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

**ANNEX 3**

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the 2021 Annual Action Plan in favour of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

**Action Document for the Cooperation Facility (CF)**

**ANNUAL PLAN**

This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and action plan in the sense of Article 23(2) of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

**1. SYNOPSIS**

**1.1. Action Summary Table**

<b>1. Title</b> <b>CRIS/OPSYS</b> <b>business reference</b> <b>Basic Act</b>	Cooperation Facility (CF) CRIS number: NDICI AFRICA/2021/043-420 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)/
<b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>	No
<b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>	The action shall be carried out in Nigeria
<b>4. Programming document</b>	Nigeria/ Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) of the NDICI 2021-2027
<b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results</b>	The action will contribute to: the development and implementation of interventions under the National Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027 and the Team Europe Initiatives (TEI ‘Nigerian Green Economy Alliance’; and TEI ‘Strengthening Team Europe’s impact on Peace and Governance in Nigeria’); to implement the EU-Nigeria ministerial roadmap; to strengthen political dialogue, policy dialogue, public diplomacy and strategic communication, to increase awareness, understanding and approval of the EU and its role in the country and in the areas covered by the MIP; as well as the overall improvement of the business and investment climate in Nigeria and the EU-Nigeria trade relations. The action falls under the MIP support measures.
<b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	The three MIP priority areas ( <i>Green and Digital Economy; Governance, Peace and Migration; and Human Development</i> ); 43010 - Multisector aid
<b>7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	Main SDG: SDG 17 (Partnerships) of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. SDG 5 Gender Equality
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	43010 - Multisector aid – 100 %
<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel</b>	Private sector institutions (60000)

<b>9. Targets</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
<b>10. Markers (from DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>11. Internal markers and Tags:</b>	<b>Policy objectives</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>
Digitalisation Tags: digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship job creation digital skills/literacy digital services		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <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"/>
Connectivity Tags: transport people2people energy digital connectivity		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Migration		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	(methodology for tagging under development)			
	Reduction of Inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BUDGET INFORMATION</b>				
<b>12. Amounts concerned</b>	Budget line (article, item): BGUE-B2021-14.020120-C1-INTPA Total estimated cost: EUR 21 400 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 21 400 000			
<b>MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>				
<b>13. Type of financing<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Direct management</b> through: - Grants - Procurement <b>Indirect management</b> with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.3			

## 1.2. Summary of the Action

The Cooperation Facility will support the implementation of the EU-Nigeria ministerial roadmap, which aims at strengthening the strategic partnership between the EU and Nigeria at a political level and in the areas of the economy, growth and green partnership; peace, governance and social development; humanitarian issues and migration and mobility. The Cooperation Facility will also be used to support policy dialogue and the implementation of programmes and projects developed in the three priority areas of the 2021-2027 Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP): (1) Green and Digital Economy; (2) Governance, Peace and Migration; and (3) Human Development, as well as the Team Europe Initiatives (namely the TEI ‘Nigerian Green Economy Alliance’; and TEI ‘Strengthening Team Europe’s impact on Peace and Governance in Nigeria’). It will pay particular attention to the promotion of EU values and enhance public awareness, understanding and appreciation of the EU-Nigeria relationship. In this context, the Cooperation Facility (CF) will focus on strategic communication, public diplomacy and activities that strengthen the EU-Nigeria partnership with government, civil society and other key actors and its leading role in international cooperation and multilateralism. The action will also be used to tackle disinformation and advance the role of the EU as a lead partner in economic cooperation and investment, trade, peacebuilding, climate action, youth and women empowerment, democratic values and human rights.

Support under this action will be articulated around three main result areas:

- 1. Inform, provide evidence and expertise for the implementation of the MIP:** This will involve identification, formulation and implementation of programmes and projects to be financed by the MIP, including research and pre-feasibility studies on key technical topics related to the MIP priority areas and TEIs. It will include support to climate, youth, culture, gender and disability awareness in EU initiatives. It will also entail supporting capacity development and institution building through technical assistance and exchange of expertise; monitoring, evaluation and auditing of EU and TEI projects for which a provision for monitoring, evaluation and/or auditing has not been done; Technical Assistance for Nigeria’s participation into global and regional EU initiatives and EU support to commitments taken by the Federal Republic of Nigeria as part of international cooperation agreements; support to local production of vaccines and essential medicine; as well as support to the Integrated National Financial Framework initiatives (INFF). Furthermore, this result area shall guarantee support for facilitation of conferences, seminars, training activities and other forms of engagement related to topics relevant to promoting the EU’s stronger involvement and role in international and multilateral cooperation (including through the Key Political Partner Group, the Nigerian Development Partner Group and other relevant thematic and geographic groups. It will support Nigerian stakeholders to participate to EU initiated events. European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) roll-out, dissemination of information of EU financing opportunities and dialogue with the authorities and the private / financial sector will also be followed under this result area.

<sup>1</sup> Art. 27 NDICI.

2. **Reinforce EU strategic communication:** A good understanding of our policies, values and principles is essential to ensure EU engagement with Nigerians, to facilitate cooperation and, ultimately, to achieve our strategic and policy goals. On the basis of a strategic plan drawn up by the Delegation, the Cooperation Facility will be used to implement activities aimed at increasing awareness, understanding and appreciation of EU values, strategic interests, visibility of Team Europe Initiatives and actions such as the organisation of public outreach events and campaigns for programmes to be funded under the MIP and in the areas of common interest as identified in the EU-Nigeria Ministerial Roadmap. It will also contribute to strategic communications activities designed to raise public awareness, understanding and approval of the EU's partnerships with Nigeria. The strategic plan will also integrate the political communication aspects financed under the Press and Information budget. It will also aim at managing disinformation by eliminating as much as possible the propagation of false information intended to mislead the public on issues that directly or indirectly concern the EU, its partnership objectives with Nigeria or negatively affect the EU reputation. Public Diplomacy initiatives will aim at developing durable and trusted channels of engagement with key target audiences and partners and fostering networks that can support the achievement of shared priorities by involving youth (including future leaders), students, academics, influencers, multipliers, business, civil society and the cultural sector.
3. **Reinforce the EU role as Nigeria's strategic partner:** This will involve policy dialogue activities aimed at supporting direct engagement with public and private stakeholders and interest groups on all areas of interest relevant to the partnership between the EU and Nigeria including trade, investment and green partnership, peace and security (including maritime security), governance, human rights, digitalisation, privacy and data protection, research and innovation, social development, migration and mobility and humanitarian issues to be delivered in line with the EU-Nigeria Ministerial Roadmap. These activities will be implemented across all thematic areas of the MIP in line with the ambition of the external dimension of the European Green Deal and Nigeria's recently updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). It will also entail support to the negotiations of an EU-Nigeria envisaged Investment Facilitation Agreement, EU-Nigeria Business Forum, EuroCham Nigeria, EU-Nigeria Agri-food Platform, African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) implementation and other trade facilitation (customs, sanitary and phytosanitary –SPS, value chains, Intellectual Property Rights – IPR). Concerning enhanced collaboration with EuroCham, the focus will be to leverage the existing positive impact of European presence in Nigeria and to seek new creative ways to deliver EU objectives, initiatives to attract investment and joint outreach events advocating business enabling measures.

The commitment of the EU's contribution to the Team Europe Initiatives foreseen under this multiannual action plan will be complemented by other contributions from Team Europe partners. It is subject to the formal confirmation of each respective partners' 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.

## 2. RATIONALE

### 2.1. Context

The action is guided by the geopolitical priorities of the EU as well as Nigeria's development plans. It aligns with the priorities listed under the EU-Nigeria Ministerial Roadmap 2021-2022 that resulted from the 7<sup>th</sup> Nigeria-EU Ministerial Dialogue in November 2020.

With an estimated population of 211 million in 2021, Nigeria is Africa's most populated country and a leading economy, with a wealth of natural resources as well as a thriving entrepreneurial culture and creative industries. Yet, the country is confronted with numerous political, socio-economic, environmental, and security challenges. After a recession in 2016, the country returned to marginal growth in 2017, but the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with the collapse in oil prices in 2020, led the Nigerian economy into its second recession in five years. Most forecasts point to considerable socio-economic consequences in the aftermath of the pandemic. Insecurity remains widespread in the country, particularly in the North East, the North West, the Niger Delta and the Middle Belt. Moreover, Nigeria faces maritime security challenges in the Gulf of Guinea. Diversifying the economy beyond oil, creating opportunities and empowering youth, women and girls will be vital to overcome these challenges and grow the economy in a manner that ensures an increase in per-capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP growth exceeding population growth) and a reduction of inequalities. Importantly, such growth should create jobs and business creation opportunities in Nigeria and thus contribute to tackling the root causes of irregular migration. Economic growth, accompanied by the consolidation of democratic values and a more inclusive political system, should also help contain the security

challenges the country is facing and mitigate the risks of political destabilisation. That in turn should create an environment in which people and businesses can grow, and in which the government can mobilise the revenue to re-invest in the much needed infrastructures and human capital.

The rapidly mobilised EU COVID-19 support created an unprecedented positive momentum for EU-Nigerian relations. Building on this new impetus, the 7th high-level Nigeria-EU Ministerial Dialogue took place on 18 November 2020, where both sides confirmed their commitment to reinvigorating their relationship towards a more strategic, comprehensive and balanced partnership. In this context, the present action will provide the support required to implement the strategic objectives defined in the EU-Nigeria ministerial roadmap and in the MIP 2021-2027. The new MIP aims to support EU interventions in three priority areas: (1) Green and Digital Economy; (2) Governance, Peace and Migration; and (3) Human Development. Two Team Europe Initiatives are also foreseen: “green and digital economy” and “peace and governance”. The Cooperation Facility will contribute to the development and implementation of all MIP interventions, to strategic communication and public diplomacy to raise the profile of the EU in Nigeria.

The Facility will build on the substantial bilateral relationship, which encompasses political, security, economic and commercial cooperation as well as an active portfolio in development programmes. However, the Nigerian public at large is often not well-informed about the EU's role as Nigeria's key partner. Knowledge amongst Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), at both Federal and State levels, about EU policies and instruments, as well as international and multilateral cooperation, could also be further enhanced. This would facilitate a more efficient and result-based policy dialogue at all levels and across the priority areas of the MIP. Particular attention will be paid to the role of the country's youth with a specific focus on jobs and growth, participation in governance, migration and mobility, and flagship initiatives such as Erasmus+ and the Youth Sounding Board (YSB).

This action contributes to the consequent fulfilment of economic and social rights, and gender equality, in line with Nigeria's international human rights commitments. It will do so through gender and human rights' analysis in order to identify specific barriers that women and persons living in vulnerable situations face, and by specifically addressing these barriers in the actions. Moreover, it contributes to the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) III<sup>2</sup> thematic areas of engagement, namely: 1) Promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women; and 2) Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation, amongst others.

## 2.2. Problem Analysis

The Nigerian geopolitical context and the challenges and opportunities the country represents reinforces the need to maximise the benefits of the EU-Nigeria partnership in line with the shared values, mutual interests and common objectives of both parties as highlighted in the joint communique of the EU-Nigeria Ministerial Dialogue and of the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for Nigeria. In this context, the aim of this action is to leverage the strategic partnership already established with the Nigerian authorities, and for private and civil society actors to reinforce the overall EU-Nigeria partnership. Nigeria's future political stability, social development and economic performance will significantly impact peace, security and economic growth in the West-Africa/Sahel region and influence European interests. Engagement with Nigeria offers important opportunities - economic and political alike. Guided by these geopolitical priorities and the Nigerian development plans, this action will advance the role of the EU as a lead strategic partner in economic cooperation and investment, trade, peacebuilding, climate action, youth and women empowerment, democratic values and human rights. It will also ensure continued monitoring, policy dialogue and support towards improving the capacity of the state to source finance and utilise resources efficiently. The rising trend of insecurity and political tensions, as well as some human rights issues require the EU to intensify its engagements with the authorities around democratic governance and peace.

While Nigeria's previous three-year development plan, the Economic Recovery & Growth Plan (2018-2020), has come to an end, a new long-term development plan is under preparation in 2021. Meanwhile, the Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP), adopted by the Federal Government in June 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, is considered the most relevant national development strategy available. In order to help Nigeria achieve its key development objectives, the MIP for Nigeria covers a range of priorities in the areas of Green and digital economy, Governance, peace and migration and Human development (including education). This action will contribute to the design and implementation of the MIP as a whole (i.e. the three priority areas).

<sup>2</sup> JOIN(2020)17 final of 25.11.2020; SWD(2020)284 final of 25.11.2020.

Support under the three priority areas of the MIP will pay particular attention to European values including safeguarding of democracy, human rights, international humanitarian law, promoting gender equality and fighting against inequalities. It will raise awareness and address root causes of irregular migration and insecurity, by promoting opportunities for action in terms of creating jobs and providing better social services to a rapidly growing and young Nigerian population. It will also challenge the structural causes of gender inequality by taking a transformative approach of social/gender norms, empower women and girls as drivers for positive change, and pay particular attention to women and girls facing multiple forms of discrimination. Gender and human rights analysis will be conducted in order to identify specific barriers that women and persons living in vulnerable situations face, and by specifically addressing these barriers in the actions. Enhancing the role of the private sector, which is the engine of the economy, is equally important. Digital transformation and innovation, including in the area of public governance and human development are also key areas to be addressed by the MIP in line with key national policy documents and programmes, such as the *National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy (2020-2030)* or the *Nigeria Innovation Programme*.

In order to further raise the profile of the EU, the cooperation facility will aim to enhance the strategic communication and awareness of EU values, interests and actions for the programmes to be funded under the MIP and in the areas identified in the EU-Nigeria Ministerial Roadmap. It will also aim to manage disinformation by eliminating as much as possible the propagation of false information intended to mislead the public on issues that directly or indirectly concern the EU, its partnership objectives with Nigeria or negatively affect the EU reputation.

The EU and its Member States are considered reliable political interlocutors for the Federal Government for State Governments and Civil Society Organisations. The "Team Europe" approach in response to the COVID-19 crisis has repositioned the EU as a strategic and trusted partner, providing a stronger point of departure for future relations. The COVID-19 crisis and sustained efforts by the EU to support Nigeria in this crisis has created a wider space to discuss reforms with the authorities, as became evident during the EU-Nigeria Ministerial Dialogue in November 2020. This action will further strengthen the EU-Nigeria strategic dialogue in key areas such as trade, investment and green partnership, peace and security (incl. maritime security), governance, gender and human rights, digitalisation, privacy and data protections, research and innovations, social development, migration and mobility and humanitarian issues. It will also support the EU cultural, climate and economic diplomacy, as well as the EU role as an investor and trade partner.

The EU can also play a greater role in strengthening multilateralism and international engagement with the Nigerian authorities and civil society on key elements of its partnership. It includes contributing to the work of the Key Political Partner Group, the Nigerian Development Partner Group and other relevant thematic groups (such as on Human Rights, Peace and Security, Migration and Mobility) and geographic groups (Ambassador's Group on the North East and Ambassador's Group on the North West).

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

The key direct stakeholders of this project are the **Federal, State and Local government authorities (duty-bearers), as well as the target population (right-holders) of each of the proposed measures**. Relevant government ministries, departments and agencies with oversight functions or with interest and mandate covering the areas of intervention under this action will be engaged to ensure better coordination in the delivery of the action activities as well as benefit from their strategic and policy guidance. Nigerian citizens domiciled in the geographical locations for which the proposed measures will be implemented are the ultimate beneficiaries of this action.

Other stakeholders which can be recipient of funding and whose projects could benefit from the results of the outreach events and identification, formulation and implementation support exercises include:

**Civil society organisations, academia, private sector organisations, concerned donor partners, EU Member States agencies, and other EU institutions who will participate actively in the design and implementation of project activities.**

Nigeria's civil society is vibrant, active and diverse and has been thriving with the opening of the civic space after the return to civilian rule in 1999. The EU will engage with CSOs in the wider sense to include youth organisations, business associations, women's organisations, organisations representing different right-holders groups living in vulnerable situations (such as persons with disabilities and minorities), academic institutions and think tanks, faith-based organisations, traditional and religious leaders. CSOs actively working in any or all of the three priority areas

of the MIP as well the cross-cutting areas identified, particularly those whose membership is mostly made of young people and/or whose main objectives are youth development, youth empowerment and youth employment, will be mostly engaged.

The EU will also involve **private sector organisations** as part of its implementation of the measures under this action, especially those that involve outreach and development of investment operations and policy dialogues.

The EU will also coordinate very closely with Member States, **international partners and international organisations** as part of its implementation of measures under this action. This will help facilitate EU's stronger involvement and leading role in international efforts to support Nigeria and multilateralism in Nigeria.

The CF will promote synergy with other projects implemented by the European Investment Bank and other European partners.

**Service providers and implementing agencies which will benefit from the contract services or be selected or appointed to execute the project activities.**

Service providers will include local NGOs, local consultants/experts, private sector organisations/consulting firms, media organisations, academic institutions and think-tank groups etc. with a track record of implementing policy dialogue, campaign/awareness creation and research across the various intervention areas under this action.

### 3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

#### 3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **Overall Objective** (Impact) of this action is to strengthen the role of the EU as a strategic and political partner in Nigeria's national, international and multilateral affairs guided by the objectives of the EU-Nigeria ministerial roadmap; to strengthen strategic communication and policy dialogue; to guide and sharpen the design, implementation and monitoring of planned actions under the MIP.

The Specific Objectives (Outcomes) of this action are to:

1. Inform, provide evidence and expertise for the implementation of the MIP;
2. Reinforce the EU strategic communication, increase understanding, awareness and appreciation of the EU;
3. Reinforce the EU role as Nigeria's strategic partner.

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

#### **SO1 – Inform, provide data and expertise for the implementation of the MIP**

##### Expected results

- 1.1 Improved understanding of the context through analysis and research on areas relevant to the achievements of the objectives of the MIP, Team Europe Initiatives, and other EU flagship initiatives;
- 1.2 Improved formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of EU and TEI programmes and better compliance with commitments taken by the Federal Republic of Nigeria as part of international cooperation agreements (e.g. the Sustainable Development Agenda);
- 1.3 Development of investments, including via the EIP/EFSD+;
- 1.4 EU stronger involvement and leading role in international and multilateral cooperation including coordination amongst the international community and development partners.

#### **SO2 – Reinforce EU strategic communication**

##### Expected results

- 2.1 Enhanced EU visibility and appreciation through strategic communication on MIP programmes, Team Europe Initiatives, other flagship initiatives and areas of common interest, as identified in the EU-Nigeria Ministerial Roadmap;
- 2.2. Developed channels of engagement with key target audiences and partners through public diplomacy initiatives;
- 2.3. Improved targeting of disinformation.

### **SO3 – Reinforce the EU role as Nigeria’s strategic partner**

#### Expected result

- 3.1. Reinforced political and policy dialogue on key areas of the EU-Nigeria Ministerial Roadmap, including trade, investment and green partnership, peace and security (including maritime security), governance, human rights, digitalisation, privacy and data protection, research and innovations, social development, migration and mobility and humanitarian issues; as well as other key areas of engagement, including in particular jobs and growth, climate, culture, gender, youth and disability.

#### **3.2. Indicative Activities**

##### Activities related to Output 1.1

- i. Research and studies on key technical topics related to the MIP priority areas, TEIs and other EU flagship initiatives, including environmental screening and demographic/inclusivity assessments/data and other cross-cutting issues when they are not included in the original programmes or projects they relate to. It may also involve preparation and management of procurement procedures that have not been sufficiently covered by existing projects;
- ii. Technical Assistance for new support modalities and programmes, including possible budget support eligibility analysis, and for support to climate, youth, culture, gender and disability awareness in EU initiatives.

##### Activities related to Output 1.2

- i. Identification, formulation and implementation of EU and TEI programmes, projects and other initiatives to be financed by the MIP;
- ii. Supporting capacity development and institution building through technical assistance and exchange of expertise including support to commitments taken by the Federal Republic of Nigeria as part of international cooperation agreements; support to the local production of vaccines and essential medicine; as well as support to the Integrated National Financial Framework initiatives (INFF));
- iii. Support for Nigeria’s participation in global and regional EU initiatives.

##### Activities related to Output 1.3

- i. Promotion of investments, in particular via the EIP/EFSD+ through dissemination of information of EU financing opportunities leveraging private capital for development oriented investments and dialogue with the authorities and the private / financial sector.

##### Activities related to Output 1.4

- ii. Contribution to the secretariat of the Nigeria Development Partner Group and support to other coordination groups. Organisation of conferences, seminars, training activities and other forms of engagement related to topics relevant to promoting EU’s stronger involvement and role in international and multilateral cooperation.

##### Activities related to Output 2.1

- i. Strategic communication and public diplomacy activities under the above-mentioned fields will include the design and roll out at national level of (a) major public campaign(s) aimed at ordinary citizens, primarily in the 18-35 age cohort, with the objective of measurably increasing the profile, awareness, understanding and appreciation of the EU’s partnership with the country. All such campaigns will be data-driven, rigorously tracking hard Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that will allow content to be constantly adjusted in line with evidence and approaches that resonate most successfully with the audience;
- ii. Actions could include, but not be limited to, the Organisation of events of public outreach and visibility. These activities will be implemented through the engagement of a professional communications agency or service provider, guided by the Delegation’s Press and Information team.

##### Activities related to Output 2.2

- i. Public diplomacy/advocacy activities targeting young people (particularly females), with a specific focus on jobs and growth, participation in governance, migration and mobility. It will also target cultural actors and persons with disability.

##### Activities related to Output 2.3



i.	Disinformation targeting will include activities aimed at eliminating as much as possible the propagation of false information intended to mislead the public on issues that directly or indirectly concern the EU, its partnership objectives with Nigeria or negatively affect the EU reputation.
Activities related to Output 3.1	
i.	Political and Policy dialogue on all areas of mutual interest as captured in the EU-Nigeria Ministerial Roadmap including trade, investment and green partnership peace and security (incl. maritime security), governance, human rights, digitalisation, privacy and data protection, research and innovations, social development, migration and mobility and humanitarian issues, as well as other key areas of engagement, including jobs and growth, culture, climate, gender, youth and disability initiatives.
Particular focus on supporting youth and women's participation in policy dialogue and influence on decision-making processes on actions and policies at all levels.	

### 3.3. Mainstreaming

The MIP priority areas (*Green and Digital Economy; Governance, Peace and Migration; and Human Development*) will cover actions which will directly support crosscutting initiatives and projects such as environmental protection, climate change, disaster risk reduction/disaster preparedness, green economy, access to sustainable energy, gender equality, youth engagement and digitalisation. The three priority areas already tackle issues of human rights, democracy, good governance, education, health, security and crisis prevention etc. The strengthening of public sector capacities will also address capacities on the use of tools and procedures on environment and climate change integration, so as to respond to EU requirements.

### 3.4. Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
External factors	Risk 1: General security challenges	H	M	<b>Limit the scope for implementation of activities in the action to security cleared regions.</b>
	Risk 2: government disengagement/disc ontinuation of policies as the 2023 general elections approach	M	H	<b>Build strategic partnerships including greater involvement and engagement of civil society and establish strong development partners' coordination.</b>
Capacity constraints	Risk 2: Inability of partners to adequately implement planned activities	M	H	<b>Use of framework contracts to leverage selection of partners on the basis of their previous performance.</b>

#### Lessons Learnt:

Four previous cooperation facilities have been implemented so far and they have shown to have a positive impact on the effective implementation of EU interventions in Nigeria. The previous cooperation facilities however had a more narrow scope. This new action provides for an expanded scope by focusing greater attention at activities that promote the EU and Team Europe Initiatives, policies and instruments, as well as international and multilateral cooperation. Hence, the action will go beyond a traditional instrument of support to the programme development and implementation, to promote the role of the EU as a lead partner in policy dialogue, economic cooperation and investment, promoter of climate action, youth and women empowerment, and democratic values. The action will adopt the necessary flexibility and adaptability required for intervening in the Nigerian complex environment.

### 3.5. The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that:

**IF** the resources and capacity (including resources and capacity for undertaking Technical Assistance, Conferences, Meetings and Seminars Facility etc.) required for identifying, formulating and implementing programmes and projects to be financed by the MIP are adequately available and well utilised;

**AND IF** adequate awareness, understanding and appreciation of EU values, strategic interests, actions and visibility of Team Europe Initiatives are made for the programmes to be funded under the MIP and in the areas of common interest as identified in the EU-Nigeria Ministerial Roadmap;

**AND IF** the EU can support direct engagement with public and private stakeholders and interest groups on all areas of interest including trade, investment and green partnership, jobs and growth, culture, youth and disability inclusion, peace and security (incl. maritime security), governance, gender and human rights, digitalisation, privacy and data protections, research and innovations, social development, migration and mobility and humanitarian issues etc.;

**THEN** the action will likely strengthen the role of the EU as a strategic and political partner and actor in Nigeria's national, international and multilateral affairs; and ensure a sharper design and implementation of the MIP as a whole.

This is **BECAUSE** the necessary actors and players external to the EU would have been duly involved and mobilised to ensure ownership, increased absorption capacity and sustainability.

## 4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1. Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is 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 84 months from the date of where a financing agreement is concluded entry into force of the financing agreement.

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 [For Budget Support only]

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<sup>3</sup>.

#### 4.4.1. Direct Management (Grants)

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

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

*Specific Objective 1:* Evidence-based disaggregated data and expertise for the MIP implementation provided. For the implementation of specific measures under outputs 2 (Improved formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of EU programmes and TEIs and better compliance with commitments taken by the Federal Republic of Nigeria as part of international cooperation agreements (e.g. the Sustainable Development Agenda)) and 3 (Investments via the EU innovative financial instruments).

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

The grant targets CSOs (as defined under section 2 – identification of main stakeholders) with experience and knowledge of EU standards for conducting good quality research and studies relevant to the achievements of the objectives of the EU, of Team Europe Initiatives and of EU outreach events/projects.

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

*Specific Objective 3:* Reinforce the EU role as Nigeria's strategic partner. For implementation of specific measures.

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

The grant targets CSOs (as defined under section 2 – identification of main stakeholders) with experience and track record in facilitating strategic dialogues in the key areas identified in the EU-Nigeria Ministerial Roadmap. It will also target partners with experience in facilitating the EU cultural, climate and economic diplomacy.

<sup>3</sup> In order to avoid details on budgets for individual contracts, it is sufficient to indicate the total envelop for procurement. If budgets for individual contracts are public, tenderers tend to orientate themselves on them and not on the terms of reference.

<sup>3</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://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 (Procurement)

4.4.2.1 A procurement process will be launched for the implementation of specific measures under specific objective 1: Evidence-based disaggregated data and expertise for the MIP implementation provided.

4.4.2.2 A procurement process will be launched for the implementation of specific measures under specific objective 2: EU's strategic communication reinforced.

4.4.2.3 A procurement process will be launched for the implementation of specific measures under specific objective 3: EU's role as Nigeria's strategic partner reinforced.

#### 4.4.3. Indirect Management with entrusted entity(ies)

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

1. The demonstration by the entity of proven operational capacity to deliver i.e. prior experience working on past and current EU funded initiatives similar to the activities under this action with a record of satisfactory performance.
2. In the case of an international organisation, the entity must have undergone an ex ante assessment of its systems and procedures and there should be no conflict of interest.
3. Value addition of the entity in terms of reach, established physical presence in the activity location and ability to engage with a wide spectrum of notable stakeholders and partners.
4. Value for money, transparency and accountability considerations.

The implementation by this entity entails specific Objective 1 (Evidence-based disaggregated data and expertise for the MIP implementation provided) of this action, particularly the execution of some measures under output 1.2 (improved formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of EU and TEI programmes and better compliance with commitments taken by the Federal Republic of Nigeria as part of international cooperation agreements) and under output 1.4 (EU stronger involvement and leading role in international and multilateral cooperation)

#### 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.

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

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
<b>Implementation modalities</b> – cf. section 1.14	
<b>Specific Objective 1:</b> Evidence and expertise for the MIP implementation provided, composed of	<b>7 000 000</b>
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.1	700 000
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.2	4 000 000
Indirect Management– cf. section 4.4.3	2 300 000
<b>Specific Objective 2:</b> EU's strategic communication reinforced, resulting in increased public understanding, awareness and appreciation , composed of	<b>8 000 000</b>
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.2	8 000 000
<b>Specific Objective 3:</b> EU's role as Nigeria's strategic partner reinforced, composed of	<b>5 650 000</b>
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.1	2 000 000
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.2	3 650 000
<b>Audit</b>	<b>250 000</b>
<b>Contingencies<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>500 000</b>
<b>Totals</b> <i>Grants – total envelope under section 4.4.1: EUR 2 700 000</i> <i>Procurement – total envelope under section 4.4.2: EUR 15 650 000</i>	<b>21 400 000</b>

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

In close coordination with the partner country, the measures under this action shall be implemented by the Commission, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Each selected provider or grantee will be responsible for the attainment of specific objectives to which their contract pertains. A financing agreement will be signed. The overall management of the action shall be the responsibility of the Delegation. No funds will be transferred to the partner country, but the partner country will be able to request support or assistance from the Cooperation Facility. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts and delegation agreements.

Gender equality, human rights and human rights based approach expertise will be ensured during the implementation of the intervention as possible. They will also be integrated in relevant technical assistance and capacity building activities and documents (i.e. ToRs etc.).

## 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

<sup>4</sup> Consider that contracts where no financing agreement is concluded, contingencies have to be covered by individual and legal commitments by 31 December of N+1.

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 log frame matrix.

Monitoring and evaluation will assess gender equality and an impact on rights of groups living in the most vulnerable situations and the implementation of the rights based approach working principles (applying all human rights for all; meaningful and inclusive participation and access to decision-making; non-discrimination and equality; accountability and rule of law for all; and transparency and access to information supported by disaggregated data).

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:

The implementing partners and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and findings emanating from analysis and monitoring reports and jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary before final reports are approved. Relevant reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders on a regular basis.

## 5.2. Evaluation

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

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

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination<sup>5</sup>. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

Human rights and gender equality competence is ensured in the monitoring and evaluation teams.

Evaluation services may be contracted under a framework contract

## 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.

Regional and global strategic communication and public diplomacy funds will be managed from headquarters.

At country level, action documents for specific sector programmes are no longer required to include a provision for communication 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.

To that end, Delegations will first develop short strategic communication and public diplomacy plans that reflect the objectives of the Delegation as a whole in this domain, initially covering the period up to the Mid-Term Review

<sup>5</sup> See best [practice of evaluation dissemination](#).

(MTR). 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 as part of the MTR process.

Expected key elements of the strategic plan to be adopted will be as follows:

1. The audiences targeted

End beneficiaries of EU cooperation, General Public (with special emphasis on Youth and Children), Federal, State and Local Government Authorities (LGAs), Civil Society Organisations, Academia, Private Sector Organisations, and Donor Partners, among others.

2. Principal communication objectives for each group targeted:

- End beneficiaries of EU Cooperation actions: The principal objective for targeting this group is to establish the EU as the funding entity of cooperation activities. Beneficiaries are known to sometimes assume that the implementing partners are the funders of the actions they implement. This natural assumption stems from the fact that beneficiaries are in greater contact with our implementing partners. In the light of this, there is need for EU to be more strategic about its communication and ensure proper branding and visibility of its deliverables. Measurable outcomes could include an increase in the number of beneficiaries who recognise EU as the source of funding of the actions they benefit from. This contributes to the objective of Nigeria's recognition of the EU as its largest development cooperation partner.
- General Public (with special emphasis on Youth): the Principal objective for this target group is to increase their recognition of the EU identity (the logo). Emphasis on Youth is important as this demography makes up almost 60% of Nigeria's total population. Measurable outcome is that the EU logo is easily identified and recognised by a large number of the Nigerian population.
- Federal, State and LGAs: Principal objective for this target group is the continued and increased awareness of EU's partnership with Nigeria as the largest development partner. Measurable outcomes include more mention of the EU-Nigeria cooperation in the media (including online government publications), increased number of ministries, parastatals and agencies using deliverables produced from EU-funded actions and the publication and distribution of impact stories from successfully implemented programmes and actions.
- Civil Society Organisations: Principal objective for this target group is to maintain existing relevance as a trusted partner in advocacy, policy and strengthening of CSOs in Nigeria. Measurable outcome could include an increase in the number of CSOs using tools developed as deliverables from EU-funded actions and an increase in the number of CSOs who are applying for calls for proposals/other EU funding opportunities.
- Academia: Principal objective is to improve access to opportunities available to this target group including the amplification of EU messaging to youth (i.e. university students). Measurable outcomes include more academics applying for opportunities under the Erasmus mobility scheme.
- Private Sector Organisation: principal objective is to increase awareness of EU programmes/investment opportunities targeting the private sector. Measurable outcome is an increase in the number of organisations or individuals in the sector who either benefit from EU programmes/investments, or who act as multipliers of information on opportunities afforded to the sector by the EU.
- Donor Partners: principal objective is the continued cooperation and prominent role of EU in donor coordination in Nigeria. Measurable outcomes could include an increase in jointly drafted policy advocacy briefs, co-chairing of working groups on different sectors and thematic areas, etc.

3. The core narrative, why we do it:

The core narrative of these interventions will be anchored in reinforcing the EU-Nigeria Strategic Partnership as a whole, based on the areas identified in the *Joint EU-Nigeria Ministerial Roadmap*. The interventions will pursue the goals of raising the EU profile in the country, enhancing the strategic communication and awareness of EU values, interests and actions. It will also aim to manage disinformation by eliminating as much as possible the propagation of false information intended to mislead the public on issues that directly or indirectly concern the EU, its partnership objectives with Nigeria or negatively affect the EU reputation. It will also pursue the overall objectives of promoting the rule of law and the respect of human rights, global public goods as well as multilateralism.

4. Preliminary suggestions for content (messages, straplines, hashtags), partnerships (influencers) and channels

- Messages: focus on partnerships as opposed to aid; the EU cares about Nigeria and her future; the EU stands with Nigeria when it matters; the EU is a trusted partner with a proven track record.
- Straplines: EU-Nigeria cooperation – a partnership that works; From the European People; Partnering for Sustainable Development; Supporting when it matters; From the EU, for every Nigerian;

- Hashtags: #EU4Nigeria; #partnershipthatworks; #EU4everyNigerian
- Partnerships (Influencers): social media personalities with positive messaging; musicians; actors and actresses; youth icons; business leaders; religious leaders working in the area of peace and mediation etc.
- Channels: geographical campaigns on identified thematic issues; traditional media (including grassroots radio in indigenous languages); social media; cultural activities including theatre and the arts; specialised television programmes on thematic issues e.g. a dramatized series on reproductive health for teenagers; thematic content for blogs/vlogs; documentaries etc.

5. Key administrative information: timeline, budget and the programme manager responsible for implementation. The timeline of this Strategic Plan will cover 84 months from its adoption. The allocated budget will be EUR 8 000 000.

Programme manager for implementation: Ms Evelyn Ireke Ihuaku, EU Delegation to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and ECOWAS

Implementation modalities:

A procurement process will be launched for the implementation of specific measures under specific objective 2: EU's strategic communication reinforced. It is not necessary to launch a call for tenders with a suspension clause before the adoption of this Financing Decision.

The overall procurement budget allocation of the Cooperation Facility will be of EUR 15 650 000