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

**ANNEX 3**

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the multiannual action plan in favour of the Republic of South Sudan for 2023-2024

**Action Document for Cooperation Facility 2023-2024**

**MULTIANNUAL PLAN**

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

## 1 SYNOPSIS

### 1.1 Action Summary Table

<b>1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act</b>	Cooperation Facility OPSYS number: ACT-61913 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument ( <u>NDICI-Global Europe</u> )
<b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting (inter alia) TEI.
<b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>	The action shall be carried out in the Republic of South Sudan
<b>4. Programming document</b>	Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Republic of South Sudan 2021-2027
<b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results</b>	Cross-cutting (non allocated) all priority areas on 1) Green and resilient economy 2) Human Development: education and health 3) Good governance, Peace and Rule of Law for a fairer society Objectives: - To provide follow-up and monitoring activities necessary for the implementation of financial resources managed by the EU Delegation. - To ensure support to on-going actions and preparation of new activities supported by EU. - To ensure strategic visibility of EU and to enhance strategic policy, political dialogue, and public diplomacy
<b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	Not applicable
<b>7. Sustainable</b>	Main SDG (1 only): 17 (partnerships for the goals)

<b>Development Goals (SDGs)</b>				
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	DAC 998 Unallocated CRS 99810 Sectors not specified CRS 9920 Promotion of development awareness (non-sector allocated)			
<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel</b>	9000 - other			
<b>9. Targets</b>	<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			
<b>10. Markers (from DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective @</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Participation development/good governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 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"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>11. Internal markers and Tags:</b>	<b>Policy objectives</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Digitalisation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	

	digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	<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 @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	transport people2people energy digital connectivity	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <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"/>
<b>BUDGET INFORMATION</b>				
<b>12. Amounts concerned</b>	Budget line(s) (article, item): BGUE-B2024-14.020121-C1-INTPA  Total estimated cost: EUR 4 400 000  Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 4 400 000  The contribution is for an amount of EUR 4 400 000 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			
<b>MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>				
<b>13. Type of financing</b>	<b>Direct management through :</b> <b>Procurement</b>			
<b>14. Type of measure</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cooperation facility <input type="checkbox"/> Measures in favour of Civil Society			

## 1.2 Summary of the Action

This Action aims to cover technical assistance, monitoring and support for follow-up activities directly required for the sound implementation of financial resources managed by the EU Delegation in South Sudan. Considering the complex, fragile and insecure context in South Sudan, there is a need for specific technical assistance to support the EU Delegation in monitoring of EU supported programs with the implementing partners, in particular in marginalised areas.

It also aims to provide complementary support for the identification and formulation of new actions the EU may consider to undertake in South Sudan, through studies, assessments and other specific technical assistance. Given the complexities and volatile context in South Sudan, there is a need for specialised technical assistance to support the EU Delegation for defining well targeted and focused future cooperation activities.

It will also aim to complement other EU actions documents by providing technical assistance to the Delegation and/or other stakeholders (donor groups, government) on the priority areas described by the MIP and related to the activities described in the action documents

Furthermore, it will provide support for sustained communication on strategic public, political and policy diplomacy and advocacy, communication, and visibility of the EU cooperation activities and of EU Member States (EU MS). In particular it will ensure solid visibility and communication on teamed up cooperation support of EU and EU MS (Team Europe Initiatives) for cooperation activities leveraging above mentioned advocacy purposes.

## 2 RATIONALE

### 2.1 Context

Since South Sudan's independence in 2011, the country's progress towards stability and peace is hampered because of protracted local **conflicts** and **violence**, a massive **displacement** situation, **human rights abuses** (especially affecting women and children), arbitrary arrests and detentions resulting in a **shrinking civic space**, **climate change** (increasing recurrence of floods). As a consequence, the majority of the population lives in **dire humanitarian conditions** (mainly food insecurity and absence of basic services such as education and health).

Road **connectivity** is nearly **inexistent** and the **economy** is still largely dependent **on oil-related revenue** and on **international aid**. This in combination widespread **corruption** has a significant negative impact on economic growth, exchange rate, inflation and fiscal deficit. The state is not able to respond to the dire needs of the population.

The **Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan** (R-ARCSS), signed in September 2018, calls for **free, fair and credible national elections** that reflect the will of the people, to be carried out sixty days before the end of the transition period. This would **be the first time** that South Sudan conducts a general election since the country's independence in July 2011.

The implementation of the **peace agreement is lagging** mainly in the **absence of political buy-in**. In 2021, some momentum was created around the inauguration of the revitalized transitional national legislative assembly (RTNLA), but RTNLA suffers from capacity flaws and lack of driving engagement of its members. The revised national development strategy and the national budget (2021/2022) were adopted in the first quarter of 2022, but the **adoption of critical acts related to security and elections are delayed**. Censorship and arbitrary detentions result in **shrinking civic space**.

The delays in implementation of the R-ARCSS and in preparing for elections led to the extension of the agreement for an additional two years. Hence, elections should now happen in 2024.

This Action is aligned with all **MIP<sup>1</sup> priorities areas** on 1) *Green and resilient economy* and 2) *Human development: education and health* and *Good governance, peace and rule of law for a fairer society* and the **Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign Security Policy<sup>2</sup>** (EUGS 2016) and '**A New Strategic Agenda for 2019 –2024<sup>3</sup>**', adopted by the European Council and promoting global peace and stability with democracy and human rights as key objectives. It will promote the core values of the EU, and contribute to its policy objectives spelled out in the **New Consensus on Development** and the implementation of the **EU-Africa Comprehensive Strategy**.

### 2.2 Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis:

In a the volatile, fragile and (politically) unpredictable context of South Sudan, **firstly** ongoing EU support needs to be closely monitored to adapt to evolving (positive as well as negative) developments. The EU Delegation needs therefore complementary support on monitoring EU supported projects given the complexities and the insecure

<sup>1</sup> [https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-01/mip-2021-c2021-9381-south-sudan-annex\\_en.pdf](https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-01/mip-2021-c2021-9381-south-sudan-annex_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/global-strategy-european-unions-foreign-and-security-policy\\_en](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/global-strategy-european-unions-foreign-and-security-policy_en)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/39914/a-new-strategic-agenda-2019-2024.pdf>

context in conflict zones.

**Secondly**, future EU support needs to be timely targeted depending on evolving developments. The EU Delegation needs therefore complementary support in identification and formulation of new projects given the complexities at stake.

**Thirdly**, strong and timely strategic diplomacy and (political, policy) advocacy need to address all challenges in South Sudan for transformational impact. EU support joined with EU MS support (Team Europe Initiatives) need to leverage such diplomacy and advocacy and therefore requires sound visibility.

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

A) Right holders

**Representatives of the South Sudanese society** have a crucial role in the ongoing and upcoming reforms and processes which provide for direct and indirect participation of right holders, including:

- Youth: South Sudan's young population needs to be empowered in the political, economic and rights-based approach agenda.
- Women: The considerable gender disparities need to be addressed. Girls and women in vulnerable situations need to be protected and have a voice in the public debate.
- Civil society: civic space needs to widen, in particular in the context of the permanent constitution making process, elections, but also on Human Rights and public accountability.
- Marginalised communities and people that are living in the most vulnerable situations (such as displaced people, persons with disabilities, people living in remote, natural and man-made disaster and conflict-affected areas) need to be included.

B) Duty bearers:

- **The Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU), the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (RTNLA), the Council of States of South Sudan** (and any succeeding parliamentary body) and subnational authorities.
- **South Sudanese parties and stakeholders to the R-ARCSS**: need to step up engagement to move forward the implementation of the agreement and liaise with their constituencies.
- **International community**: EU, EU MS, Multilateral partners, such as the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), the United Nations (UN) agencies, World Bank (WB), and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), regional partners, such as the African Union (AU) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and like-minded bilateral partners.

### 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

#### 3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to support a peaceful and enabling environment for inclusive and transparent democratic processes to take place.

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

1. Strengthened follow-up and monitoring activities necessary for the impactful implementation of financial resources managed by the EU Delegation
2. Strengthened support on preparation of new impactful activities supported by EU
3. Strengthened strategic visibility of EU and to enhance strategic policy, political dialogue, and public diplomacy

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

- 1.1 contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1) Establishment of a sound monitoring system of ongoing EU supported cooperation interventions in South Sudan
- 2.1 contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2) Adoption of relevant, well targeted future EU supported development interventions in South Sudan
- 3.1 contributing to Outcome 3 (or Specific Objective 3) Strengthening strategic public diplomacy,

including solid political and policy advocacy and analysis

3.2 contributing to Outcome 3 (or Specific Objective 3) Fostering strategic visibility of EU and EU MS (Team Europe) supported cooperation interventions (Team Europe Initiatives)

### 3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities relating to Output 1.1: reinforce monitoring capacity of EU supported cooperation interventions in South Sudan

Activities relating to Output 2.1: reinforce technical capacity for identification and formulation of future EU development in South Sudan

Activities relating to Output 3.1: strengthen interventions on strategic diplomacy, and political and policy advocacy on EU priorities for South Sudan and provide analysis and technical assistance on EU priorities areas

Activities relating to Output 3.2: organise relevant events and communications (social media, press and others) on EU support in South Sudan, including on Team Europe Initiatives

### 3.3 Mainstreaming

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

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

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

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

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

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

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that communication on Gender equality will be mainstreamed in the action. In particular the specific situation and rights of women and girls will be targeted for outputs 3.1 and 3.2.

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#### **Human Rights**

Human rights will be addressed and mainstreamed throughout the action and in particular for outputs 3.1 and 3.2

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#### **Disability**

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that actions related to people with disabilities are mainstreamed, but not a principal objective.

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#### **Reduction of inequalities**

South Sudan experiences high poverty levels and humanitarian conditions persist. According to the UNDP 2020 Human Development Index (HDI), the country is ranked at 185 out of 189 nations.

The action, together with all other actions of the EU in the country aims to reduce poverty and inequalities. These are both widespread geographically and across sectors, but become more acute in areas with highest levels of violence; hence, addressing security and achieving a reduction of violence will have an impact on inequalities. None of these are the specific objective of this action document

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#### **Democracy**

The action will specifically promote a fair, inclusive and transparent electoral process and the enabling environment for such democratic process to take place. Democratic principles will be addressed in particular

throughout outputs 3.1 and 3.2.

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

Conflict sensitivity will be ensured on the basis of the conflict analysis screening finalised by EU and regularly to be updated.

#### **Disaster Risk Reduction**

Effects of climate change (flooding and droughts) while not specifically addressed, are inherently mainstreamed considering all envisaged outputs.

#### **Other considerations if relevant**

N/A

### 3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

<b>Category</b>	<b>Risks</b>	<b>Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)</b>	<b>Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)</b>	<b>Mitigating measures</b>
1-to the external environment	Increased instability and insecurity, including levels of violence, and/or a reduction in political and civic space, make project activities difficult or impossible.	High	High	The purpose of the action, in particular through its envisaged outputs 1.1 and 2.1 addresses directly the concerned risk in view of enhancing crisis adaptation measures of EU ongoing and future support. Furthermore, the envisaged outputs 3.1 and 3.2 will enhance relevant advocacy with key stakeholders (in particular at political elites' level) in addressing possible further deterioration of root causes for the fragile context in South Sudan.
2-to planning, processes and systems	Different priorities, views on complexities and challenges between EU with the other international and multilateral community create dissent and undermines coordination and cooperation.	Low	Medium	Regular coordination meetings at Heads of Missions' level (EU, EU Member States, international and multilateral partners) will strive for a consensual approach on key priorities in particular with the intense multilateral agenda for South Sudan.
3-to people and the organisation	Spoilers attempt could slow or halt the activity implementation, intermittently or severely	High	High	Wide-ranging and regular communication as envisaged in output 3.1, at all levels with stakeholders, e.g. with key political stakeholders of R-ARCSS, jointly with Member States under Team Europe approach and in close coordination with

				international, multilateral community and donors.
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#### **Lessons Learnt:**

Given the volatile and political unpredictable environment in South Sudan, a flexible approach for any intervention is needed. Therefore the descriptions of activities need to include flexibilities and mitigating measures for swift response and adapting to emerging and changing needs during implementation of the action.

Conflict sensitivity and do-no-harm needs to be factored in into all interventions, in line with the recommendations of the conflict analysis screening finalised by EU and to be regularly updated.

### **3.5 The Intervention Logic**

The underlying intervention logic for this action is to support the EU-South Sudan partnership. It will enable the EU to increase its visibility with regards to the international community, the South Sudanese people and the government.

### **3.6 Logical Framework Matrix**

Given the nature of this Action a Logical Framework Matrix is not required at Action level.

## **4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

### **4.1 Financing Agreement**

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

### **4.2 Indicative Implementation Period**

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

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

### **4.3 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.

#### **4.4.1 Direct Management (Procurement)**

The action will be implemented in direct management through contracts

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

N/A

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

#### 4.6 Indicative Budget

<b>Indicative Budget components<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>EU contribution (amount in EUR)</b>
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.4	
Outcome 1 - Strengthened follow-up and monitoring activities composed of	3 100 000
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.1	3 100 000
Outcome 2 - Strengthened support on preparation of new impactful activities supported by EU composed of	400 000
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.1	400 000
Outcome 3- Strengthened strategic visibility of EU and to enhance strategic policy, political dialogue, and public diplomacy composed of	500 000
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.1	500 000
Procurement – total envelopes under section 4.4.1	4 000 000
Evaluation	400 000
Audit	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4 400 000</b>

#### 4.7 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The EU Delegation is in direct control over the action (direct management: procurement).

Key project stakeholders, in particular EU Member States, civil society (in particular women and youth CSO, and most vulnerable in general), on outcome 2 and 3, implementing partners and government at national and subnational level (in particular in marginalised regions) on outcome 1, 2 and 3 will be closely associated in the implementation.

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.

#### 4.8 Pre-conditions [Only for project modality]

N/A

## 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.

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

### 5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a final evaluation may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants and/or through a joint mission contracted by the Commission and/or via an implementing partner.

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that South Sudan is going through a transitional period where an election would be the first electoral process since the country's independence.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 1 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

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.

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.

It is envisaged that a contract for communication and visibility may be contracted under a framework contract.