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ANNEX 21

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of
Sub-Saharan Africa for 2023-25

Action Document for ‘Africa-Europe Digital Regulators Partnership’

MULTIANNUAL PLAN

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

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Africa-Europe Digital Regulators Partnership OPSYS number: ACT-62086 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	Yes - under the TEI ‘D4D for Digital Economy and Society in Sub-Saharan Africa’ (Code: 001)
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in Sub-Saharan Africa
4. Programming document	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Priority Area 4: Digital, Science, Technology and Innovation Specific Objective 1: Support an inclusive and human-centric Digital transformation in Africa Result 1.1: Secure, human-centric and harmonised digital standards, legal and regulatory frameworks are promoted at regional/continental levels. Result 1.2: Equitable access to affordable, secure and quality digital infrastructures is enhanced.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Sub-Saharan Africa Regional MIP Priority Area 4: Digital, Science, Technology and Innovation Digital Transformation 220 – Communications
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG (1 only): SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) Other significant SDGs: SDG 5 (Gender Equality) SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth),

	SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)				
8 a) DAC code(s)	22040 - Information and communication technology (ICT) 100%				
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	European Commission - Development Share of Budget - 42001				
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>	
	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	Principal objective
		Digitalisation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services		YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	/	
Connectivity @		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	digital connectivity energy transport health education and research	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020120 : EUR 11 900 000 14.020121 : EUR 11 900 000 14.020122 : EUR 10 200 000 Total estimated cost: EUR 40 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 34 000 000 This action is co-financed in joint co-financing by: - Sweden for an amount of SEK 50 000 000 - Luxembourg for an amount of EUR 1 500 000 This action is contributing to the TEI ‘D4D for Digital Economy and Society in Sub-Saharan Africa’ of which Belgium, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Sweden are part.			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management through: - Grants - Procurement Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.3			

1.2 Summary of the Action

The Action directly supports the African Union Commission (AUC), National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) for telecommunications and their Regional Regulatory Organisations (RROs) for the achievement of key strategic EU-AU partnership priorities in the digital domain.

The Overall Objective of this action is to advance universal access to meaningful digital connectivity, to harness digital technologies and innovation to transform African societies and economies to promote Africa's integration, to break the digital divide, and to ensure Africa's ownership of modern tools of digital management in line with the African Union Digital Transformation Strategy.

The Specific(s) Objectives of this action are:

Specific Objective (Outcome) 1: To support the Implementation of the Digital Transformation Strategy (DTS) for Africa 2020-2030 at continental level

Specific Objective (Outcome) 2: To establish conducive regulations and promote regional convergence for affordable, secure, reliable and high-speed connectivity infrastructure and services

Specific Objective (Outcome) 3: To establish and harmonise broadband mapping systems in SSA countries.

This Action is aligned with the objectives of the Global Gateway strategy and the *Joint Communication Towards a Comprehensive Strategy with Africa*, through which the EU is seeking to boost smart, clean and secure links in digital, energy and transport sectors and to strengthen health, education and research systems across the world. It contributes to the Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package announced at the EU-AU Summit in February 2022, with an overall contribution to connectivity flagship areas (investments in first mile, middle mile, and last mile connectivity). It is also aligned with the 'EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024' 'New Technologies: harnessing opportunities and addressing challenges'.¹

The Action will contribute to the fulfilment of the EU Gender Action Plan 2021-2025 (GAP III), in particular to its thematic area of engagement 'Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation' and 'Promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women' It is also directly relevant to Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality Education) 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Activities and objectives under SO2 of this Action were identified and formulated with EU Member States, specifically Sweden and Luxembourg, within the Africa Branch of the Digital for Development Hub (D4D Hub).

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

Ensuring universal connectivity has become an imperative for most countries that are striving to compete in a globalised and digitalised world, to empower citizens, and to address some of the most pressing challenges of our time. In light of this, the Global Gateway defines digital transformation, and in particular investments on digital infrastructure, as one of the key geopolitical priorities of the European Union (EU). Programmes such as the Policy and Regulatory Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA)², AfricaConnect, and the Team Europe Action Data Governance in Africa are among the most important initiatives supporting African institutions in digitalising their economy and society, for the benefit of businesses and citizens alike. The EU is increasingly committed to connecting countries and regions with hardware investments that will make digital technologies and services accessible to all throughout the continent. Digital innovation and technology should be incorporated in new education priorities to build innovative teaching and learning approaches that expand access to online learning resources to all children, including the most disadvantaged and vulnerable.³

According to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has a rate of fixed-broadband subscriptions of only 1%, with only 40% of the population having used the Internet in 2022, compared to a global average of 66%. The digital divide is also related to the diversified degree of access to internet in urban and rural areas, with two third urban dwellers being online, compared to just one third of individuals living in rural areas.⁴ Women and girls are most at risk of exclusion, along with people with disabilities, the elderly, the economically marginalised or refugees. Sub-Saharan Africa has among the widest gender gaps in mobile internet use in the world, with 933 million women not using mobile internet services (37% in Sub-Saharan Africa).⁵ The gender technology gap also negatively impacts countries' potential for economic growth and development.

Lessons learned from cooperation and a review of the implementation of the AU DTS indicate the importance of accelerating the transition to an African Digital Single Market and sectoral ICT integration (e.g., health, education,

¹ EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024

² [Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa \(PRIDA\)](#)

³ African Union, UNECA, AfDB and UNDP, 2022 Africa Sustainable Development Report

⁴ ITU, Measuring Digital Development, Facts and Figures 2022

⁵ World Bank Group, Accelerating Gender Equality in Digital Development, 2021

agriculture), expanding access to affordable broadband infrastructure, accelerating the harmonisation of policies, regulations and legislations, reducing cyber threats, facilitating digital identity and personal data protection, promoting ethical Artificial Intelligence, while ensuring inclusive digital literacy and skills. Experience further indicates the need for strengthening the capacities of the AU, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and their Member States (MS) to play greater roles in intensifying, steering and governing the digital transformation of countries and regions within the scope of their mandate. This is especially relevant when considering that an effective integration of digital transformation of a country or region implies an overall restructuring of the socio-economic system, which requires combined efforts from the public and the private sectors.

As laid out in the DTS, the AUC provides assistance to the RECs and AU MS on diverse aspects of digitalisation with a focus on the DTS foundation pillars (policy and regulation, digital infrastructure, digital skills, digital governance, digital innovation and entrepreneurship). Within the scope of this Action, the AUC will focus on the implementation of digital strategies on agriculture, education and health, along with initiatives in cross-cutting areas - namely digital content, digital ID, emerging technologies, cybersecurity and Research & Development. Digital strategies in health, education, agriculture⁶ that were developed with the support of the previous PRIDA project, promote policy harmonisation to fast track the African Digital Single Market, promote the evolution of human-centric⁷ Artificial Intelligence (AI) and accelerate Africa's participation in global Internet Governance discussions. This demands for support to the AUC on the core DTS topics.

To manage the impact that digital technologies have on citizens, companies and the economy at whole in such a fast-evolving market, it is imperative for the public sector to exercise its regulatory mandate on telecommunications. This Action aims to bolster the capacity of telecommunication NRAs and RROs as key actors mandated to promote and regulate investments in digital infrastructure, as well as to enhance partnerships with the AUC and Smart Africa as key regional actors. Over the past decade, the AU and Smart Africa have emerged as the main and complementary interlocutors on digital, combining geographic scope and political backing to work across the continent. Through engaging with both of these regional bodies, the EU aims to contribute to the debate on human-centric digital transformation in Africa.

Telecommunications NRAs are State authorities that are legally independent of private sector companies and, in some countries, from the Government. In practice, NRAs act as promoters of competition, affordability, consumer interests and innovation, while ensuring regulatory compliance of operators. Their proper functioning becomes particularly essential when telecommunications service providers exercise considerable market power, which may result in an unbalanced investment climate. At regional level, NRAs in Africa are grouped into RROs, which have the overall role of mediating and promoting cross-border coordination, networking, knowledge exchanges and consistency between their member NRAs to stimulate legislative harmonisation within their region. Resulting from this coordination, they can take the lead in developing joint guidelines, opinions, recommendations, common positions, best practices and methodologies. In this sense, the role of RROs is ultimately to support institutional capacity of NRAs and inspire legislative harmonisation within their regions. The scope of this Action focuses on supporting four RROs with a mandate on Western, Eastern, Central and Southern Africa. Their membership often overlaps to some extent with the regional economic communities but they have often been established through different procedures, different types of legal entities and with differing mandates. The RROs often also engage in information exchanges with different thematic regional organisations, which entail opportunities for regulatory synergies between cross-cutting policy areas, such as e-commerce, investment policy, and competition law. RROs have the potential of becoming major players in modern ICT regulation in Africa, thus empowered to serve as regional counterparts of the EU and the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communication (BEREC)⁸.

⁶ The digital education strategy has been adopted by the Specialized Technical Committee, while the health and agriculture strategies have not yet been adopted. Any support in this area is contingent upon the adoption by the start of the project.

⁷ The European Union expects Artificial Intelligence (AI) to significantly improve the lives of citizens and bring major benefits to society and the economy. The main vision characterising the EU approach is the creation of human-centric AI, which ensures AI works for people and protects fundamental rights. The EU approach to AI also involves supporting the EU's technological and industrial capacity and AI uptake across the economy, and preparing for socio-economic changes.

⁸ Regulation (EU) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 establishing the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC) and the Agency for Support for BEREC (BEREC Office), amending Regulation (EU) 2015/2120 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1211/2009

In the European Union, BEREC is the regional telecommunications regulation body mandated to assist the Commission and the NRAs from the EU Member States (MS) in the implementation of the EU telecoms rules. It also gives advice to European institutions and complements the regulatory tasks of national authorities at European level.

Broadband mapping systems are tools in support of public authorities to identify the gaps in coverage, quality, affordability and uptake of digital infrastructures. These systems can be broadly defined as ‘any digitalised information system that gathers, structures and represents geo-referenced data about the reach or quality of telecommunication/ICT networks in a given geographical area. A broadband mapping system may include an infrastructure, service or investment layer, or a combination of those’.^[1] In practice, mapping broadband is a prerequisite for investment in sustainable, inclusive infrastructure that leaves no one behind, to identify connectivity gaps and to enhance network security and resilience. When supplemented by application of open data policies, broadband mapping systems are key to achieve universal broadband access. Europe has emerged as a leader in broadband mapping due to EU efforts to harmonise approaches among its 27 MS in the recent decades. The European Commission, BEREC, and several European NRAs have developed solid expertise, leveraging broadband mapping systems to generate investments in broadband infrastructure.

The Action is aligned with the priorities set under the Global Gateway strategy launched in December 2021 and the *Joint Communication Towards a Comprehensive Strategy with Africa* launched in 2020, particularly in relation to the importance of boosting digital infrastructure investments and regulatory action for digital transformation. It contributes to the Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package announced at the EU-AU Summit in February 2022, with an overall contribution to connectivity flagship areas (investments in first mile, middle mile, and last mile connectivity). Expanding initiatives to map network coverage and infrastructure is also one of the Policy Recommendations for the Decade of Action of the UN Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development.

2.2 Problem Analysis

The Institutional Architecture for the Implementation of DTS 2022-2030 highlight the central role of the AUC in accelerating the implementation of the DTS, particularly with a focus on achieving meaningful universal connectivity, boosting digital literacy and skills, fast-tracking the development of a Digital Single Market within the Context of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and deepening integration of digital technologies in key sectors like health, agriculture, education. Policy and regulatory harmonisation within the context of the African Digital Single Market and capacity in human-centric approach to Artificial Intelligence and ability of public, private, academia and civil society to participate in global digitalisation matters relevant to the continent including Internet Governance remain critical for fast-tracking the implementation of the DTS.

Sound policy and regulatory frameworks for broadband need developing at national level; however such work cannot be done in silos and needs to be harmonised at continental and regional level. Europe learned from its ‘Digital Single Market’ strategy that harmonisation at regional or continental level plays a crucial role in laying the foundation for a truly integrated market for ICT services. After a successful series of sub-regional policy, legislative and regulatory harmonisation initiatives there is a need to move one step further by supporting NRAs to effectively implement these frameworks as well as scale up these initiatives to a continental level. Within the context and support of the EU-funded PRIDA project, the AUC has developed the draft comprehensive strategy to create an enabling policy and regulatory environment conducive to integrating Africa into a Single Digital Market by 2030. The strategy presents a vision, strategic conceptual framework, recommended actions, and implementation plan/roadmap between 2023 and 2030 to promote the necessary legal and regulatory conditions towards an African Single Digital Market by 2030.

Moreover, the importance of the African continent is not properly reflected in ongoing discussions in the global internet governance debate. By engaging at various levels of Internet Governance Fora (IGF) on the national, regional, and continental levels, African issues will be promoted as a priority. This in turn has the potential to make global internet policies and rules more appropriate to the African context and create a more viable and conducive environment for ICT. Through the PRIDA project, the AUC came up with an implementation strategy informed by 3 commissioned studies, and subsequent implementation to primarily support 23 AU MS that had not held any IGF as at the end of 2019. The PRIDA project supported content creation for the IGF courses, the schools of IG in

selected countries, and capacity building, support in setting-up national IGFs etc. AU MS are beneficiaries, but it also benefits a diverse stakeholders groups (academia, technical community, public and private sector). The work in relation to IG envisions a streamlined Internet public policy development processes at national, regional, and continental levels culminating in influential and coordinated participation of the African Continent in Global Internet Governance debates. Throughout the project, the need to continue supporting existing, struggling and fledgling IGFs and schools of IGF became evident, while working needs to be continue with stakeholders that have never held IGFs.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has a tremendous potential to benefit African citizens, economy and society, and likewise poses a number of challenges and dangers. To date, a continental strategy is lacking to guide the efforts of MS to develop emerging technologies like AU. The DTS has a dedicated chapter on AI where it calls upon AU MS to explore ways in which emerging technologies can be harnessed to support digital transformation, and to that end, a Working Group on AI has been established in October 2019. In the context of PRIDA, the EU supported AI studies particularly in the priority sectors of agriculture health and education, which can be integrated to support a continental strategy.

Achieving the vision of digital transformation for Africa requires appropriate policies and an enabling environment with critical policy reforms to the foundation pillars and, particularly the critical sectors to drive digital transformation. Previously, the PRIDA project has supported the development of the sectoral strategies and associated implementation plans in three of the AU priority fields of Education, Health and Agriculture. The DTS Education strategy has been adopted by the AUC STC in September 2022, while the drafts other two strategies are final and pending adoption. Technical Assistance is needed to support the implementation of digital strategies in health, education, agriculture and that were developed with the support of the PRIDA project. The current intervention specifically focuses on allocation of resources for implementation of the existing strategies, as opposed to development of new strategies in the priority critical sectors to build on the momentum.

While the potential for digital technologies to be a force for development is significant, inadequate connectivity in Africa implies that governments and citizens (women, men, girls and boys, and persons with disabilities) are unable to fully benefit from the transformative potential of digitalisation. The level and quality of ICT connectivity, i.e. broadband infrastructure, is only one of the constraints for digital inclusion: investment in infrastructure alone is not sufficient to achieve and sustain digital transformation. To address digital barriers, there is a need to focus also on meaningful connectivity, considering both the physical ICT infrastructure as well as the ability of all citizens to access and make use of the infrastructure. Combined efforts at the level of the African Union, multi-stakeholder regional organisations such as Smart Africa, and national and regional regulators are key to unlocking development potential through ensuring well-regulated digital economy that is nurtured by an enabling policy environment. Failure in achieving an efficient ICT regulatory structure does not only lead to poor quality of ICT services and connectivity, but also slows down development and widens the digital divide. Closing the regulatory gap is a prerequisite for addressing investment and connectivity gaps.

Specific issues on ICT regulation that can be tackled at national and regional level at various degrees include: lack of institutional capacities of NRAs and well calibrated relationships between the NRAs, ministries and other regulatory authorities with overlapping mandates; lack of institutional and operational capacity of RROs; cross-border network interference; lack of rules and enforcement on customer/consumer protection allowing service providers to not effectively respond to customer complaints; limited competition which leads to high rates for connectivity; lack of infrastructure sharing which leads to double investment and expensive connectivity; underutilisation or ineffective utilisation of universal access funds to address the digital divides; lack of security standards for connectivity infrastructure creating cyber security risks for citizens and countries; lack of regulatory frameworks for interpersonal communication or intermediary ICT services that make use of connectivity infrastructure but are not managed by traditional telecommunications service providers.

According to research carried out by ITU, only 23 countries out of 44 in SSA collect some form of digitalised information or statistical documentation on digital infrastructure. The report further identifies a lack of geo-referenced and digital broadband mapping system that makes official government data available to public audience in the region. An increased and widespread interest has however reportedly been raised by African public administrations in developing and leveraging such tools. The lack of broadband mapping systems prevents administrations from having a clear understanding of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure within and across countries, hindering their ability to identify gaps, allocate financial resources and investments efficiently and create

the conditions for greater investments from the private sector while ensuring fair competition. Without functioning broadband mapping systems, administrations are operating with little access to data and insightful information, leading to sub-optimal decision making. African countries are at different stages of advancement in broadband mapping, and face numerous challenges in the set up and effective use and maintenance of broadband mapping systems:

SSA countries still lack enabling national and regional ICT legislation and regulation that support the deployment of a well-functioning national broadband mapping system. Current regulations often do not provide adequate protection for collected data, nor do they legally require stakeholders (service providers, government agencies, and consumers) to collect and report on the data they own, nor do they offer clear incentives for data sharing needed for accurate broadband maps.

A general lack of awareness and understanding exists in the SSA region of the benefits of open data and open-source solutions for broadband mapping, leading therefore to a lack of political will to embrace these proposed solutions. Lack of awareness on open-source software solutions often locks NRAs and Ministries in expensive proprietary solutions that do not provide enough flexibility/ context specific customisation of the tool. Furthermore, telecom operators and service providers are not producing data to a common standard agreed upon by public authorities, leading to a lack of interoperability among different data sources.

SSA countries face challenges in implementing and maintaining broadband mapping systems due to limited technical capacity and expertise. Specialised trainings required including for developing and analysing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data are not widely available in the region.

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

- The **African Union Commission**, will, together with the EU, guide and facilitate the development of the continental component of the Action strictly pertaining to the implementation of the DTS, as the overall coordinator for the Implementation of the DTS 2020-2030 and responsible for ICT development across the continent (SO 1).
- **Regional Economic Communities (RECs)** will be key contributors to the implementation of the DTS and the uptake of outcomes around ICT regulation and broadband mapping. They may promote policy coordination and harmonisation, leveraging their roles as facilitators of regional dialogue, to incorporate results of the Action into existing processes and strategic agendas.
- **Smart Africa** will facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnerships between European and African stakeholders for the achievement of joint priorities on digital transformation (SO 1).
- The **African Telecommunications Union (ATU)**, as a result of its convening and agenda setting role, can provide strategic guidance on connectivity policy and infrastructure projects in the region and support the programme in the dissemination of project results (SO 2 and 3).
- **Regional Regulatory Organisations (RROs)**, particularly the Assemblée des régulateurs des télécommunications de l'Afrique Centrale (ARTAC), the East African Communications Entities Organisation (EACO), the West African Telecommunication Regulators Assembly (WATRA) and the Communication Regulators' Association of Southern Africa (CRASA), will facilitate regional dialogue on ICT regulation issues with a cross-border nature, as well as support the implementation of national activities targeting NRAs both on regulatory issues and broadband mapping (SO2 primarily, and 3).
- **National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs)** will be enabled to address specific ICT regulatory issues through activities at national and cross-border and regional level, as bodies mandated to oversee and implement ICT regulation in target countries. Selected NRAs will receive additional specific support for the establishment and implementation of broadband mapping systems.
- **Ministries from AU Member States in charge of ICT/Infrastructure Development** will benefit from the Action by taking part in activities and consultations at continental level for the implementation of the DTS, as well as taking advantage of increased capacity of NRAs and RROs. This will allow for advanced development of national ICT policy and regulation and related harmonisation at regional level. Through support targeting the establishment and implementation of broadband mapping systems, Ministers will be able to identify, steer and contribute to the planning of ICT infrastructure investments.
- **BEREC** will participate to the implementation of the Action by providing a network of expertise on various ICT regulatory issues and facilitating exchanges with EU NRAs.
- **European ICT NRAs**, will contribute to the implementation of national and regional activities supporting

African RROs and NRAs on ICT regulation. Particularly: PTS, the Swedish Post and Telecom Authorities and ILR, the Luxembourgish Institute for Regulation.

- **FRATEL, the *Réseau Francophone de la Régulation des Télécommunications*** will provide a network of french-speaking experts on ICT regulation, including from Luxembourg and other European MS, to support African NRAs and RROs.
- **Private sector** players such as telecom operators will benefit from availability of broadband mapping systems that will increase accuracy of information on connectivity infrastructure gaps and long-term increased evidence-based digital infrastructure investments. Suppliers and telecom operators will be invited on a needs-based level to participate in SO2 to give an industry perspective on ICT Regulation.
- **Civil Society** will be encouraged to be part of consultations around digital transformation and ICT regulation, with specific emphasis on issues pertaining to access to digital services and connectivity.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective of this action is to advance universal access to meaningful digital connectivity, in line with the African Union Digital Transformation Strategy 2020-2030.

The Specific(s) Objective(s) of this action are to:

Specific Objective (Outcome) 1: improve the implementation of the Digital Transformation Strategy (DTS) for Africa 2020-2030 at continental level.

Specific Objective (Outcome) 2: improve regulations and regional convergence for affordable, secure, reliable and high-speed connectivity infrastructure and services.

Specific Objective (Outcome) 3: establish and harmonise broadband mapping systems in SSA countries.

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

Contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1):

1.1 Improved capacities of AUC in supporting selected AU MS for implementing thematic digital strategies in education; health and agriculture

1.2 Improved capacities of AUC and its Working Group on Artificial Intelligence for developing Human-centric Artificial Intelligence

1.3 Enhanced capacities of AUC to implement the AU Digital Policy and Regulatory Strategy for Africa's Single Digital Market

1.4 Improved capacity of African stakeholders for active participation in the global internet governance national capacities for Internet Governance

1.5 Strengthened Regional multistakeholder partnerships between Europe and Africa in key areas of digital transformation

Contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2):

2.1 Improved capacity of NRAs for developing and implementing conducive national regulatory frameworks on telecommunications in SSA

2.2. Improved capacity of RROs for advancing regional and cross-border collaboration and harmonisation on telecommunication regulations in SSA

Contributing to Outcome 3 (or Specific Objective 3):

3.1 Improved capacities of national regulators for conducive policy making for the establishment and effective use of harmonised broadband mapping systems

3.2 Improved capacities of regional and national regulators on open-source solutions and open data practices and standards for broadband mapping systems in SSA

3.3 Improved technical capacity of targeted NRAs and ministries in charge of using and maintaining broadband mapping projects, incl. required installation of hardware and software equipment for broadband mapping deployment.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities relating to Output 1.1

- Development of studies and reports to support the AUC in the implementation and domestication of integrated digital policies and regulations at continental level.⁹
- Support to mapping of digital connectivity for the Education, Health, and Agriculture Sector

Activities relating to Output 1.2

- Support to the AUC to assist the AU Working Group on AI with Secretariat support and provision of technical expertise in human-centric AI
- Develop a Continental Strategy on Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Organise workshops on AI Governance and use Cases

Activities relating to Output 1.3

- Technical Assistance to the AUC to implement the AU Digital Policy and Regulatory Strategy for Africa's Single Digital Market in specific areas to be identified.
- Support Member States in developing National Plans in line with AU Strategy on Enabling Policy and Regulatory Framework for Africa's Digital Single Market
- Coordinate and Facilitate the Implementation of AU Strategy on Policy, Legal and Regulatory Frameworks for Africa's Digital Single Market

Activities relating to Output 1.4

- Support to the AUC to organise and create new National Schools of Internet Governance
- Support to the AUC to set up and organise new Internet Governance Fora in AU MS.

Activities relating to Output 1.5

- Identification of key areas for enhanced multistakeholder dialogue around digital governance in between Africa and Europe.
- Facilitation of outreach and partnerships between European and African key public and private actors around shared priorities.

Activities relating to Output 2.1:

- Support to NRAs in the identification of needs and priorities for ICT regulation development and implementation, in cooperation with RROs;
- Training of SSA NRAs in Europe in the framework of peer-to-peer cooperation with EU regulators;
- Support to NRAs during the planning and implementation of 'change initiatives', i.e. strategic projects on key institutional priorities set within the Action;
- Training sessions specifically focusing on gender and inclusion in ICT regulation;
- Facilitation of EU-African multistakeholder exchanges on ICT regulation involving EU and NRAs.

Activities relating to Output 2.2:

- Technical assistance to RROs targeted at strengthening their role as coordinating bodies for regional harmonisation of ICT policies and practices;
- Support facilitation of multistakeholder knowledge exchanges on ICT regulation involving EU and RROs;
- Support to RROs in the identification of key areas of ICT regulation of regional and cross-border level;
- Support to RROs for the dissemination of regulatory best practices among NRAs;
- Support to RROs in the collection of statistical information from NRAs and facilitation of regional and inter-regional knowledge sharing;
- Support to RROs in organising training and workshops on regional and cross-border ICT regulatory issues;
- Support to RROs for the design of input for regulatory work policies, frameworks and guidelines.

⁹ The majority of funds for the execution of this activity (organisational aspects, translation etc.) shall be provided through the AUCSP to AUC, a complementary arrangement, as indicated in the organisational set-up. This only refers to possible limited activities of the TA.

Activities relating to Output 3.1:

- Identification of ecosystem and regulatory gaps at country level with delivery of national policy analyses;
- Provision of targeted, country-specific recommendations to support beneficiaries in transposition/integration of regulatory measures;
- Policy promotion and advocacy for take up of broadband mapping across SSA region, harmonisation, and sharing of best practices.

Activities relating to Output 3.2:

- Identification and promotion of common data standards;
- Build knowledge and promotion of open data practices and open-source tools for broadband mapping, showcasing benefits from European experience and creating incentives for take up;
- Build community of practice: identification of countries adhering to open data approach/sharing knowledge which can advance agenda at SSA regional level;
- Provision of guidelines for creation of national database with available infrastructure and other related available data layers at national level.

Activities relating to Output 3.3:

- Delivery of tailored technical trainings/capacity building programmes focusing on technical skills required to use, maintain and update broadband mapping projects;
- Issuing of Certifications and accreditation programmes attesting skills acquirement;
- Provision of guidelines/support to ensure NRAs' ownership and sustainability of the broadband mapping systems in the long run;
- Development of country specific technical specifications based on previously conducted analyses/recommendations;
- Installation of national broadband mapping systems through procurement of equipment and services (hardware and software) in the selected countries, ensuring interoperability and harmonised approaches at sub-regional/SSA level;
- Technical support to NRAs for effective use of installed software.

The commitment of the EU's contribution to the Team Europe Initiative to which this action refers, will be complemented by other contributions from Team Europe members. It is subject to the formal confirmation of each respective member's meaningful contribution as early as possible. In the event that the TEIs and/or these contributions do not materialise, the EU action may continue outside a TEI framework.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Outcomes of the SEA screening (relevant for budget support and strategic-level interventions)

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that no further action was required.

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 need for further assessment).

Broadband mapping systems are instrumental for the optimisation of digital infrastructure investments, contributing to reduced environmental footprint of transmission networks and offering an opportunity to effectively link digital, energy and transport infrastructures. At project level, with regard to the technical implementation of the broadband mapping systems, the implementing partner will manage the procurement tendering process taking into account the DG JRC Green Public Procurement Guidelines, incorporating environmental considerations in technical specifications where relevant.

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 the Action is relevant to the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment and girls, in all their diversity. Throughout the assessment of barriers related to access to digital connectivity and services, particular attention will be paid to the role of women, girls and boys in all their diversity and persons with disabilities, in digital transformation. Moreover, activities focusing on support to NRAs and RROs will also include specific capacity building activities on gender inclusion for ICT regulation.

Considering that CSOs focusing on gender issues are mostly absent from decision-making processes and arenas, specific attention will be placed on ensuring a gender balance participation at output level, ensuring women's and men's equal participation to events, forums, structured dialogues etc. Gender data will be collected in order to track progress and identify potential hubs for unconscious gender bias.

Human Rights

In all activity and policy formulation processes, as well the planning of implementation modalities, a human-rights based approach will be mainstreamed and an inclusive, human-centric participation by various stakeholder groups, including civil society, women's organisations, other CDOs and women human rights defenders, girls and boys, in all their diversity, feminist organisations. This will be complemented by additional capacity development activities with the aim of the mainstreaming of human-rights and fundamental-freedom considerations into policy dialogue and implementation. The Action will also contribute to improving transparency and accountability of service delivery, in line with the working principles of the human rights-based approach. In the long-term, the action contributes to removing barriers to and creating better enabling environment to advance rights-based systems across the rights-holders.

Human rights, democracy and the rule of law, as well as a gender responsive approach, will remain at the heart of the EU's response.¹⁰ The action will be taking into account the principles of non-discrimination, meaningful participation, transparency, accountability and respect to all human rights. Human Rights mainstreaming will equate with implementing the programme in accordance with defined EU values that are relevant to protection and promotion of fundamental rights in the digital economy.

In today's rapidly advancing technological landscape, it is critical that human rights considerations are at the forefront of technological development. Women's involvement in technology can help to ensure that these considerations are taken into account, leading to more equitable and just outcomes for all. Therefore, it is not just a matter of gender diversity, but a matter of human rights to encourage and support women's participation in technology development.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that the Action does not principally targets to specifically advance inclusion of people with disability, although individuals with disability might be among beneficiaries of this Action. Whenever possible, the Action will contribute to making visible the situation of persons living with disability by using indicators disaggregated by disability status, and by promoting the collection and use of disaggregated data for policy making. The Action will ensure that rights of persons with disabilities will be respected, and the planned activities related with formulation of projects, evaluations and others are disability inclusive. The Action will encourage partners and programme participants to take the initiatives to protect persons with disabilities and invite organisations representing people with disabilities.

Reduction of inequalities

Support to ICT regulation and the establishment and implementation of broadband mapping systems will lead to increased and improved connectivity, contributing to bridging the digital divide within the SSA region, within SSA countries and among people. Access to connectivity networks, combined with services and applications enabled by the connectivity will boost socio economic development and contribute to the participation of underserved communities to the SSA digital economy.

Democracy

Data and information processing contributing to a well-regulated digital economy are central to the strengthening of democratic institutions and practices. Access to data, especially open data, can create increased transparency and accountability, thereby strengthening non-governmental actors to hold the Government to account. Therefore, the

¹⁰ EU [Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024](#).

Action includes targeted interventions with both Government and non-governmental actors.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

There is no direct link between conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience and the probable interventions of this Action.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Digital technologies and open data can be used to amplify and better coordinate policy responses, for example around the tracking of disease or natural disasters. Predictive data analytics (embedding gender sensitive monitoring, use of sex-disaggregated data, and gender sensitive indicators) can help increase disaster preparedness in Africa. The Action might explore potential activities and collaborations with relevant stakeholders indirectly addressing this topic.

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	Political instability or changing political climate in beneficiary countries can lead to de-prioritisation/ affect beneficiaries' participation/commitment to programme objectives.	Low	Medium	For SO 2, the advanced scheduling mechanism will have the possibility of offering NRAs to be on 'waiting lists' to participate in programme rounds, should an NRA on short notice fail to participate. For SO 3, selection criteria for the beneficiary countries will include considerations on political context as well as the level of stability/country risk to maximise the chances of successful project implementation.
External Environment	Unforeseen economic downturns/external shocks, including travel restrictions related to pandemic outbreaks or national hazards events can affect project implementation.	Low	Medium	Programme will ensure flexibility to move any onsite activities online in order to prevent disrupting workflow. Careful monitoring of socio-economic environment and trends which might negatively impact project implementation, incl. thanks to close coordination with country authorities.
People and Organisation	Limited resources/ institutional capacity of regional and national authorities and low interactions between relevant stakeholders can affect achievement of desired programme impact.	Medium	High	For SO1, engagement of AU staff, RECs and core stakeholders in Member States in a common definition of programmes and activities. The Action will begin with building the AU and REC staff's capacities on fast-tracked digital transformation key sectors, policies and regulation for DSM and human-centric AI issues in the region For SO 2, resources and support will be provided, including to RROs to enhance their capacity to support the delivery of national

				<p>strategic change initiatives.</p> <p>For SO 3, capacity to receive support will be assessed before start of the project implementation. Activities will include capacity building to increase delivery capacity of targeted institutions. Programme will ensure stakeholder interactions engagement and information sharing/dialogue among key players.</p>
People and Organisation	Lack of political will to implement measures can hamper achievement of project objectives related to the development of broadband mapping systems.	Medium	Medium	<p>For SO 3, strong political commitment of national authorities to project objectives is a key selection criteria and seen as a pre-condition for participation. In general, to ensure effective stakeholder involvement, the programme will adopt solid accountability measures, by clearly define decision making, responsibilities and reporting lines at the beginning of the project.</p>
Planning, processes and systems	Procurement and implementation delays in the execution of tenders for contracts and in the installation of broadband mapping systems by the vendors.	Medium	Medium	<p>Planning and preparation of high-quality tender documentation to minimise the number of questions from Contractors. Prior market analysis/assessment to identify potential vendors. Regular monitoring of progress of work and validation of software development. Final assessment and quality check of installed equipment.</p>
Planning, processes and systems	Insufficient basic infrastructure/lack of infrastructure capacity to host the hardware components necessary to host the broadband mapping system within the NRAs.	Medium	Medium	<p>Proposal of alternative solutions, such as paying for sever, using cloud services may be adopted to solve this problem depending on the analysis of whether the beneficiary country possesses sufficient infrastructure or not.</p>
Planning, processes and systems	<p>Unavailability of data in the required format and/or poor quality.</p> <p>Lack of enforcement power of the NRA/Ministry to collect the data, including in the right format from the private sector</p> <p>Reluctance of targeted beneficiaries to share information/Change of country's position on the subject of the open-data approach</p>	High	High	<p>Definition of protocols for data collection and formats to be defined within the technical specifications developed under Output 2; Ensure harmonisation through data standards, and that data formats are of quality in technical requirements.</p> <p>Policy recommendations delivered will support establishment of viable legal conditions. Selection criteria for beneficiaries could contain enforcement power of NRA/ministries to collect data from private sector.</p> <p>Flexibility with adoption of different strategies and targets to ensure impact according to country's degree of adherence to open-data approach. Adherence to open data approach consideration in selection of beneficiaries' process.</p>

	Inability of NRA to own/replicate system once deal with vendor expires, relating to issues of sustainability	Medium	Medium	Capacity building to ensure sustainability and ownership of the project by beneficiary countries will be part of the project, incl. by ensuring trainings by vendor.
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Lessons Learnt:

Lessons learnt drawn from past/ongoing programmes financed by MS on support to ICT regulation point to the need to adopt a needs-based, output driven approach. This means that particularly for activities under Specific Objective 2, support and peer-to peer learning with European partners activities will be solidly based on the needs expressed by participating SSA NRAs and RROs, and that activities will be tailor made to support the effective implementation of concrete strategic digital projects. In general, as a result of extensive previous experience on ICT support, the programme builds on a collaboration model that is agile and flexible for adaptation. It will be important to involve all relevant policy makers/administrative national entities to ensure information exchange and their positive collaboration for the effective implementation of the programme. Regional regulatory cooperation is well established and works well in several regions of the world. In the European Union, the cooperation is deeply embedded in the framework for telecom regulation and in the working methods of NRAs. Under the regulatory organisations, foremost BEREC, NRAs engage in developing the regulatory thinking through working groups and high-level discussions. The work in BEREC, done by the BEREC Office, plays an important role for harmonisation in the EU. Harmonisation is an important tool to stimulate innovation and investments. In order to leverage the positive experience of the EU collaboration, e.g., this Action will be implemented in collaboration with EU regulators within BEREC's network to support both African NRAs and RROs to enhance effective collaboration in their respective regions. This harmonisation effort will also be aligned with other EU initiatives, such as PRIDA (and therefore activities under Specific Objective 1), which supports harmonisation and regulatory alignment efforts at AUC level.

With regard to Specific Objective 3, the European experience on broadband mapping shows that the sustainable use of broadband mapping systems is dependent on cooperation between key stakeholders of the broadband connectivity ecosystem, particularly between NRAs, relevant ministries and government authorities and the private sector. For this reason, the project will boost multi-stakeholder exchanges, which are pivotal for achieving the desired project results. In addition, political willingness/commitment as well as the capacity to engage in project activities of NRAs will be key criteria for the selection of target countries.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action lies in : the relevance of a continental enabling environment for inclusive digital transformation, ensuring harmonised ICT regulation and support to frameworks enabling digital infrastructure investments in continuity with the Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA); the importance of solid regulations governing ICT, implemented and enforced by independent regulators mandated to ensure compliance with governmental policies and regulations, to promote efficient investment, fair competition and protect the interests of end-users; the acknowledgement that the complexity and constant evolution of technologies requires regulators to gain a timely understanding of technical and commercial aspects that can affect the deployment of digital infrastructure and the delivery of digital services.

The intervention logic for Activities directly targeting the AUC under Specific Objective 1, is that the availability of Technical Assistance will increase the capacities of the AUC and by extension through the AUC, RECs and AU MS to fast-track the implementation of the DTS that, in turn, improve access to information, capabilities and jobs by citizens, business and institutions to catalyse economic growth. Continental harmonisation of policies, legislations and regulation will strengthen trade and investment. Improved voices of African stakeholders in global Internet Governance issues will promote access, data protection and cyber safety with far reaching impact on use of digital technologies for economic growth.

At the same time, cooperation with the Smart Africa Secretariat will enhance EU-African partnerships with key public and private stakeholders active in digital transformation in Africa, especially with the 36 countries that are members of the Smart Africa Alliance to date.

The primary partners for most of activities under Specific Objective 2 are NRAs and relevant RROs, specifically WATRA, ARTAC, CRASA and EACO. Here, targeted needs-driven support to NRAs and RROs will be given on

ICT regulatory issues that are relevant at national and regional level. The Action will make extensive use of the peer-to-peer cooperation modality to enhance partnerships between EU and African regulators. This component of the project will be based on Team Europe ICT expertise, for which several EU regulators will be mobilised based on their technical and linguistic expertise, under the leadership of Swedish (PTS) and Luxembourgish (ILR) ICT regulators. A non-exhaustive list of priority areas have been identified jointly by the Commission and MS based on Global Gateway Priorities. These include: ICT competition; roaming and interconnection; cost models for fixed and mobile infrastructure sharing, non-price regulation, such as on transparency, quality of service, access and non-discrimination; price regulation, including accounting separation, and regulation on net neutrality; business market regulation; end-user protection; broadband deployment; spectrum management, allocation and migration; network and spectrum sharing; numbering and Internet Protocol (IP) addressing; network infrastructure security; universal access funds. The underlying logic is that if partnerships between EU regulators and African NRAs and RROs are strengthened, then these will drive alignment on ICT regulatory issues and therefore provide opportunities for cooperation and sustainable joint EU-African investments in digital connectivity. Project activities in countries for the first work stream will consider two key aspects: 1) coherent integration of the support activities into a digital package of EU interventions and investments (coherence with other EU-funded initiatives on digital sought, where applicable); and 2) capacity of NRAs to ensure the effective implementation of ICT regulation within and beyond project support. Activities within the second regional work stream will however benefit all countries within the partner RROs, thus ensuring NRAs at any level of capacity are able to benefit from the programme.

Through activities falling under SO 3, the Action aims to equip public sector officials in national regulatory authorities and other entities in charge with the tools and capabilities necessary to pursue broadband mapping projects in a sustainable way, with the prospect of strengthening evidence-based decision-making practices in digital infrastructure investments, support prioritisation of investments needs for policy makers, investors and public funding partners, as well as the enhancement of network security and resilience. With targeted country level intervention and leveraging on the political commitment of selected national authorities to pioneer in setting high quality, sustainable and transparent national broadband mapping systems., the project aims to create regional 'champions' in the field of broadband mapping, kick-start the broadband mapping trend as well as to promote open source and open data best practices in SSA (disaggregated at least by sex). In addition to providing tailor made support at national level for selected beneficiaries right -holders, the project will seek regional dialogue, policy awareness and alignment, advocacy and sharing of best practices. The link with African Stakeholders such as the RROs, RECs and ATU for policy promotion and advocacy is key, leveraging these actors' role as convenors and facilitators of regional harmonisation and for the incorporation of project results into existing agendas.

The Action, particularly for activities under SO2, will implement a policy of gender inclusion and human rights approach in ICT regulation that all participating NRAs need to commit to non-discriminatory regulatory and day-to-day working practices. The assumption is that infrastructure, services and regulation when deployed equitably will benefit all. The Action will also be available for focus support on Universal Access Service, based on needs and demand from NRAs and RROs, as a targeted resource that will contribute to bringing connectivity to regions and communities that are underserved, including women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity, people living in the most vulnerable and marginalised situations. This is accompanied by the assumption that universal access will contribute to advancing gender equality.

Support to the establishment and implementation of broadband mapping systems will lead to increased and improved connectivity in underserved areas contributing to bridging the digital divide across SSA as well as at country level. The services and applications enabled by the connectivity access provided will boost socio-economic development and foster the participation of underserved and/or unconnected communities including women and girls to the SSA digital economy. At project level, the implementing partners will pay particular attention in ensuring gender balance throughout project activities.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe 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 (e): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (e): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To advance universal access to meaningful digital connectivity, in line with the African Union Digital Transformation Strategy 2020-2030.	1 GERF 1.9 ITU Individuals using the internet by country 2 Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology (SDG 9.c.1) by country 3 Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed (SDG 17.6.1) and country	1 TBD 2 TBD 3 TBD	1 TBD 2 TBD 3 TBD	1 Project Narrative Reports 2 ITU Reports 3 ITU Reports	Not applicable
Outcome 1	To improve the implementation of the Digital Transformation Strategy (DTS) for Africa 2020-2030 at continental level.	1.1 Rate of implementation of the planned activities 1.2 Average delay of the activities from the plan	1.1 TBD 1.2 TBD	1.1 TBD in inception phase of contract 1.2 TBD in inception phase of contract	1.1 and 1.2 DTS Implementation Performance Monitoring dashboard, annual reports	The coordination platform and the possess sufficient resources and a joint plan and performance assessment framework to monitor the implementation of the DTS 2020-2030 continuously

Outcome 2	To improve regulations and regional convergence for affordable, secure, reliable and high-speed connectivity infrastructure and services	<p>2.1 Number of countries supported by the EU to (a) develop and/or revise digital-related policies/regulations (**GERF 2.10 (a) OPSYS core indicator)</p> <p>2.2 Number of countries supported by the EU to implement digital-related policies/regulations (**GERF 2.10 (b) OPSYS core indicator)</p> <p>2.3. Number of countries that have improved the regulatory environment for affordable, secure, reliable and/or high-speed connectivity infrastructure and services</p>	<p>2.1 TBD</p> <p>2.2 TBD</p> <p>2.3 TBD</p>	<p>2.1 TBD in inception phase of contract</p> <p>2.2 TBD in inception phase of contract</p>	<p>2.1. Official policy and legal databases of the countries</p> <p>2.2. Reports of NRAs and assessments by RROs</p>	AU MS budget and invest sufficient funds for continuous monitoring of the policy, legal-regulatory improvements
Outcome 3	To establish and harmonise broadband mapping systems in Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries	<p>3.1 Number of countries developing and establishing geo-referenced digital broadband mapping systems in place</p> <p>3.2 Number of countries that have harmonised data sources and mechanisms for broadband mapping systems in the SSA region</p> <p>3.3 Level of data standardisation in the SSA region</p> <p>3.4 Number of countries that have accessible broadband mapping systems on the national regulators' websites</p> <p>3.5 Number of beneficiaries sharing data based on open data principles</p>	<p>3.1 TBD</p> <p>3.2 TBD</p> <p>3.3 TBD</p> <p>3.4 TBD</p>	<p>3.1 TBD in inception phase of contract</p> <p>3.2 TBD in inception phase of contract</p> <p>3.3 TBD in inception phase of contract</p> <p>3.4 TBD in inception phase of contract</p>	<p>3.1 Relevant NRA's reports; RROs' assessments and reports</p> <p>3.2 Relevant NRA's reports; RROs' assessments and reports</p> <p>3.3 World Bank Stats/ITU regional reporting</p> <p>3.4 Relevant NRA's reports; RROs' assessments and reports</p>	AU MS invest sufficient budgets to further implement and finalise the broadband mapping and data harmonisation

Output 1 relating to Outcome 1	1.1 Improved capacities of AUC in supporting selected AU MS for implementing thematic digital strategies in education; health and agriculture	1.1.1 Number of AU Member States' relevant stakeholders capable of developing, implementing and monitoring of digital strategies in education, health and agriculture, disaggregated by sex, country and institution 1.1.2 Number of meetings of the stakeholders' coordination platform supervising the Implementation Plan of the AU Digital Strategy with the support of the Action 1.1.3 Number of national sectorial DTS adopted through national decision-making organs in line with continental DTS	1.1.1 zero 1.1.2 zero 1.1.3 zero	1.1.1 TBD in inception phase of contracts 1.1.2. TBD in inception phase of contracts 1.1.3 5-10 per sector, but TBC in inception phase of contracts	1.1.1. Pre- and post-events assessments; Contract-level Reports 1.1.2. Memorandum or charter of the platform; minutes of the meetings 1.1.3. The draft policy or a legal act and discussion minutes with the stakeholders	AU, RECs and Member States facilitate events and participate in the development of digital strategies in key sectors
Output 2 relating to Outcome 1	1.2 Improved capacities of AUC and its Working Group on Artificial Intelligence for developing Human-centric Artificial Intelligence	1.2.1 Number of representatives of AUC and its Working Group on AI capable of developing Human Centric AI, disaggregated by sex and institution (**GERF 2.14 (a)) 1.2.2 Development and adoption of continental strategy on AI	1.2.1 zero 1.2.2 zero	1.2.1 four 1.2.2 timeframe TBD in inception phase of contracts	1.2.1. Pre- and post-events assessments 1.2.2. Position papers and their discussion minutes	AUC confirms that AI is a priority. AUC is a provider of Expertise to the AU Working group on AI rather than a pure Secretariat.
Output 3 Relating to Outcome 1	1.3 Enhanced capacities of AUC to implement the AU Digital Policy and Regulatory Strategy for Africa's Single Digital Market	1.3.1 Number of countries that adopt policy and regulatory recommendation of the single data market section of the Implementation Plan of the Harmonisation Strategy.	1.3.1 zero	1.3.1 five	1.3.1. The draft policy or a legal act and discussion minutes with the stakeholders	AUC, AFcftA Secretariat and Smart Africa works collaboratively in implementing the AU Implementation plan of the AU Continental Harmonisation Strategy on Policy and Regulatory Environment for Africa Digital Single Market

Output 4 Relating to Outcome 1	1.4 Improved capacity of African stakeholders for active participation in the global internet governance national capacities for Internet Governance	<p>1.4.1 Number of national schools of Internet Governance in the countries previously supported in the framework of PRIDA</p> <p>1.4.2 Number of new national schools of Internet in new countries not previously covered by PRIDA</p> <p>1.4.3 Number of National Internet Governance Fora in the countries previously supported in the framework of PRIDA</p> <p>1.4.4 Number of National Internet Governance Fora in new countries not previously covered by PRIDA</p>	<p>1.4.1 zero</p> <p>1.4.2 zero</p> <p>1.4.3 zero</p> <p>1.4.4 zero</p>	<p>1.4.1 sixteen</p> <p>1.4.2 eight</p> <p>1.4.3 eight</p> <p>1.4.3 ten</p>	<p>1.4.1. and 1.4.2. Documents related to the establishment of the National Schools of Internet Governance</p> <p>1.4.3. and 1.4.4. Platforms of National Internet Governance Fora, UN Reports, AUC website</p>	AU continue to include Internet Governance as a priority for its next yearly plans.
Output 5 Relating to Outcome 1	1.5 Strengthened regional multistakeholder partnerships between Europe and Africa in key areas of digital transformation	<p>1.5.1 Number of civil society, government and private sector participants in operational meetings organised by the EU-funded intervention to discuss shared priorities in digital governance.</p> <p>1.5.2 Number of key priority areas identified and for which collaboration is being planned.</p>	<p>1.5.1 zero</p> <p>1.5.2 zero</p>	<p>1.5.1 TBD in inception phase of contract</p> <p>1.5.2 TBD in inception phase of contract</p>	1. 5.1 and 1.5.2 Pre- and post-events assessments; Contract-level Reports	Substantial interest from partner countries across SSA regions to participate and collaborate on digital governance priorities.
Output 1 relating to Outcome 2	2.1 Improved capacity of NRAs for developing and implementing conducive national regulatory frameworks on telecommunications in SSA	<p>2.1.1 Number of NRAs that developed draft new regulatory and/or monitoring frameworks with the support of the Action</p> <p>2.1.2 Number of representatives of NRAs capable of developing and implementing conducive national regulatory frameworks on telecommunications, disaggregated into sex (**GERF 2.14 (a))</p>	<p>2.1.1 zero</p> <p>2.1.2 zero</p>	<p>2.1.1 TBD in inception phase of contract</p> <p>2.1.2 TBD in inception phase of contract</p>	<p>2.1.1. Draft regulatory and monitoring frameworks and minutes of their discussion with stakeholders</p> <p>2.1.2. Pre- and post-training assessments</p>	NRAs are committed and have sufficient capacity to engage in activities

Output 2 relating to Outcome 2	2.2 Improved capacity of RROs for advancing regional and cross-border collaboration and harmonisation on telecommunication regulations in SSA	2.2.1 Number of representatives of RROs with enhanced knowledge on cross-border collaboration and harmonisation of regulations on telecommunications, disaggregated by sex and RRO (**GERF 2.14 (a)) 2.2.2 Number of NRAs that have been supported and advised by RROs on regional best practices for telecommunications' regulations with direct support of the Action 2.2.3 Number of regional guidelines and pilot convergence initiatives that have been developed by RROs with direct support of the Action 2.2.4 Number of pilot cross-border collaborations facilitated by RROs with direct support of the Action	2.2.1 zero 2.2.2 zero 2.2.3 zero 2.2.4 zero	2.2.1 TBD in inception phase of contract 2.2.2 TBD in inception phase of contract 2.2.3 TBD in inception phase of contract 2.2.4 TBD in inception phase of contract	2.2.1. Pre- and post-event assessments 2.2.2. Records of events of RROs 2.2.3. Regional guidelines and documents on initiatives 2.2.4. Documents on cross-border initiatives	RROs are committed and have sufficient capacity to engage in activities
Output 1 relating to Outcome 3	3.1 Improved capacities of national regulators for conducive policy making for the establishment and effective use of harmonised broadband mapping systems	3.1.1 Number of countries with policy analyses and recommendations by the Action 3.1.2 Number of representatives of countries made aware of policy/regulatory gaps and recommendations to address these gaps, disaggregated by national or regional event, sex, country and institution 3.1.3 Number of sub-regional and regional institutional entities (such as RRAs, RECs, ATU) incorporating broadband mapping with the support of the Action	3.1.1 zero 3.1.2 zero 3.1.3 zero	3.1.1 TBD in inception phase of contract 3.1.2 TBD in inception phase of contract 3.1.3 TBD in inception phase of contract	3.1.1. Documents on policy analysis and recommendations; minutes of discussions with the stakeholders 3.1.2. Pre- and post-event assessments 3.1.3 Available Strategies/Workplans	The countries devote sufficient resources to further maintain and develop the broadband mapping systems and follow-up on the data harmonisation. Sufficient resources are placed to follow-up on improvement of policies.

Output 2 relating to Outcome 3	3.2 Improved capacities of national and regional regulators on open-source solutions, open data practices and standards for broadband mapping systems in SSA	3.2.1 Number of representatives of regional and national entities with improved knowledge on open data approach and open- source solutions, disaggregated by sex, country and entity 3.2.2 Number of countries with broadband mapping systems deployed adopting open-source approach with the support of the Action 3.2.3 Adoption rate of standardised data formats and protocols for collecting, analysing and reporting broadband data	3.2.1 zero 3.2.2 zero 3.2.3 TBD 3.2.4 zero	3.2.1 TBD in inception phase of contract 3.2.2 TBD in inception phase of contract 3.2.3 TBD in inception phase of contract 3.2.4 TBD in inception phase of contract	3.2.1. Pre- and post-event Assessments 3.2.2 Project narrative reports 3.2.3 Reports from NRAs/ project narrative reports	
Output 3 relating to Outcome 3	3.3 Improved technical capacity of targeted NRAs and ministries in charge of using and maintaining broadband mapping projects, incl. required installation of hardware and software equipment for broadband mapping deployment	3.3.1 Number of representatives of NRAs and concerned ministries capable of using software for broadband mapping, disaggregated by sex, country and institutions (** GEF 2.14(a)) 3.3.2 Number of IT personnel capable of maintenance/replication of software, disaggregated by sex, country and institution (**GEF 2.14 (a)) 3.3.3 Number of certificates issued certifying technical capacity and quality of knowledge 3.3.4 Number of technical specifications carried out by the project 3.3.5 Number of broadband mapping systems (software and hardware) developed in SSA region with the support of the Action 3.3.6 Number of technical requests resolved related to use of software issues received from NRAs	3.3.1 zero 3.3.2 zero 3.3.3 zero 3.3.4 zero 3.3.5 zero 3.3.6 zero	3.3.1 TBD in inception phase of contract 3.3.2 TBD in inception phase of contract 3.3.3 TBD in inception phase of contract 3.3.4 TBD in inception phase of contract 3.3.5 TBD in inception phase of contract 3.3.6 3.3.6 TBD in inception phase of contract	3.3.1. Pre- and post-training assessments 3.3.2 Pre -and post-training assessments 3.3.3 Project narrative reports/ country reports 3.3.4 Project narrative reports 3.3.5 Relevant NRA reports 3.3.6 Relevant NRA reports	

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 72 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 of the Budget Support Component

N/A

4.4 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate 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.

4.4.1 Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The Grant will contribute to achieving Output 1.5 'Strengthened Regional multistakeholder partnerships between Europe and Africa in key areas of digital transformation.'

(b) Type of targeted applicants

Non-profit organisations

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) experience in implementing Actions on digital transformation in Africa; (ii.) ability to reach out to diverse African stakeholders in the digital economy; (iii) ability to operate at widespread level across the continent.

4.4.2 Direct Management (Procurement)

A part of this action may be implemented in direct management via procurement to implement activities foreseen under outputs 1.1 'Improved capacities of AUC in supporting selected AU MS for implementing thematic digital strategies in education; health and agriculture' ; 1.2 'Improved capacities of AUC and its Working Group on Artificial Intelligence for developing Human-centric Artificial Intelligence' ; 1.3 'Enhanced capacities of AUC to implement the AU Digital Policy and Regulatory Strategy for Africa's Single Digital Market' ; output 1.4 'Improved capacity of African stakeholders for active participation in the global internet governance national capacities for Internet Governance

4.4.3 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with entrusted entities, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: (i) experience in implementing Actions pertaining to ICT regulation; (ii) ability to mobilise a pool of experts on ICT regulation, in particular EU regulators active or interested in peer-to-peer cooperation; (iii.) experience in implementing capacity building activities specifically targeting NRAs and RROs in Africa; and (iv) ability to operate at widespread country level in Africa.

The implementation entails all the activities under Specific Objective 2 'To improve regulations and regional convergence for affordable, secure, reliable and high-speed connectivity infrastructure and services'.

4.4.4 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with entrusted entities, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria : (i) extensive global experience in technical support to African countries, as well as in creating a conducive enabling environment for the development of broadband mapping systems and its enabling elements; (ii) experience in training, data collection, data sharing, open source, connectivity mapping; (iii.) ability to operate at widespread country level in Africa.

The implementation entails all the activities under Specific Objective 3 'To establish and harmonise broadband mapping systems in Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries'.

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

If the preferred modalities described in 4.4.2 cannot be implemented due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, the alternative implementation modality is indirect management with an entrusted entity which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: (i) experience in implementing Actions on digital transformation in Africa; (ii.) ability to reach out to diverse African stakeholders in the digital economy; (iii) ability to operate at widespread level across the continent.

This implementation will entail to achieving output 1.1 'Improved capacities of AUC in supporting selected AU MS for implementing thematic digital strategies in education; health and agriculture' ; output 1.2 'Improved capacities of AUC and its Working Group on Artificial Intelligence for developing Human-centric Artificial Intelligence'; output 1.3 'Enhanced capacities of AUC to implement the AU Digital Policy and Regulatory Strategy for Africa's Single Digital Market' ; output 1.4 'Improved capacity of African stakeholders for active participation in the global internet governance national capacities for Internet Governance.

If the preferred modalities described in 4.4.3 cannot be implemented due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, the alternative implementation modality is direct management – procurement.

The procurement will contribute to achieving Specific Objective 2 'To improve regulations and regional convergence for affordable, secure, reliable and high-speed connectivity infrastructure and services'.

If the preferred modalities described in 4.4.4 cannot be implemented due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, the alternative implementation modality is direct management – procurement.

The procurement will contribute to achieving Specific Objective 3 'To establish and harmonise broadband mapping systems in Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries'.

4.5. 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 subject to the following provisions.

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 carrying out of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

For this multi-country action, natural persons who are nationals of, and legal persons who are effectively established in the following countries and territories covered by this action, are also eligible: all countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

4.6. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Third-party contribution, in currency identified
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.4		
Specific Objective 1 ‘To improve the implementation of the Digital Transformation Strategy (DTS) for Africa 2020-2030 at continental level’	3 050 000	
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.1	350 000	
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.2	2 700 000	
Specific Objective 2 ‘To improve regulations and regional convergence for affordable, secure, reliable and high-speed connectivity infrastructure and services’	15 950 000	
Indirect management with entrusted entity cf. section 4.4.3	15 950 000	Sweden SEK 50 000 000 Luxembourg EUR 1 500 000
Specific Objective 3 ‘To harmonise broadband mapping systems in Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries’	15 000 000	
Indirect management with an entrusted entity- cf. section 4.4.4	15 000 000	
Grants – total envelope under section 4.4.1	350 000	N.A.
Procurement – total envelope under section 4.4.2	2 700 000	N.A.
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	may be covered by another Decision	N.A.
Totals	34 000 000	EUR 1 500 000 SEK 50 000 000

4.7 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The underlying intervention logic for this Action is that there will be one framework programme with several components of support corresponding to different Specific Objectives and implementation modalities.

For the implementation of activities supporting the AUC (Specific Objective 1, Output 1), the implementing partner will report to the Contracting Authority on the overall contract performance and to the Contracting Authority and the AUC DIE Director on key implementation and strategic issues. The implementing partner will

report to the AUC DIE-ISD Project Implementer for day-to-day issues.

A dedicated Steering Committee (PSC) with the European Commission and AUC will be set up to ensure the overall guidance of this project's component. The implementing partner will support the organisation and the secretariat of PSC.¹¹

For the implementation of activities under Specific Objective 2, a Joint Coordination Committee composed of Implementing Partners, selected EU Regulators, BEREC, FRATEL will be set up to ensure effective coordination between partners involved in the implementation of activities. As this component of the Action will be co-financed by EU MS, European commission and co-financing MS will constitute a Donor Advisory Committee which will provide guidance and analysis to project work plans and selection of priorities.

For the implementation of activities under Specific Objective 3, a dedicated Advisory Board with the European Commission; the implementing partner and other key partners will be set up to oversee the overall implementation of the project and provide strategic recommendations.

The daily management of the Action will be ensured by European Commission. Regular meetings will be organised with the Implementing Partners in order to ensure a smooth and responsive management of the project.

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: where appropriate, the Implementing Partners will be responsible for monitoring and reporting on indicators of the logframe matrix, including the collection of baselines and data collection in the inception phase of the Action. Indicator values will be measured at regional or country level, depending on the nature of the activities.

Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by sex and, where applicable, by urban/rural location. All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is taking into account the human-rights based approach and gender equality.

All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is considering the principle of gender equality, human rights-based approach, and rights of persons with disabilities including inclusion and diversity. Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by sex.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance and nature of the Action, a mid-term and final evaluation may be carried out for this Action or its via an implementing partner. A mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to the effectiveness of activities implemented at regional level, approaches and implementation modalities. The final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning

¹¹ It should be noted that the project shall not cover the management of the separate EU contribution provided to the AUC under the African Union Support Programme (AUSP) in favour of the implementation of the project.

purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that the Action targets diverse stakeholders and beneficiaries in different regions of Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner 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 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

Given the nature of the action, provision for Audit and Verifications for this action or its components is not necessary.

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 ‘[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)’, 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.

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

A Primary Intervention (project/programme) is a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Identifying the level of the primary intervention will allow for:

Articulating Actions or Contracts according to an expected chain of results and therefore allowing them to ensure efficient monitoring and reporting of performance;

Differentiating these Actions or Contracts from those that do not produce direct reportable development results, defined as support entities (i.e. audits, evaluations);

Having a complete and exhaustive mapping of all results-bearing Actions and Contracts.

Primary Interventions are identified during the design of each action by the responsible service (Delegation or Headquarters operational Unit).

The level of the Primary Intervention chosen can be modified (directly in OPSYS) and the modification does not constitute an amendment of the action document.

The intervention level for the present Action identifies as (tick one of the 4 following options);

Action level (i.e. Budget Support, blending)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Group of actions level (i.e. top-up cases, different phases of a single programme)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	N.A.
Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	Grant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	Procurement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 3	Contribution Agreement to pillar-assessed entity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 4	Contribution Agreement to pillar-assessed entity
Group of contracts level (i.e. series of programme estimates, cases in which an Action includes for example four contracts and two of them, a technical assistance contract and a contribution agreement, aim at the same objectives and complement each other)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of contracts 1	N.A.