p>	<p>2.1.1-2.1.3 EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: (i) interim and final reports from implementing organisations, (ii) ROM reviews and (iii) evaluations</p>	
<p>Output 1 relating to Outcome 3</p>	<p>3.1. Effective protection and material support are provided to Human Rights Defenders and their families</p>	<p>3.1.1 Number of HRDs (and their family members) who benefited from emergency and assistance through direct support <i>disaggregated by sex, age</i> (GERF 2.30, proxy/predefined OPSYS indicator)</p> <p>3.1.2 Number of HRDs temporary relocated with the support of the EU</p>	<p>3.1.1 70 000 (2024 data)</p> <p>3.1.2 0</p>	<p>3.1.1 TBD</p> <p>3.1.2 TBD</p>	<p>3.1.1 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention/ grants databases</p> <p>3.1.2 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention/ grants databases</p>	

Output 2 relating to Outcome 3	3.2 Strengthened capacities of human rights defenders and civil society to work in restrictive contexts	3.2.1 Number of Civil Society Organisations' (CSOs) representatives and staff trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skill (predefined OPSYS indicator)	3.2.1 0	3.2.1 TBD	3.2.1 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention/pre-post training tests	
		3.2.2 Percentage of HRDs (individuals or groups) who are better equipped to continue operating thanks to EU HRD Mechanism support (matching GEF 2.28)	3.2.2 0	3.2.2 TBD	3.2.2 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention	
Output 1 relating to Outcome 4	4.1. Enhanced oversight and strengthened role of civil society in monitoring and responding to human rights violations and abuses	4.1.1 Number of CS-led actions in support of transitional justice, judicial and non-judicial mechanisms and processes conducted with EU support	4.1.1 TBD	4.1.1 TBD	4.1.1 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention	

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

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

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 **96 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 measures¹⁴.

4.3.1 Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

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

(b) Type of applicants targeted

The types of applicants are relevant civil society organisations.

(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:

- Under output 1, to organisations who have signed Financial Framework Partnership Agreements (FFPAs) with the European Commission in these particular thematic areas. The beneficiaries will be 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. In such case, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified based on Article 198, point f) *for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals*; of the Financial Regulation. Under output 2, to civil society organisations with a track record in representing and coordinating advocacy of indigenous communities in international fora, and in particular in providing i) global and EU advocacy coordination on behalf of indigenous communities and ii) sound data collection on indigenous peoples rights and development processes. The beneficiaries will be 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. In such case, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified based on Article 198, point f)

¹⁴ Please note that the sanctions map (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.

for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals; of the Financial Regulation. Under output 3, the ProtectDefenders.eu Consortium. As foreseen in Article 198, point (c) of the Financial Regulation) FR, the beneficiary is in a de facto monopoly situation, holding unique know-how, experience and coverage, both in terms of type of assistance offered and geographic reach. The Consortium presents a unique combination of thematic expertise (specialised know-how in several areas of HRD work, e.g. focus on professional and non-professional journalists, women HRDs, LGBTI persons' rights activists, economic, social and cultural rights, combating torture and ill-treatment as well as impunity for serious human rights violations), and regional specialisation through its members networks and field presence (in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe). The ProtectDefenders.eu Consortium therefore holds a de facto monopoly in broad-scope and worldwide HRD protection.

- Under output 4, to a consortium of international NGOs offering a unique and unmatched membership and expertise on international criminal law.

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

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

If implementation through direct management with grants is not possible, in exceptional and duly justified cases required by the local in-country context and the nature of the action, activities at country level may be implemented by indirect management with an entrusted entity. This entity will be selected based on 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.

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.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.5 Indicative budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR) 2025	EU contribution (amount in EUR) 2026	EU contribution (amount in EUR) 2027
Implementation modalities – Grants (direct management) Section 4.3.1			
1. Torture and Death Penalty	7 000 000		3 000 000

2. Indigenous Peoples	7 000 000		
3. Protectdefenders.EU			15 000 000
4. Fight against impunity			10 000 000
Grants – total envelope under section 4.3.1	14 000 000	-	28 000 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	will be covered by another Decision		
Total	42 000 000		

4.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

European Commission Headquarters will carry out the contracting and management of the grants.

Under output 1, a regular dialogue with the EU will take place in the framework of the Financial Framework Partnership Agreements governing the grants.

Under output 3, the EU will be part of the steering structure of the EU HRD Mechanism and interact on a regular basis with the Board members and the Secretariat/s with a view to ensure adequate implementation of the Action. The EU will be responsible for the selection procedure and the political decision on allocating direct support to human rights defenders at risk under the Emergency Fund, and therefore be directly involved in the implementation and management of this component.

Under output 4, the project may be steered or advised by a committee including representatives from EU institutions and possibly other intergovernmental bodies such as OHCHR.

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 partners' responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partners 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) .

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).

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, mid-term and/or final evaluation(s) may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission and/ or via an implementing partner.

Any mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving, accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision).

Any final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision).

The Commission shall inform the implementing partners at least one month in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and *inter alia* provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country (if relevant) and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination¹⁵. 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(s) contracted by the Commission shall 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 adopted 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. Exceptions are made for activities that the European Commission or implementing partner deems politically sensitive or for which visibility can bring risk to the stakeholders, through written agreement.

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.

¹⁵ See some [practical examples of creative communications for evaluation dissemination](#).