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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual support measure and cooperation facility for Asia and the Pacific 2022-2024

Action Document for the multiannual support measure and cooperation facility for Asia and the Pacific 2022-2024

MULTIANNUAL MEASURE

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and support measures in the sense of Article 24 of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1. SYNOPSIS

1.1. Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Support Measure and Cooperation Facility for Asia and the Pacific 2022-2024 OPSYS ref.: ACT-61344 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting (inter alia) TEL.
3. Zone benefiting from the action	<p>The action shall be carried out in the following countries:</p> <p>Middle East and Central Asia Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan[•], Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan[•], Uzbekistan, Yemen</p> <p>South and East Asia Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia[•], Laos, Malaysia[•], Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand[•], Vietnam</p> <p>The Pacific¹ Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu</p> <p>Countries marked with a [•] have a country programming entirely devoted to a cooperation facility subject of a specific decision. These countries and countries without a bilateral MIP can only benefit from the present action through the regional programming funds.</p>

¹ The EU and Pacific States are implementing an EPA, and have undertaken to promote trade in a way that meets internationally recognized labour standards, as well as safeguards on environment and the management of natural resources. The Parties are developing joint instruments on trade and sustainable development, whose rolling out need to be promoted and supported.

4. Programming document	Multiannual Indicative Programmes (MIPs) 2021-2027 for all countries of the region, as well as the Regional Multiannual Indicative Programme for Asia and the Pacific.
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results	This action is linked to the support measures and cooperation facility objectives of all the MIPs concerned.

PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION				
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Not applicable			
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: 17 (Partnerships for the goals)			
8 a) DAC code(s)	43010 – Multi-sector aid			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	20000 - Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society 40000 - Multilateral Organisations 60000 - Private sector institution 90000 - Other			
9. Involvement of multilateral partners	Yes			
10. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
11. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation Tags: digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship job creation digital skills/literacy digital services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity Tags: transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input 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			
13. Amounts concerned	<p>Budget lines:</p> <p>14 02 01 30 Middle East and Central Asia EUR 18,989,830.00</p> <p>14 02 01 31 South and East Asia EUR 36,395,737.00</p> <p>14 02 01 32 The Pacific EUR 7,515,363.00</p> <p>Total estimated cost: EUR 62,900,930.00</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 62,900,930.00</p> <p>The contribution is for an amount of EUR 20,082,778.00 from the general budget of the European Union for 2022 and for an amount of EUR 23,732,778.00 from the general budget of the European Union for 2023 and for an amount of EUR 19,085,374.00 from the general budget of the European Union for 2024, subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.</p>			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
14. Type of financing²	<p>Direct management through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grants (section 3.2.(f), below) - Procurement <p>Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.4</p>			
15. Type of measure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cooperation facility			

² Art. 27 NDICI

1.2. Summary of the Action

The Support Measures and Cooperation Facility for Asia and the Pacific 2022-2024 provides the European Commission the possibility to finance small-scale activities that are needed for the achievement of the objectives of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe) in those regions.

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Context

The EU's current vision, interests and priorities in Asia-Pacific are outlined by various EU strategies, including the September 2021 Joint Communication on the EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy³ as well as the May 2022 Joint Communication A Strategic Partnership with the Gulf⁴. They are broad and deep, spanning from profound economic and trade interests with asymmetrically growing interdependences, addressing global challenges such as climate change and environmental degradation, support for multilateralism, promotion of human rights, democracy and gender equality as well as peace, security and stability, reducing inequalities, and, where relevant, disaster risk reduction. Promoting sustainable, comprehensive and rules-based connectivity and addressing challenges of migrants and displaced people are EU priorities as is strengthening joined-up approaches to tackle shared challenges with regional associations.

These strategies will be implemented in the years to come through the various programmes, both at national or regional level. Their implementation require support measures, which will help in different ways the European Union's action on the ground.

2.2. Problem Analysis

Support measures are needed to reinforce efficiency, performance and impact of the programmes' implementation, as well as ensure synergy between the development cooperation and policy objectives.

They could allow studies, meetings, information, awareness-raising, training, preparation and exchange of lessons learnt and best practices, publication activities and any other administrative or technical assistance expenditure necessary for the programming and management of actions, including remunerated external experts; research and innovation activities and studies on relevant issues and the dissemination thereof; in line with the political priorities of the Union.

These measures will also support public diplomacy activities aimed at engaging over the long-term with selected target audiences and partners to build trust and enhance their understanding and support for EU policies and principles by developing networks and new alliances, and ultimately facilitate future cooperation across policy area. Public diplomacy will enable the EU in pursuing its strategic policy goals, within the framework of strategic plans drawn up at Delegation level.

This cooperation facility is also an important tool which will be used to ensure that a human right based approach and a gender equality perspective are applied throughout EU programmes, in line notably with the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) III⁵ requirements.

The end beneficiaries are citizens of the eligible countries, as projects will be better prepared (including consultations with civil society organisations), monitored (gender and human rights sensitive), followed-up and communicated.

³ JOIN/2021/24 of 16/09/2021 - Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council "The EU strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific" - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52021JC0024>

⁴ JOIN/2022/13 of 18/05/2022 - Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council "A strategic partnership with the Gulf" - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52022JC0013>

⁵ JOIN/2020/17 of 25/11/2020 - Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council "EU Gender Action Plan (Gap) III – An Ambitious Agenda for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in EU External Action" - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020JC0017>

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs

The main objective of this action is to facilitate the implementation of national and regional programmes by providing funding for all necessary support operations. The expected outputs of this action are directly linked to those of the main actions that it supports.

3.2. Indicative Activities

Based on Article 24(2) of the NDICI Global Europe Regulation, the Support Measure and Cooperation Facility for Asia and the Pacific 2022-2024 may cover studies, meetings, information, awareness-raising, training, preparation and exchange of lessons learnt and best practices, publication activities and any other administrative or technical assistance expenditure necessary for the programming and management of actions, including remunerated external experts; research and innovation activities and studies on relevant issues and the dissemination thereof; expenditure related to the implementation of public diplomacy activities in support of the political priorities of the EU.

Those measures may cover:

- a) Support to capacity development and institutional building, including through technical assistance and exchange of public expertise.
- b) Support to policy dialogues: events, conferences, studies, surveys, fellowships, exchange platforms to support sector dialogues leading to policy reforms and engagement with governments and other stakeholders, as well as information sharing, training, preparation and exchange of lessons learnt and best practices;
- c) Studies to support the identification of Global Gateways initiatives;
- d) Research and innovation activities and studies on relevant issues and the dissemination thereof;
- e) Actions to support the participation of the country in EU Programmes and cooperation with EU Agencies and Civil Society Organisations, where relevant.
- f) Other administrative or technical assistance expenditure necessary for the programming and management of actions, including remunerated external experts, including to facilitate Joint Programming / Team Europe / GAP III commitments coordination at country level;
- g) Public diplomacy activities designed to build, maintain and strengthen communities and networks of key target audiences and partners (e.g. youth, academics, think tanks, business, civil society, cultural sector), undertaken in accordance with the objective(s) specified in strategic plans established at Delegation level. Public diplomacy activities should also assist in pursuing and promoting the Team Europe approach and specific "flagship" initiatives. Attention is paid that such activities reach out and are accessible to wide population including women, elderly, minorities and persons with disabilities.
- h) Support to the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the Union's cooperation, ensuring the mainstreaming of gender and LGBTIQ+ issues and human rights sensitivity.

3.3. Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

The activities envisaged within this facility will contribute to ensure that Actions formulated and implemented in the concerned countries and regions are complying with Article 8.8 of NDICI Regulation which, *inter alia*, lays that "*Programmes and actions under this Regulation shall mainstream the fight against climate change, environmental protection [...] and, where relevant, disaster risk reduction and shall address interlinkages between SDGs, to promote integrated actions that can create co-benefits and meet multiple objectives in a coherent way.*"

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. The facility will ultimately contribute to mainstream gender equality across all Actions formulated in the concerned countries and regions, ultimately ensuring they are inclusive and gender-sensitive.

Human Rights

All activities envisaged within the facility (including public diplomacy activities) will be values driven, and will ensure full integration of the key principles (participation, non-discrimination, accountability and transparency) of the human rights based approach across all Actions formulated in the concerned countries and regions.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. The facility will ensure that adequate consideration is given to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the design and planning of all activities, with a view to ensure they are inclusive and accessible.

Democracy

The facility will ensure that Actions formulated and implemented in the concerned countries and regions are conducive to strengthen democratic governance in the partner countries, including, where relevant, through incorporating rule of law, access to justice, combatting corruption, as well as support for democratic institutions (electoral management bodies, parliaments, national media councils, civil society, etc.).

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

The facility will ensure that Actions formulated and implemented in the concerned countries and regions are duly factoring conflict-related issues, so as to favour peace and resilience in the partner countries.

Disaster Risk Reduction

The activities envisaged within this facility will contribute to ensure that Actions formulated in the concerned countries and regions are complying with Article 8.8 of NDICI Regulation which, *inter alia*, lays that "*Programmes and actions under this Regulation shall mainstream [...] where relevant, disaster risk reduction and shall address interlinkages between SDGs, to promote integrated actions that can create co-benefits and meet multiple objectives in a coherent way.*"

Other considerations if relevant

N/A

3.4. Risks and Lessons Learnt

Given the experience from similar support measures since 2006 ⁶, it is assumed that there is a genuine need for this instrument that allows Commission Headquarters and Delegations to plan cooperation-related activities in a flexible way. Due the specificity of this measure there are no major risks and assumptions. However fully successful implementation will depend on:

- willingness of the partner countries to continuing the process of improvement of their institutions;
- keeping and improving of the political, social and economic stability, as well as the commitments to human rights, gender equality, democracy, inequalities and peacebuilding;
- successful mitigation and management of climate-induced risks and natural disasters which can alter the development agenda and immediate needs of the countries involved;
- good use of this instrument by EU Delegations and Headquarters, which shall maintain the leading role in preparation and implementation of cooperation programmes and policy dialogue with the countries' governments;
- provision of assistance to the Delegations interested in the tool;
- good coordination between EU Delegation and Headquarters;
- ‘whole of Delegation’ approach to public diplomacy
- ensuring coherence between different funding sources, notably those managed by EEAS and FPI;
- good management of the various contracts;
- high quality of experts supplied;

⁶ C(2006) 5407 of 15.11.2006, C(2006) 5555 of 23.11.2006, C(2007) 2507 of 18.06.2007, C(2007) 6486 of 20.12.2007, C(2008) 2977 of 25.06.2008, C(2008) 5933 of 16.10.2008, C(2009) 2033 of 24.03.2009, C(2009)5957 of 03.08.2009, C(2010) 3926 of 01.07.2010, C(2010) 6047 of 13.10.2010, C(2010) 7241 of 26.10.2010, C(2011) 5486 of 03.08.2011, C(2012) 2717 of 27.04.2012, C(2013) 2988 of 24.05.2013, C(2013) 4075 of 04.07.2013, C(2014) 5598 of 08.08.2014, C(2014) 9161 of 05.12.2014, C(2014) 9773 of 17.12.2014, C(2017) 759 of 08.02.2017, C(2021) 9571 of 16.12.2021.

- full involvement and support of beneficiary countries and related stakeholders in the implementation of the activities;
- based on the experience of the past support measures decisions (2021), a close monitoring of the expenses of each Delegation, while allowing for the necessary flexibility for the effective use of the budget;
- ensuring coordination and synergies with relevant TEI initiatives.

3.5. The Intervention Logic

The utilisation of the support measure funds by the EU Delegations in the NDICI Global Europe countries mentioned above as well as Commission services depends on management needs arising in the programme/project cycle, follow-up and monitoring needs, organisation of meetings and training activities arising throughout the year. Each beneficiary Delegation and Commission service makes its initial annual plan for using the support measure funds in the beginning of each year at the latest, and the plan is updated throughout the year when need occurs.

3.6. Logical Framework Matrix

Given the nature of this action a Logical Framework Matrix is not required.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1. Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the partner 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 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3. Budget Support – NOT APPLICABLE

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 ⁷.

4.4.1. Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

Grants may be awarded in the case of activities implemented in the framework of public diplomacy, including for Team Europe Initiatives and other flagship initiatives.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

- Public bodies of the partner countries; non-profit organisations (including umbrella organisations) and networks relevant to public diplomacy initiatives.

⁷ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

4.4.2. Direct Management (Prize(s)) – NOT APPLICABLE

4.4.3. Direct Management (Procurement)

It is expected that procurement of service contracts will represent the prevailing implementation modality. Services will be contracted to provide technical assistance, organise conferences, undertake studies, researches or surveys, establish exchange platforms or information sharing events, prepare and provide training

Such activities may be aimed at supporting programming and management of actions, as well as facilitating Joint Programming / Team Europe / GAP III commitments coordination at country level, including for pursuing and promoting specific "flagship" initiatives

If suitable, service contracts may assist in the organisation of public diplomacy activities, as well as to support the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the Union's cooperation.

4.4.4. Indirect Management with entrusted entities

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using any of the following criteria:

- Demonstrated experience in implementing technical assistance tasks in the concerned country(ies) and managing contributions by the EU and a variety of other donors;
- Established presence (in terms of specialised advisors and other technical assistance staff, and where applicable branch offices) in the geographical area interested by the action;
- Consolidated experience in liaising with the authorities (at central or local level) or, where applicable, with *de-facto* controlling factions in areas affected by conflict or turmoil, enabling the entity to sustainably maintain operations in the area;
- Demonstrated technical capacities in the field concerned by the operation and capacities to ensure effective coordination in the sector at sub-national, national and regional levels and to benefit from cross-fertilization of the outputs of other related programmes.

The implementation by the selected entity entails the implementation of relevant budget-implementation tasks envisaged with the agreements implementing specific actions, including where necessary, procurement and grant-awarding procedures, rewarding, signing and executing the resulting contracts, notably accepting deliverables, carrying out payments, and recovering moneys due. The selection of the entity shall aim at ensuring a single conduit for assisting in the provision of EU support (in any phase of the operation's, including identification, formulation, implementation, monitoring or follow-up).

Implementation via indirect management will be adopted when the recourse to procurement of services on the market is impractical or unfeasible (namely under conflict or extreme duress conditions), or whenever seeking the assistance of International Organisations or other entrusted entities is preferable for well justified reasons.

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

4.6. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)		
	2022	2023	2024

Budget line 14 02 01 30 Middle East and Central Asia:	6,763,300.00	6,113,300.00	6,113,230.00
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.1	1,014,495.00	916,995.00	916,984.50
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.3	5,072,475.00	4,584,975.00	4,584,922.50
Indirect management with entrusted entities – cf. section 4.4.4	676,330.00	611,330.00	611,323.00
Budget line 14 02 01 31 South and East Asia:	11,614,378.00	13,414,378.00	11,366,981.00
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.1	1,742,156.70	2,012,156.70	1,705,047.15
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.3	8,710,783.50	10,060,783.50	8,525,235.75
Indirect management with entrusted entities – cf. section 4.4.4	1,161,437.80	1,341,437.80	1,136,698.10
Budget line 14 02 01 32 The Pacific:	1,705,100.00	4,205,100.00	1,605,163.00
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.1	255,765.00	630,765.00	240,774.45
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.3	1,278,825.00	3,153,825.00	1,203,872.25
Indirect management with entrusted entities – cf. section 4.4.4	170,510.00	420,510.00	160,516.30
Grants total envelope under section 4.4.1	3,012,416.70	3,559,916.70	2,862,806.10
Procurement total envelope under section 4.4.3	15,062,083.50	17,799,583.50	14,314,030.50
Indirect Management total envelope under section 4.4.4	2,008,277.80	2,373,277.80	1,908,537.40
Evaluation - cf. section 5.2	N/A		
Audit – cf. section 5.3	covered by another Decision ⁸		
TOTAL	20,082,778.00	23,732,778.00	19,085,374.00

4.7. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

Following the adoption of this Commission Decision, the EU Delegations and Commission services benefiting from this support measure will prepare an initial plan for the utilisation of the funds and they are responsible for their contracting. These activities will be identified on a country-by-country basis by the EU Delegations and/or by the Commission Headquarters in consultation with the EU Delegations in the region, while keeping EEAS headquarters regularly involved. Detailed terms of reference will be prepared and attached to each activity.

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.

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.

⁸ The action is not covered by a financing agreement (see section 4.1), hence audit contracts on this action 'will be covered by another Decision' as it is unlikely that they may be concluded within N+1.

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).

Key indicators for measuring the performance of this operation will be:

- short-term technical assistance activities delivered;
- study and reports submitted;
- identification and formulation missions funded;
- meetings, specific events and trainings carried out;
- people/networks reached and engaged via public diplomacy activities.

Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by sex when relevant. All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is taking into account the human rights based approach and gender equality.

Key indicators for measuring the performance of this operation will be derived from the Contractor Assessment Form to be completed at the end of the assignments covering performance of the contractor, performance of experts and overall performance.

5.2. Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a final evaluation will not be carried out for this action or its components.

5.3. Audit and Verifications

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

6. PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle has adopted a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources, consolidating them in Cooperation Facilities. This Financing Decision does not concern the utilization of resources aimed at implementing *strategic communication activities* for Asia and the Pacific, which will be pooled and committed via a separate Financing Decision.

This facility will instead assist Delegations to plan and execute multiannual *public diplomacy actions* with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national and regional scale.

To that end, Delegations will develop *public diplomacy strategic plans* reflecting their objectives in this domain, initially covering the period up to 2024. The plans will be endorsed by a coordination mechanism comprised of the EEAS, DG INTPA, DG NEAR and FPI, and will be reviewed, modified and extended as appropriate, including within the framework of the Mid Term Review (MTR) process.

The strategic plan will include key administrative information (timeline, budget and the programme manager responsible for implementation) and cover targeted networks and networking objectives couched in terms of measurable outcomes; the core narrative as well as preliminary suggestions for partnerships (influencers) and channels.

All outreach activities share the objective of supporting the achievement of EU policy priorities and will do so by strengthening bi/multi-lateral relations by engaging with key audiences and partners over the long term to build trust, foster people-to-people contacts, and foster network growth and mobilisation. Whenever appropriate, public diplomacy activities might include element to tackle Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI) and enhance the resilience of the information environment.

It remains 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 applies 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.

APPENDIX COMMISSION DECISION

Action Document	Annex Commission Decision
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3.3. Mainstreaming	Yes
3.4. Risks and Lessons Learnt	Yes
3.5. Logical Framework Matrix	Yes
4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS	
4.1. Financing Agreement	Yes
4.2. Indicative Implementation Period	Yes
4.3. Implementation Modalities	Yes
4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants	Yes
4.5. Indicative Budget	Yes
4.6. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities	Yes
5. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT	
5.1. Monitoring and Reporting	Yes
5.2. Evaluation	Yes
5.3. Audit and Verifications	Yes
6. PUBLIC DIPLOMACY	
6. Public Diplomacy	Yes