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ANNEX

to the Commission Implementing Decision amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2022)9252 of 6.12.2022 on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of the Asia-Pacific region for 2022-2023

Action Document for Global Gateway: India

ANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the annual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Global Gateway: India OPSYS number: ACT-61441 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (<u>NDICI-Global Europe</u>)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	India
4. Programming document	Regional Multiannual Indicative Programme (RMIP) for Asia and the Pacific 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Relevant specific objectives and expected results from the RMIP 2021-2027: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SO 1 – Support India’s sustainable modernisation objectives in line with the EU-India Strategy, implementation of the EU-India Roadmap 2025 and the EU-India Connectivity Partnership.• SO 2 – Support the external dimension of the European Green Deal with India.• SO 3 – Promote good governance and reduce inequalities.• ER 1: Effective implementation of the EU-India Roadmap 2025 and progress on implementation of the EU-India connectivity and sectoral partnerships.• ER 2: Improved environmental and climate policies, supporting India’s increased commitments and engagement under the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and other multilateral environmental agreements.• ER 3: More inclusive and participatory decision-making processes of civil society, particularly of underprivileged groups, leading to poverty reduction and social inclusion.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	

6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Priority Area 2 – Pursuing EU Interests with Key Partners Energy (321); Water (140); Environment (410); Urbanisation (430), Disaster Prevention and Preparedness (740); Communications (220); Migration & Mobility (151); Multisector (430)			
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: SDG 17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development Other significant SDGs: SDG 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls SDG 6 - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all SDG 7 - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all SDG 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all SDG 9 - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation SDG 10.7 – Responsible and well-managed migration SDG 11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable SDG 12 - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns SDG 13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts			
8 a) DAC code(s)	DAC Codes: 140 - Water and Sanitation (Water P 2,5M, 11.1%) 15136 –Immigration (Migration and Mobility 1.5M, 6,7%) 220 – Communications (Digital 2,5M, 11.1%) 231 - Energy Policy (JET P 5M, 22.2%) 410 - General Environment protection (Resource efficiency 2,5M, 11.1%) 43010 - Multisector Aid (Policy Dialogue Support Facility 2 M, 8.9%) 43032 – Urban development (Urban P 1,5M, 6.7%) 740 – Disaster Prevention and Preparedness (CDRI 5M, 22.2%)			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	10000 –Public Sector Institutions 40000 – Multilateral Organisations 60000 - Private sector institutions			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity energy transport health education and research	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @ (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020131 Total estimated cost: EUR 23 500 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 23 500 000			

	The contribution is for an amount of EUR 22 500 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2023 and of EUR 1 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2024.
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION	
13. Type of financing	Direct management through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Procurement - Grants Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.2

1.2 Summary of the Action

With a **population of 1.4 billion people** (with 50% below the age of 25), increasing urbanisation and a growing middle class, India's approach towards energy, consumption and the environment will be a major factor in tackling the planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and in achieving the SDGs. India is the **world's fourth largest emitter of greenhouse gases** (after China, the US and the EU), although its per capita emissions (below 1.8 t CO₂/year), are still far below EU or global average (4.5-4.7 tCO₂/year) but projected economic and demographic growth means that India will contribute more than any other country to the projected rise in global **energy and resources demand**, with its total carbon emissions having already surpassed the EU's.

Positive momentum in EU-India relations continued in 2022 with the launch of the Trade and Technology Council (TTC) and the start of **negotiations on a Free-Trade Agreement (FTA)**, on the agreements on investment protection and geographical indications. The first round of negotiations for the three agreements took place in the week of 27 June 2022. That same week, in Elmau, **G7 Leaders** and partner countries, including India, agreed to explore options for **decarbonising** the energy mix and accelerating the transition from dependency on fossil fuels, as well as for rapidly expanding clean and renewable energy sources and energy efficiency.

This action is relevant to the three specific objectives and expected results of the Regional MIP 2021-2027, namely **Sustainable Modernisation** (SO1), the **European Green Deal** (SO2) and **Good Governance**/inclusive and participatory decision-making processes (SO3/ER3). It will also contribute to achieving a number of **SDGs**; in particular SDG 17 (Partnerships); SDG 5 (Gender equality), SDG 6 (water and sanitation), SDG 7 (energy), SDG 8 (sustainable economic growth and decent work), SDG 9 (resilient infrastructure), SDG 10.7 (responsible and well-managed migration), SDG 11 (sustainable cities), SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production) and SDG 13 (climate change). Optimising synergies across sectors (and SDGs) will be systematically explored and promoted.

The action is entitled '**Global Gateway: India**', and aims to respond to EU and Indian ambitions on key green deal and connectivity issues of high political relevance, with a view to benefiting not just India but also, given the objective to **cooperate with India internationally** to help others meet the SDGs, partners such as Small Island Developing States (SIDS), as well as the global climate and environment agenda given India's importance in implementing the Paris Agreement and broader sustainability targets.

More precisely, the **Specific Objective** (Outcome) of the action is to support sustainable modernisation, specifically in regard to **resilient infrastructure, just energy transition, sustainable urbanisation, resource efficiency and circular economy, water, migration and mobility as well as digitalisation**, by December 2027.

A **Team Europe approach** will bring together a variety of relevant and complementary EU players in policy dialogue, implementation, monitoring and review as well as strategic communication and public diplomacy. It will bring EU resources and expertise, public and private, from the EU and its Member States: investors, banks and other financial institutions, private companies, large, medium and small, research and innovation institutes; academia, think tanks and other relevant civil society actors.

A number of the action components build on the achievements and lessons learnt of **previously-funded policy dialogue projects**. Under a Global Gateway framework, the action will facilitate both sectoral and cross-sectoral **multi-stakeholder dialogues** so that relevant stakeholders can be engaged on key challenges.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

India is the world's **largest democracy**, the world's **fourth largest economy** in purchasing power parity, and the fastest growing economy in the G20 (pre-COVID-19 average more than 7% GDP growth). **Geopolitically**, particularly because of competition with China, India is diversifying its strategic relations through a multipolar world, strengthening ties with the US, Australia and Japan (in the QUAD), and with Europe. Its attempts to be more of an international player on sustainability issues have manifested in particular through the creation of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

The EU is India's **third largest trading partner**, accounting for 11.42% of total Indian trade in 2019-20, while India is the EU's 10th largest trading partner (accounting for 1.9% of total EU trade). The EU is the second largest investor in India with investment stocks amounting to EUR 67.7 billion. Positive momentum in EU-India relations continued in 2022. On 24-25 April, President Von der Leyen had a successful mission to India (to inaugurate the 2022 Raisina Dialogue and hold bilateral talks with PM Modi), advancing further the Strategic Partnership by launching the Trade and Technology Council (TTC) and agreeing to the start of negotiations on an FTA and on agreements on investment protection and geographical indications. The first round of negotiations for the three agreements took place in the week of 27 June 2022.

EU-India relations have been strengthened recently, including as a consequence of global geopolitical dynamics, and accompanied by the launch of a series of **key strategic documents**, namely: the EU-Asia Connectivity Strategy¹ (2018), the EU-India Cooperation Roadmap 2025² (2020), the EU-India Connectivity Partnership³ (2021), the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific⁴ (2021) and finally the **Global Gateway Strategy**⁵ (2021). Contained within these are also global priorities identified by the Paris Agreement on climate change and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. This is also in line with the **EU Regional MIP 2021-2027**, whose priority areas for India are (i) sustainable modernisation; (ii) green deals and (iii) good governance. Supporting decarbonisation will also be a theme of **South Asia regional programming**, in which India will play an important role.

With a **population of 1.4 billion** (with 50% below the age of 25), increasing urbanisation and a growing middle class, India's approach towards energy, consumption and the environment will be a major factor in tackling the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and in achieving the SDGs. India is the **world's fourth largest emitter of greenhouse gases**, and projected economic and demographic growth means that India will contribute more than any other country to the projected rise in global **energy demand**, with its total carbon emissions having already surpassed the EU's.

India's rapidly urbanising population (50% of the population will be urbanised by 2050, compared to 35% in 2021) will have major consequences on environmental, economic and social development in the country. India is embracing this challenge as an opportunity to build an enabling environment for sustainable urban transformation

¹ Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank: Connecting Europe and Asia - Building blocks for an EU Strategy (JOIN/2018/31 final)

² EU-India Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025 – <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/45026/eu-india-roadmap-2025.pdf>

³ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/49508/eu-india-connectivity-partnership-8-may-2.pdf>

⁴ Joint communication to the European Parliament and the Council: The EU strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific (JOIN/2021/24 final)

⁵ Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank: The Global Gateway (JOIN/2021/30 final)

and economic growth. The **Urbanisation Partnership** (operationalised through a Joint Working Group), demonstrates the importance EU assistance for India, namely the dissemination of EU policies, technologies, business solutions, financing mechanisms for sustainable urban development and the cooperation on research and innovation in support of smart and sustainable urbanisation.

Supporting the development of **resilient infrastructure** helps to deliver the priorities of the EU's key strategies in the framework of EU-India relations, as well as the EU's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy⁶ and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030⁷. Particularly with the expansion of the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD+), it is essential that investments into infrastructure are well designed from the start and adequately integrate climate risks. India's Prime Minister Modi announced the creation of the CDRI to help other countries deal with natural and man-made disasters through a collaborative approach. Supporting the **CDRI's Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS)** initiative; which targets Small Island Developing States (SIDS), helps to build the strategic partnership with India, a vital actor in climate and environmental issues. The Indian Foreign Minister wrote to the Commissioner for International Partnerships requesting financial support to IRIS, which was responded to positively and announced by the President of the Commission during her visit to India in April 2022.

The **European Green Deal** puts clean energy, circular economy and climate action at the top of the EU's domestic and external agenda. In these areas, the objectives of the EU and India strongly converge with both wanting to reduce their dependency on import of fossil fuels, diversify their energy supply, reduce their consumption of primary raw material, tackle pollution, and increase their energy efficiency and share of renewable energy. Both are strongly committed to the implementation of the Paris Agreement. With the world's fourth highest greenhouse gas emissions, and half of its grid-connected electricity generated by coal plants, India's **just energy transition** will be as much important domestically (also given its high vulnerability to climate change) as globally for its overall impact on achievement of the SDGs. The EU and India are closely cooperating on ensuring affordable, clean and secure energy and on climate adaptation and mitigation under the EU-India Clean Energy and Climate Partnership (CECP⁸), agreed at the EU-India Summit on 30 March 2016 and later confirmed in a joint statement at the EU-India Summit on 6 October 2017.

Besides, more recently, on 27 June 2022, in Elmau, Germany, **G7** Leaders and partner countries, including India, agreed to explore options for **decarbonising** the energy mix and accelerating the transition from dependency on fossil fuels, as well as for rapidly expanding clean and renewable energy sources and energy efficiency. This includes phasing down coal while increasing the share of renewable energies in the energy mix. Leaders agreed that phasing down unabated coal and scaling up clean and renewable energies needs to be environmentally and socially just, acknowledging contributions by approaches such as circular economy. Leaders also recognised and supported strong partnerships such as **Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs)** as a means to support the country-led transformation of sectors, capacity building and financing in collaboration with multilateral development banks and other development finance or green finance institutions, the private sector as well as other partners. They acknowledged that JETPs and partnerships for global infrastructure and investment can contribute to the objectives of an open and inclusive climate club by supporting policy reforms and transforming the industry and related energy sector in line with multilateral and national commitments and processes.

Transitioning to a more resource efficient and circular economic model is high on the agenda of the Indian government as it contributes to a range of connected Indian domestic priorities (self-reliance, job creation and poverty alleviation, industrial transition, pollution reduction, climate action, and sustainability of India's rich natural resource base). The **EU-India Resource Efficiency/Circular Economy (RE/CE) Partnership** supports the Circular Economy agenda at bilateral and global level (e.g. G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue, Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency that India has joined). A RE-Cell has been constituted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) for interministerial coordination. A new policy on Extended Producer Responsibility and a new national CE Mission have been announced. EU Member States

⁶ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Forging a climate-resilient Europe – the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change (COM/2021/82 final)

⁷ <https://www.undrr.org/publication/sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030>

⁸ CECP service contract currently being extended for the period 2023-2025 under EU India AAP 2021

(notably the Nordic ones), as well as Norway have expressed interest in further joining forces with the EU on this topic under this RE/CE partnership, in a Team Europe approach.

The **EU-India Water Partnership** aims to foster sustainable management of water resources and tackling the challenges posed by water management in the context of a growing population, competing water demands and a changing climate. Support to the EU-India Water Partnership will contribute to several key Indian initiatives in relation to water, including National Rural Drinking Water Programme, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (sanitation), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (investment in irrigation), National Mission for Clean Ganga/Namami Gange and Atal Bhujal Yojna National Groundwater Management Improvement Programme. This is to be achieved through strengthening technological, scientific and management capabilities.

With regard to **digital transformation**, building on more than two decades of constructive policy dialogue through an EU-India Joint Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies, the two partners have decided over the last few years to increase the level of cooperation, calling for the development of an EU-India digital investment forum, an EU-India Artificial Intelligence Task Force, and in April 2022, the creation of an EU-India TTC, at the nexus between trade, technology and security. This enhanced interest stems from both economic and strategic interests, considering India's resources and ambition to fully participate in shaping the global agenda on digital transformation.

The EU and India share an interest in enhancing cooperation on **migration and mobility**, though with different priorities. India has repeatedly called for facilitating the movement of workers from India to the EU, with a focus on highly skilled workers and intra-corporate transferees; the EU has an interest in improving cooperation on return and readmission of irregular migrants from India. Based on this shared interest but different priorities, a High Level EU-India Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (**HLDMM**) was launched in 2006, which adopted in 2016 a Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM), setting areas of cooperation under four pillars: legal migration, irregular migration, migration and development, and international protection. The 2025 Roadmap for the EU-India strategic partnership validated this approach, recommending to explore possibilities to enhance movement of students, researchers, professionals (according to labour market needs and skills availability), while also addressing collaboration on return and readmission. The 2021 EU-India Leaders' Meeting confirmed both sides' commitment to close and comprehensive cooperation.

Meanwhile, the situation of **civil society, human rights and gender equality** remains sensitive, with continuing critical challenges in reducing poverty, inequalities and promoting social justice, even more so post COVID-19 and the impact on commodity prices and food security due to the ongoing war of Russia against Ukraine. The way and the extent to which the EU manages to partner with India on those critical human rights and social justice issues, from a policy dialogue angle, even with meagre resources, could have a positive impact on overall EU-India relations, businesses and citizens as well as global governance and decision-making at G7 and G20 level. The action will besides contribute to the implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP III)⁹ and to women's economic empowerment in key areas of the green deal and digitalisation agenda.

Overall, this action will help to deliver the **Global Gateway** strategy and its objectives to support the development of hard and soft infrastructure, and of objectives in digital, climate and energy, transport, health, education and research, as well as in human mobility. It provides an opportunity for the EU to bring together its multi-faceted relations with India under one umbrella, and invest in strengthening ties between India and the EU by fostering and expanding quality policy dialogue, sustainable investments and mutually-beneficial cooperation towards reaching sustainable modernisation and connectivity targets in India, and beyond. Building on the Global Gateway, the action is **intrinsically aligned** with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the Paris Agreement and the external dimension of the European Green Deal. Global Gateway will be implemented hand in hand with **EU Member States**, who are also committed to the sustainability and domestic modernisation agendas in India, and whose development banks will continue to provide financing to support these aims. The EU is already in partnership with several of these banks, and will be looking to expand these partnerships further as we move forward in delivering Global Gateway.

⁹ The Country Level Implementation Plan (CLIP) for India foresees addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation as a thematic priority for promoting gender equality and women empowerment.

2.2 Problem Analysis

India faces a multitude of **huge challenges**, from population growth, migration and mobility, increasing urbanisation, energy access and energy security, climate change and biodiversity loss, to persisting deep inequalities. With a population of 1.4 billion (with 50% below the age of 25), and increasing urbanisation and a growing middle class, its approach towards energy, resource consumption and the environment will be a major factor in tackling climate change and achieving the SDGs. India is the world's fourth largest emitter of greenhouse gases. Its per capita emissions (below 1.8 t CO₂/year), are still far below EU or global average (4.5-4.7 t CO₂/year) but projected economic and demographic growth means that India will contribute more than any other country to the projected rise in global energy demand, with its total carbon emissions having already surpassed the EU's.

India has set ambitious targets under its Nationally Determined Contributions (**NDCs**), aiming to produce 50% of its total cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources, and reducing emissions intensity by 45% by 2030 as compared to 2005 levels. India is the second largest producer and consumer of coal after China, with **coal** supplying over 40% of energy in India, and a major source of revenue for states. "India aims to cut power output from at least 81 of the total of 173 coal-fired power plants over the next four years, the federal power ministry told top energy department officials of state and federal government in a letter. The energy hungry nation expects the plan to reduce power generation by 58 billion kilowatt hours (kWh) to save 34.7 million tonnes of coal and cut carbon emissions by 60.2 million tonnes, the power ministry said (Reuters/Business Today)"¹⁰. However, India is also planning to commission new coal power plants in 2022 and 2023¹¹. Supporting a **Just Energy Transition** has become a significant policy objective in relation to several emerging economies, including vis a vis the G7, following the JETP with South Africa. In India, the transition path is particularly politically sensitive in some of the poorest states where livelihood options for coal mine workers. Hence the preference for the term "phasing down" rather than "phasing out" (from coal) . The transition path is therefore as much an environmental and technological issue as a social, economic and political one.

The above-mentioned ambition reinforces the urgency to develop international partnerships in particular the increased adoption of **clean energy technologies**. It is estimated that a **circular economy** path adopted by India could bring in annual benefits of USD 600 billion, with potential to reduce greenhouse emissions by half. The draft National Policy on **Resource Efficiency/Circular Economy (RE/CE)**, supported by the previous phases of EU Support is still under consideration for adoption by the Indian government, but it has already identified large opportunities for new businesses and jobs, in sectors such as metals, electronics, construction or vehicles. India turned its focus to necessary **infrastructures, logistics and technologies**, which could benefit from EU experience on those matters yet also need to be adapted to the national capacities, local circumstances and in particular the role of informal sector. India also expressed interest to broaden the scope of EU cooperation to **biotic resources**.

India has linked the SDGs closely with its domestic development motto of "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas" ("collective effort, inclusive development"). However, India ranks 120th out of 165 countries in the SDG index 2021, and 63rd among 190 countries in the WB Ease of Doing Business index, showing **mixed progress**. India has also set targets under its Nationally Determined Contributions (**NDC**), which highlight the need to develop international technology partnerships for development and implementation of clean energy and climate friendly technologies as well as mitigation and adaptation to climate change. It is on track to achieve its climate targets set in 2015, notably as regards the development of renewable energy sources, but has so far been reluctant to reassess its NDC or to adopt climate neutrality as a mid-century goal.

Climate change and rising sea-levels along the Indian coast will endanger the lives and livelihoods of those residing in major cities like Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, with climate-resilient and sustainable infrastructure an increasingly important topic. India's Prime Minister Modi announced the creation of **CDRI**, one of India's key

¹⁰<https://www.reuters.com/business/sustainable-business/india-plans-phase-down-least-81-coal-fired-utilities-4-years-document-2022-05-30/>

¹¹<https://www.spglobal.com/commodityinsights/en/market-insights/latest-news/coal/060322-india-expected-to-commission-10-thermal-coal-power-plants-in-2022-23-add-7010-mw#:~:text=India%20added%20eight%20thermal%20power,in%20the%20next%20four%20years.>

foreign policy platforms on green issues (along with the International Solar Alliance), to help promote the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks, through a collaborative approach. Supporting CDRI's **IRIS** initiative will help strengthen the EU's strategic partnership with India, a vital actor in climate and environmental issues. The EU became a member of CDRI in 2021, which one of India's key foreign policy platforms on green issues (along with the ISA). With **SIDS** prone to these challenges, compounded by capacity constraints and weak institutional frameworks for infrastructure development and management, CDRI has created a dedicated initiative IRIS to promote resilient, sustainable, and inclusive infrastructure in SIDS. Contributing to IRIS will not only support SIDS in this important area, but also contribute to strengthening the EU-India relationship, with cooperation on CDRI an objective of the EU-India Roadmap 2025 and EU-India Connectivity Partnership.

Water management: India is experiencing a high economic and population growth, with water demand for domestic and productive needs rising. While India has only about **4% of the world's renewable water resources** it is home to nearly **18% of the world's population**, hence planning and managing of available water resources to meet the growing water demand is vital. According to estimates, by 2050, the overall water demand will increase by 67% of 2010 levels and at the same time, the national per capita annual availability of water will reduce. Water availability has declined significantly in some river basins and in areas experiencing water stress there is need to manage and reduce competing water demand and consumption. Indian agriculture remains about 60% rainfed. Domestic water and irrigation requirements are primarily taken from groundwater and unregulated groundwater development has led to its overuse in many parts of India, hence resulting in **decline in groundwater level, drying of springs and shallow aquifers and increased cost of water pumping**. Salinization of groundwater is common in the coastal parts of the country and high concentrations of fluoride, arsenic, iron and heavy metals in groundwater samples are found in isolated pockets of India. **Extreme events due to climate change** such as droughts and floods occur with regular frequency in different parts of India. With around one third of India being drought prone, recurrent droughts result in widespread adverse impact on people's livelihoods and flood damages lead to damages in economic terms. Water pollution of rivers, lakes, ponds, tanks and groundwater is primarily due to partially treated and untreated wastewater from urban settlements and industrial establishments. It is estimated that wastewater from urban centres will exceed 100,000 million litres per day by 2050. Water planning has been undertaken within administrative boundaries rather than by river basins leading to water conflicts, as most river basins are shared by several states.

Urbanisation: India is embarking on one of the fastest rural-to-urban transitions in human history, with 200 million more city dwellers expected by 2030 (with possibly 900 million living in urban centres by 2050). The pressure is very high on municipal corporations to provide quality, sustainable public services, and on the construction sector, both public and private, to ensure all new constructions, renovations, or adaptations, follow a set of green, sustainable standards.

India considers **digital transition** as a unique opportunity to support innovative, affordable and good quality public services and business opportunities. While India has taken some strong stance and actions for equitable access to digital technologies (under the **Digital India Scheme**) and is supporting the adoption of new technologies (including Internet of Things) in an ambitious smart-cities programme, the country still needs to develop its compass and policy framework for a human-centric approach, including personal data protection, trustworthy technologies or reducing the gender digital divide. At the same time, and thanks to a very dynamic network of tech "angels", India has developed and adopted a series of open source digital platforms for e-governance, that it is keen to promote internationally for uptake: from e-Identity (Aadhaar), payment services (Universal Payment Interface), personal data management (digital empowerment and protection architecture). While the country benefits from a strong base of IT skills, it still lags behind in terms of infrastructures (in particular in rural and remote areas, living place of the majority of the population), computer power, data storage micro-electronics or digital communication infrastructure manufacturing. The **EU-India TTC** announced by the Prime Minister of India and the President of the European Commission, will create a platform covering all the elements of digital transformation and potential areas of cooperation, including research, policy, rules and regulation, investments and standards, in the following areas of mutual interest: cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, data policy, e-governance online platforms, users rights and freedoms, ICT security, 5G/6G, high performance computing, semiconductors. This forum will oversee the implementation of the digital connectivity component of the EU-India Connectivity Partnership. A **Digital Investment Forum** is expected to be held in the margins of the launch of the TTC.

The shrinking of traditional migratory corridors due to countries in the Middle East and Gulf putting into place measures to reduce dependency on foreign workers, the large-scale **return migration** witnessed during 2020 and 2021 (Vande Bharat), together with the growing aspiration of young Indians to work abroad, has put the Government of India under pressure to skill and deploy workers abroad. New destinations in Europe are being explored by the Government of India. Some EU Member States have or are currently engaged with India in negotiations for **migration and mobility agreements**, which establish frameworks for the safe and orderly migration of workers, students and researchers between respective countries. However, there are limited knowledge or sharing opportunities to facilitate the sharing of good practices, lessons learnt, and/or standard operating procedures which this action would support.

Working on the **return of irregular Indian migrants**, while bearing in mind the security risk element, is a possibility. The HLDMM will be key in setting an approach at EU level, which can be complemented by operational bilateral agreements with some Member States. The action would therefore concentrate on collaboration and practical tools to establish identity, tapping into the potential offered by the national and states systems and resources.

Given the number of important high-level issues on the agenda with India (e.g. COVID-19, Russia's war in Ukraine, China), dialogue needs to be maintained at high political level, as well as through sectoral, technical and operational level. A **Policy Dialogue Support Facility (PDSF)** will help to support this, particularly in regard to cross-sectoral issues.

Regarding **gender equality**, India dropped 28 places to rank 140 out of 156 countries in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2021, notably due to rising disparity in women's economic participation. Through adequate gender mainstreaming, the action has the potential to positively influence women's economic empowerment opportunities as well as access to services and markets. Given the EU commitment to promoting gender equality, the action will contribute to the implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP III)¹², in particular in key areas of the green deal, sustainable modernisation and of the digital transformation agenda.

Main stakeholders:

The proposed action will involve a broad range of stakeholders, both public and private, from the EU and from India, with the action intending to support India's sustainable modernisation.

Key stakeholders include: the Government of India and elected representatives at central, state and local (both urban and rural) levels, the EU, EU Member States, policy makers and regulators, private sector organisations and civil society organisations, especially those involved in work on resilient infrastructure, resource efficiency and circular economy, sustainable urbanisation and connectivity, migration and mobility, global challenges or fundamental values of the EU. **More in detail**, the following agents and agencies will be particularly engaged with, too: infrastructure agencies, think tanks, standard developing organisations, organisations in charge of testing and certification, academia, research and innovation centers (public and private), industry and investors' associations, education and training providers, skills and qualifications recognition institutions, migration policy researchers. Participation of women and youth organisations will also be particularly fostered, wherever possible and meaningful.

Team Europe approach is therefore at the heart of engagement of the action, along with relevant **Indian peer stakeholders and partners**. Whenever relevant, and keeping scale and impact in mind, **international, multilateral and regional agencies**, will also be engaged with. The aim is to ensure that partnerships are focused and results-oriented and ensure (i) high-level political commitment, (ii) rigorous, evidence-based technical dialogue and interventions as well as (iii) sustained stakeholder community mobilisation.

¹² The draft Country level Implementation Plan (CLIP) for India foresees addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation as a thematic priority for promoting gender equality and women empowerment.

More specifically, per sector, issue or partnership, the following stakeholders can be put forward (the nature, degree and quality of engagement varies from one sector to another but needs to be nurtured and sustained throughout the action's duration, in any case, if outputs and objectives are to be achieved):

- **CDRI IRIS initiative:** The proposed action will engage with the national governments' and disaster management agencies in the SIDS region. The action will engage with national and regional agencies of key infrastructure sector (for e.g. energy, housing, transport, digital, water and health), private sector operators, development agencies, national and international financial institutions as well as local authorities and sector specific and community mobilisation civil society organisations.
- **JETP:** At national level: central ministries responsible for coal, energy, renewable energy, mines, labour & employment, skills development and environment/forest; state owned entities (SOEs) in mining and power production and more; CSOs, employers' and workers' organisations. At state level: power utilities and corporations of the coal industry, pollution control boards; economic actors (companies, investors, Employers and Business Membership Organisations; State-level Employers' and Workers' organisations (e.g. All India Coal Workers' Federation, Indian Mineworkers' Federation, Indian National Mineworkers' Federation, All India Central Council of Trade Unions, Central Industrial Trade Union and Hind Khadan Mazdoor Federation); CSOs, environmental, climate change and climate justice organisations and representatives of Community based organisations; trade unions and associations of informal workers.
- **Resource Efficiency/Circular Economy:** the MoEFCC, Niti Aayog, relevant line ministries like Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA); State and City level administrations (Pollution Control Boards); relevant industry organisations, private sector and civil society fora; communities, local social enterprises and villages when working to change grassroot practices in land, waste and water sectors; informal sector collectives (scavengers and SMEs involved in the collection and sorting of waste).¹³
- **Water Partnership:** Ministry of Water Resources (Jal Shakti), National Mission of Clean Ganga, Central Water Commission, the Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (*cGanga*) and other authorities under Ministry of Jal Shakti. It is envisaged to conduct broad stakeholders consultation on the River Basin Management Plan to be supported and its Programme of Measures at the Central and State level. Strong collaboration with CSOs working on addressing water issues is envisaged.
- **Sustainable Urbanisation Partnership:** MoHUA, National Institute for Urban Affairs, Urban Local Bodies, State Government, private sector, financial Institutions. Urban Local Bodies/city authorities will play a crucial role toward the implementation of the Urbanisation Partnership. Ministries and/or State level Departments in charge of water, transport, energy, waste and industrial development could also be involved, if relevant, under MoHUA's leadership.
- **Digital transformation:** The **Joint Working Group on ICT** (information and communication technologies), convenes the Commission with the two historical governmental actors: the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, and the Department of Telecommunications. Also, a regular cyber-dialogue is held between EEAS and the Ministry of External Actions. The set of stakeholders would gain in being enlarged and diversified.
- **Migration and Mobility:** This action should include a wide range of stakeholders in the EU and India, particularly but not limited to EU and Member State officials, representatives of the Government of India or its States, public and private sector employers, education and training providers, skills and qualifications recognition institutions, civil society associations (including diaspora groups) and migration policy researchers.

¹³ See also: <https://affairsccloud.com/government-forms-11-committees-to-drive-india-to-a-circular-economy/>

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **Overall Objective (Impact)** is to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development and the Paris Agreement on climate change

The **Specific Objective (Outcome)** of the action is to support sustainable modernisation, specifically in regard to **resilient infrastructure, just energy transition, sustainable urbanisation, resource efficiency and circular economy, water, migration and mobility as well as digitalisation**, by December 2027.

The **expected Policy Outputs** to be delivered by this action contributing to the Specific Objective (Outcome) are the following:

- 1 At least three SIDS supported in adopting and implementing a systemic approach to resilient, sustainable and inclusive infrastructure (**CDRI**);
- 2 Key stakeholders in at least two coal regions of India supported to plan and/or implement a just energy transition pathway away from coal and towards a low carbon energy system (**JETP**);
- 3 Circular economy policies adopted, promoted, implemented and enforced in India, inspired by EU experience, standards, tools and regulation (**RE/CE**);
- 4 Strengthened technological, scientific and management capabilities of India in sustainable management of water resources, including through joint EU-India businesses, States, regions and/or cities initiatives in the water sector (**Water**);
- 5 Improved sustainable urbanisation planning, governance and access to sustainable basic services, with an emphasis on EU best practice sharing and bankable project identification and promotion (**Urbanisation**);
- 6 Facilitated EU-India exchange and convergence of best practices on digital policy and regulation, development and adoption of international standards supported as well as investment in digital connectivity, technologies and services enhanced on both sides (**Digitalisation**);
- 7 Positive, forthright, informed and result oriented collaboration between EU and India created, including coordinating with EU MS and building on their efforts, for a better organised regular migration and well-managed mobility, while preventing and combating irregular migration (**CAMM**);
- 8 Cross-sectoral geopolitical, political and technical challenges and opportunities debated and analysed, including recommendations for further analysis, action or resource mobilisation, at sector or cross-sector level (**PSDF**).

3.2 Indicative Activities

In order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives and outputs, the action will carry out a series of core, sector-specific and cross-sectoral activities. These will be structured, and implemented, throughout an iterative and interconnected continuum of policy dialogue, pipeline identification and negotiation, investment decision-making, project implementation, monitoring and review as well as strategic communication and public diplomacy.

The following **core set of policy dialogue activities**, relate to Outputs 1 to 8 (non-exhaustive list):

- Helping organise and facilitate structured policy dialogue;
- Setting up knowledge sharing platforms;
- Supporting or providing capacity development among network members;
- Helping formulate and monitor policy-relevant outputs and indicators, including environmental and climate indicators; disaggregated at least by sex and age, as and when relevant or meaningful;
- Identifying, tracking and updating resource mobilisation, both sector- and stakeholder-specific, across various types of resources, with a core focus on EU and India;
- Conducting workshops, seminars, webinars, panel discussions and/or conferences;
- Conducting studies or surveys;
- Drafting briefing notes or analytical pieces;
- Disseminating findings and recommendations;

- Organising study visits/tours, business trips, and/or expertise or peer-to-peer exchanges;
- Training and/or building capacities;
- Providing technical assistance to the beneficiary on drafting of political statements/commitments;
- Providing technical assistance for the revision of (national or state level) legal and strategic frameworks;
- Producing manuals, guidelines, toolkits or other similar process, standard, protocol, good practice or regulation-related documents;
- Conducting and documenting pilots (e.g. on greener, smarter industrial transition or cleaner, more transparent supply chains);
- Providing equipment or other material inputs;
- Producing and disseminating communication material, with content and means of communication adapted to relevant audiences, in partnership with and under the guidance of the EU Delegation-managed Strategic Communication team;
- Organising targeted communication and/or awareness raising campaigns, in partnership with and under the guidance of the EU Delegation-managed Strategic Communication team;

A second set of activities, focusing on **cross-sectoral issues and linkages**, also relate to Outputs 1 to 8, yet particularly apply to Output 8 (non-exhaustive list):

- Describing, explaining, comparing and/or analysing similarities, differences, linkages and tensions across the most relevant issues, themes, sectors or sub-sectors addressed by the various components of the action; including with gender and social equity lenses;
- Comparing and analysing the reliability of the most commonly used output, outcome and impact indicators in the sectors addressed by the action and the impact this has on the quality of policy dialogue within each sector and, when relevant, across sectors;
- Supporting the preparation of bankable business models in specific sectors that integrate climate action (e.g., investments using energy efficient systems);
- Supporting the identification and dissemination of climate smart practices & environmental innovations at sector level;
- Assessing the added value of green alternatives in infrastructure investments (nature-based solutions);
- Identifying incentives for the private sector to green its activities in specific sub-sectors;
- Supporting the definition of low carbon paths at sector level and supporting the definition of activities to decline into sub-sector/activity level;
- Supporting the translation of NDC targets at sector or state level;
- Identifying potential sources of green jobs (e.g., in waste management, urban mobility, ecological agriculture, sound water management);
- Linking digital innovation to climate smart solutions,

Building on the above list of core and cross-sectoral activities, **sector- or policy-specific activities** would be further tailored to help achieve all 8 expected policy outputs:

Policy Output 1: CDRI IRIS Facility: Key activities would be structured around three core blocks of activities:

- a) improving resilience of SIDS infrastructure to climate change and disaster risks;
- b) strengthening knowledge and partnerships for integrating resilience in SIDS infrastructure;
- c) promoting gender equality and disability inclusion while conceptualising or developing resilient SIDS infrastructure.

Policy Output 2: JET Partnership: Key activities would have to support India's movement away from coal reliance, within a politically sensitive environment, with a focus on coal "phase down", first ensuring just transitions in coal regions which are already identified as economically unproductive. That should include the development of specific Just Transition plans and their implementation in two coal regions in India, preferably, in the state of Jharkhand which has the largest known coal reserves in India, and is also one of the poorest states in India. Given India's coal phase-down ambitions, Jharkhand exemplifies the challenge of diversifying a coal-dependent economy. The action would align to and complement Germany's JET existing plans, including those already supported by the EU at global and India levels, as well as new initiatives supported by Germany in the framework of JETP in India.

Policy Output 3: Resource Efficiency/Circular Economy: Key activities would be structured around, and build upon the outcomes of the previously EU-funded Resource Efficiency Initiative Phase 2 (REI2) project as well as further contribute to the implementation of the 2020 EU-India joint declaration on RE/CE. Activities shall in particular help promote and improve the draft Indian National Policy on RE/CE, National RE/CE Mission, and structured inter-ministerial governance to underpin policy implementation. Activities would have to help improve further government engagement on the development of RE/CE policies, including at sub-national level, strengthening the role of states, policy control boards and eco-industrial waste-parks in supporting the RE-Cell, feeding localised lessons from the most advanced Indian RE/CE sectoral policies (on plastics, on e-waste) back to less advanced ones (metal, cement, fashion/textile, bio-based and underground resources). Activities would also be geared towards helping organise further dialogue between EU and Indian businesses regarding the socio-economic benefits of RE/CE business models from a competitiveness/inclusiveness point of view (i.e. illustrating through pilots the benefits of a greener, smarter industrial transition, leap-frogging outdated, less efficient business models, also addressing barriers to trade, investments and technology transfers); and support India as a regional and global champion on RE/CE, notably as regards transboundary impacts (marine litter, pollution), eco-labelling, adoption of global and EU standards, or cleaner, more transparent supply chains, notably following-up on UNEA5 Resolution to End Plastic Pollution and the initiatives taken by India in the context of its G20 presidency. Activities would also help develop new tools and infrastructures, consistent with circularity norms and processes.

Policy Output 4: EU-India Water Partnership: Activities would focus on helping develop a more sustainable management of water resources, wastewater and ecosystems to tackle water pollution, and to address water challenges in the context of climate change. Activities would help increase EU-India cooperation on technological, scientific and management capabilities aspects of water management, and related joint EU-India business opportunities, but also regions and cities partnerships, in the water sector. The identification, and promotion, of bankable sustainable projects in the water sector in India would be a central activity.

Policy Output 5: Sustainable Urbanisation Partnership: Activities would have to help make cities more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Activities would be focused on helping achieve the following four core areas:

- (i) establishing implementation mechanisms for cities to promote impact-based urbanisation;
- (ii) fostering urban resilience in metropolitan planning;
- (iii) contributing to the ClimateSmart Cities Assessment Framework of MoHUA; and potentially;
- (iv) establishing of an Urban Water Association.

Policy Output 6: Digital/ICT Partnership: Activities would focus on facilitating the exchange, convergence and standardisation of best practices on digital policy and regulation. Specifically, activities would have to be structured around the following work areas:

- (i) aligning positions in international fora dealing with digital policy matters fostered, as well as identifying ways for EU and India to cooperate in promoting in other parts of Asia (and beyond), digital shared values, policy approaches and regulation;
- (ii) promoting secure, trustworthy and sustainable deployment and access of digital technologies and services in India (such as 5G, Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, data access and governance, smart contracts, cybersecurity, online platforms, e-governance tools, etc);
- (iii) helping progress towards defining common visions for the development of future technologies (Beyond 5G/6G, Quantum Techniques, digital ledger technologies etc);
- (iv) promoting interoperability and connectivity of infrastructures;
- (v) fostering investments in digital economy between the EU and India;
- (vi) promoting a human-centric and ethical approach to technologies, protecting fundamental human rights;
- (vii) promoting exchanges and connecting research communities working on High performance and quantum computing, Artificial Intelligence, digital communication technologies.

Policy Output 7: EU-India CAMM: Key activities would, in alignment with best practices and experiences of EU Member States focus on:

- (i) facilitating legal migration and mobility of workers, students and researchers;
- (ii) helping improve cooperation on return and readmission including through the development of practical guidelines and a setup for their implementation;

- (iii) collecting and analysing targeted information with a view to adapting policies and activities intending to prevent irregular migration in rapidly changing environments.

Policy Output 8: PDSF: Building on the learning and most effective activities carried out by the ending EU-funded PDSF, the facility will continue to support objectives of key EU-India partnerships and reinforce political and technical dialogue/negotiations, including potential new avenues for partnerships. Its flexibility is key to support a needs-driven policy specific approach as well as enable cross-sectoral dialogue; and analysis. Activities would be specified based on the development and approval of specific outcome-oriented concept notes, either sectoral or cross-sectoral. In support of, and complementary to Policy Outputs 1 to 7, Key PDSF activities will also consist in identifying, tracking and updating resource mobilisation, both sector-wise and across sectors, across various types of resources (financial, human, technical, technological) and various stakeholders (public, private, civil society), with a core focus on the EU and India, and priority to policy dialogues, pipelines and interventions that have, or acquire over time, both focus and scale. Other important activities will consist in documenting and making accessible the links between quality engagement, large scale commitments (mainly through loans and guarantees) and sustainable interventions.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

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

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that no further action was required, but key environment and climate-related aspects will be addressed during implementation of the action.

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, but environmental aspects will be addressed during implementation of the action).

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).

The action is institutional by nature and is therefore not vulnerable to environmental degradation or climate-related risks. It aims at supporting a sustainable development and growth for India in line with the Green Deal priorities. Support to sustainable urbanisation, circular economy and resources efficiency, India's energy transition from coal are all expected to foster India's transition to a climate resilient and low carbon economy and society. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions could be expected from international/local expert's travels to/from workshops/events/seminars. The implementing partners, who will be recruited for the implementation of the action, will be requested to ensure offsetting of the carbon emissions resulting from experts' travel operations.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that gender equality is an important and deliberate objective, but not the principal reason for undertaking the action. On one hand, the action will promote the participation of women from relevant ministries, private sector organisations and networks, as well as think tanks, research and innovation institutes and other types of CSOs in workshops and events to ensure equal opportunity is provided to women stakeholders to learn and contribute to the various policy discussions. On the other hand, the project will encourage and support Commission services, India central (and state-level, when relevant) ministries (Energy; Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Commerce and Industry) and local stakeholders to undertake specific gender analysis (e.g. impact of international trade on gender equality in the context of trade negotiations), foster gender-transformative policies and identify specific gender equality objectives and activities.

Human Rights

All activities will be values driven, integrating the key principles (participation, non-discrimination, accountability and transparency) of the human rights based approach.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that the action is considered relevant for the inclusion of persons with disabilities. All activities will be designed to ensure they are inclusive and accessible. As far as the CDRI/IRIS/SIDS component is concerned, it explicitly targets persons with disabilities as important intervention beneficiaries.

Democracy

The situation of civil society, human rights and gender equality remains sensitive in India. Engagement of civil society through policy dialogue will therefore have to be carefully designed, and managed. Civil society participation is aligned with the Global Gateway initiative which entails both hard and soft initiatives of which democracy, and good governance, are an integral part of. Democratic participation and debate at lower level will in particular be a part of the partnerships engaging with urban local bodies and/or rural administrations; including the sustainable urbanisation, water and circular economy partnerships. The action will also potentially provide significant means and venues for implementing the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP III) and promoting women's economic empowerment in key areas of the green deal and digitalisation agenda.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

Inequality in India is significant, as demonstrated, for instance, in the 140th ranking position (out of 156) in the Global Gender Gap Index. India is home to a third of the world's absolute poor, occupying 131st position in the Human Development Index. Through influencing urbanisation, fostering management of water resources including access, and addressing climate vulnerabilities, the action is expected to help tackling inequalities and build the resilience of sectors (e.g. energy) and vulnerable communities/populations.

Disaster Risk Reduction

By ensuring tangible support to India's flagship initiative i.e. the CDRI's IRIS initiative, a robust policy dialogue and exchange of experience on climate change adaptation is expected to be put in place. The action is expected to contribute to Disaster Risk Reduction hence will indirectly contribute to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. The EU became a member of CDRI in 2021 which further paves the platform to undertake discussions on policies in a more formalised manner.

Other considerations if relevant

Inclusion, equity, and respect for diversity has been identified as a key guiding principle of **IRIS**. The action will extend support to all **SIDS**, irrespective of their membership with **CDRI**. IRIS will be based on principles of equity so that the most vulnerable countries have priority access to technical and financial support. The support offered by IRIS will be guided by concerns of the most vulnerable sections of the society, based on their gender, age, physical/mental ability, ethnic background, etc. Gender equality and disability inclusion one of the three important outcome of the IRIS initiative.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood Risk level (H/M/L)	Impact Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
1. Inclusive growth, inequality and women's economic empowerment	i) India ranked 140th among 156 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index 2021. ii) Prevailing gender inequalities reinforced due to caste, religion, cultural ethnicity, income/wealth status, marital status, sexual identity and disability.	H	M	- EU Delegation and Member States to work towards the implementation and mainstreaming of the EU Gender Action Plan III in all dialogues and relevant projects, including in areas such as trade and business. -The new India CLIP is going to help EU support be wider and deeper,

	iii) Culture, norms and beliefs, often patriarchal in nature, act as barriers to Gender Equality and Women Economic Empowerment.			throughout most EU policies and instruments, -Gender mainstreaming support through private sector programmes and blending has started in 2021. hence beyond civil society only.
2. Climate change mitigation and adaptation	i) Phasing out of coal will take time. ii) Green transition: challenges within the government with regards to planning, building strategies, monitoring, data collection/analysis, intra and inter government coordination, implementation including enforcement and frequent changes in administration. iii) India vulnerable to floods, heat waves, drought, hurricanes. iv) Natural hazards and extreme events can disrupt and derail progress of IRIS.	M	M	- Under ongoing policy dialogues, the EU and India exchange experiences and best practices. - The EU to support India's work in the context of cities and climate assessment and resilience. - Closely monitoring of issues and developing contingency planning for extreme events. - Working in partnerships with SIDS and regional organisations to ensure that project design and implementation actively engage SIDS countries and communities, ensuring synergies and complementarities of ongoing initiatives.
3. Energy policies	i) India has very ambitious renewable energy objectives (175 GW by 2022 and 450 GW by 2030), yet these ambitious objectives will only be enough to meet the expected increase in energy demand. ii) For effective integration of high amount of renewable energy, a better regulatory and market framework is needed. iii) Political conflicts / dynamics at subnational level hinder project implementation:	M	M	The EU regularly exchanges experiences and best practices on: -market regulation and regulatory framework needed for increased integration of more renewable energy -technology cooperation in the area of smart grids. The EU to continue to work with India on just energy transition to renewables.
4. Access to Natural Resources:	i) Uneven development and inequality poses a risk that price increase may result in parts of the population having inequitable access to natural resources e.g. food and water. ii) Land ownership and the right to use of land remain a challenge, particularly impacting tribal communities. iii) Water governance including risk of imbalanced access to drinking water in cities and varied pricing structure for households iv) The possible focus on selective interventions and short-term success may jeopardize holistic and	H	M	- River basin management, treatment and reuse of wastewater, with an emphasis on climate adaptation and extrapolating pilot EU approaches to national river management. - resource and energy efficiency, towards the adoption of draft national policy with a focus on key national sectors such as municipal solid waste & liquid waste, electronic waste, scrap metal (ferrous & non-ferrous), solar panels, gypsum, lithium-ion batteries, agriculture waste, toxic hazardous industrial waste, used oil waste, tyre and rubber recycling and end-of-life vehicles. -transition to organic farming in two Indian States (out of 28), in the context of agro-ecology and the

	participative approaches for river rejuvenation.			economics of ecosystems and biodiversity (TEEB Agrifood).
5. Environment policies	<p>i) India is ranked low in the list of countries ‘least food secure’ and remains very vulnerable to increasing climate disasters.</p> <p>ii) Increased pressure on fragile ecosystems, notably around polluted cities and scarce residual biodiversity hotspots.</p> <p>iii) Possible risk in implementation and enforcement of policies.</p> <p>iv) Risk of donor/institution crowding in Tier 1 cities, at the expense of smaller ones, and more remote areas where the bulk of biodiversity impacts are felt.</p>	M	M	<p>Policy dialogues (e.g. on circular economy, recycling, connectivity, urbanisation, etc):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the EU has emphasised the importance of good governance, encouraging participative, informed consultations with civil society, marginalised groups and private sector to increase the awareness and ownership of proposed developments, or the ex-ante assessments of their social and environmental impacts. - Theme II on Geographical Focus – State - City – Town Approach aims to mitigate this risk, since it takes a geographical approach.
6. Digital transformation	<p>Adoption of framework aiming or resulting in protectionist measures (national standards, market or data access barriers)</p> <p>Regulatory or policy framework affecting human-centric approach.</p>	M	M	<p>EU support for India to participate to the making of international standards and benefit from open economy is a powerful alternative to adoption of national standards,</p> <p>The EU is a trusted strategic partner with whom India can engage and compare visions, based on shared values, equal and complementary strength, and mutual respect.</p>
7. Migration and mobility	<p>Lack of interest and support from EU Member States.</p> <p>Dialogue between EU and India on migration and mobility stalled</p>	H	M	<p>Maintaining a coordination mechanism with Member States, keeping them informed both at local (local migration group) and central level (Readmission Experts Meetings), ensuring their participation to the steering of activities of the project, and coherence with their bilateral relations.</p> <p>Mitigation expected through the HLDMM as well as with the political support from regular EU-India summits.</p>

Lessons Learnt:

CDRI IRIS: CDRI has carried out a preliminary analysis of SIDS infrastructure initiatives and suggested the need for information, knowledge, and skills at a greater scale to close the existing infrastructure gaps. It further reiterated the significance of risk-informed development planning, risk-informed infrastructure design and retrofitting,

strengthening of disaster data collection, consideration of climate smart response and recovery measures, promoting innovation, use of scientific data, and appropriate technologies to reduce the vulnerability brought about by disasters and climate risks in SIDS. Genuine partnerships for resilient infrastructure development are a critical priority to improve the overall resilience and advocacy of SIDS. The need to build on available local, national, and regional institutional capacities, their ability to access climate finance, up-scaling community based approaches and capacity building can provide the necessary fillip to achieving resilience in SIDS.

JETP: The Action under this AAP would be coherent with the thematic global EU-Germany action that is being prepared ('**Just Energy Transition in coal regions**'), of which the EU contribution of EUR 5 million comes from the AAP 2021 Global Challenges/Planet, and could potentially help lay the way for a larger-scale initiative later. The global EU-Germany joint action (AAP 2021) constitutes one of three components of a larger BMWK¹⁴ programme '**Innovation Regions for a Just Energy Transition**', which has two additional bilateral components to specifically support India and Indonesia. This AAP could co-finance the bilateral component for India of BMWK's 'Innovation Regions for a Just Energy Transition' programme, or another Germany-funded JETP programme, or another JET programme supported by another EU Member State. It would then be able to specifically complement and/or support Germany's plans in India (in a Team Europe approach), namely the development of specific Just Transition plans and their implementation in coal regions, probably in the state of Jharkhand (Hazaribagh and Ramgarh) with solutions for facilitating the socio-economic transformation away from coal, thereby addressing one of the key drivers of greenhouse gas emissions in India. Indicative activities include technical assistance for the repurposing of legacy mine sites/closed mine sites towards renewable energy and other sustainable economic activities with a strong focus on social aspects of mine closure at local and regional level.

Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy: The Prime Minister Office, the MoEFCC, Niti Aayog, relevant line ministries have been rather forthcoming and publicly acknowledge productivity RE/CE as key enablers to climate action and "large opportunities for new businesses and jobs". Large EU and Indian companies have corporate RE/CE policies and targets in place, while at the other hand of the economic spectrum, local social enterprises and NGOs promote inclusive and sustainable business models. However, those initiatives remain largely isolated and did not crystallise into an economy-wide, whole-of-government approach. Besides, although the policy and standard-setting role of the EU is acknowledged, the EU's RE/CE solutions are still often perceived as detached from Indian capacities and more direct priorities. Further efforts could therefore be focus to make the EU's RE/CE model more affordable and consistent with Indian priorities (also from a cultural and socio-economic perspective). Finally, more efforts could be made to look into the industrial dimension of RE/CE, and the development of mutually beneficial business partnerships for the equipment and implementation of new RE/CE supply chains between the EU and India. Further needs were also identified for the training of sub-national capacities for facilitation of CE standards and public procurements, information systems, at-scale, inclusive infrastructures (making the connection between largely informal and varied waste streams, and off-takers companies needing standard and reliable resources) eco-labels to nudge customers, product-as-service and performance-as-service models, and at the nexus of research, innovation and business maturation.

Water Partnership: The main learning from the ongoing support policy dialogue intervention is the need to ensure that a list of priority, well-argued bankable projects are developed and shared with potential investors or financing institutions, in particular institutions with well-established green, sustainable financing products. Emphasising Integrated Water Resource Management at the river basin level (irrigation, energy, ecosystems), with a view to engaging the full range of stakeholders, including communities, is also recommended.

Urbanisation Partnership: Based on the ongoing EU-supported policy dialogue, the technical assistance on the three studies on Mainstreaming Urban Resilience in Metropolitan Planning, on Urban Mobility and on Solid Waste Management worked well. The process of the study on Mainstreaming Urban Resilience in Metropolitan Planning, followed by a Roundtable for experts to give comments to the recommendations of the study and thereafter preparation of a 10-page Policy Brief has been particularly useful. The concept for the Metropolitan Labs is being rethought in order to prevent the Metropolitan Labs from concluding on a list of possible projects without a strategy to take this forward by identified stakeholders, in particular financiers. The overall technical assistance approach is being revised so that it is more output-focused. Topic- and city-wise activities are being strengthened in order to increase impact and quality of the technical assistance.

¹⁴ Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action.

Digital Partnership: EU-funded projects in India touched upon two digital topics: ICT standardisation (since 2016) and data protection and data flows (since 2018). India considers the digital transition as a unique opportunity to leapfrog and bring innovative, affordable and good quality public services and business opportunities including to the population residing in rural areas (2/3 of the total population). For this, one priority is to ensure deployment of infrastructures including in rural and remote areas. While India is home of strong international IT companies and of striving and very successful start-ups, it has yet to develop an ecosystem in digital communication, and wants to participate to the global definition of standards. Besides, India has the ambition to fully participate in shaping the global agenda on digital transformation, promoting a model of open-source e-governance solutions to the international community. Its approaches (still being defined/refined) to privacy and personal data protection, conditions for international data flows, ethical framework for artificial intelligence, cyber- and network security will have an international impact.

Migration and Mobility: A previous EU-funded project (2017 to February 2022) facilitated the joint implementation and delivery of the commitments outlined by the CAMM along its pillars. This project significantly fostered dialogue and developed mutual understanding between the Government of India and EU services, by creating opportunities of collaboration. The project proved that it is desirable and possible to advance in parallel and in a coordinated way on two strands of the CAMM: (i) legal migration (facilitating migration and mobility of workers, students and researchers) and (ii) irregular migration (e.g. developing practical guidelines on return and readmission). The new proposed action will also be more articulated both with Member States and with states in India, benefitting and learning from experience and best practices of some of the most advanced in their engagement with India, and sharing this with the other ones (e.g. agreement templates, approaches to administration at EU Member States; awareness campaigns and practical collaboration with Indian states).

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is:

IF the **Activities** (core, sector-specific and cross-sectoral) are undertaken *AND* the technical (quality technical assistance), political (political commitment, stability and good partnership governance), social (open, constructive, meaningful stakeholder engagement and social stability) and environmental (no environmental crisis that would prevent the action to be implemented) assumptions hold true, *THEN* the **Outputs** will be produced.

IF the **Outputs** are delivered *AND* the assumptions at the level of Outputs hold true, *THEN* the **Outcome** will be realised (sustainable modernisation supported on resilient infrastructure, just energy transition, sustainable urbanisation, resource efficiency and circular economy, water, migration and mobility as well as digitalisation). This is *BECAUSE* the action will have demonstrated its capacity to produce quality deliverables directly or indirectly influencing critical decisions and actions by relevant stakeholders in targeted sectors or across sectors. Synergies and coherence between various policy outputs will be systematically addressed in order to be able to communicate with more depth and precision the larger outcome of the sum of each policy output.

IF the **Outcome** is achieved *AND* the assumptions at this level hold true, *THEN* the action will contribute to the desired **Impact** (to strengthen the means of implementation, global partnerships for sustainable development and the Paris Agreement on climate change). This is *BECAUSE* the action will have demonstrated its capacity to support sustainable modernisation.

Besides, within a Global Gateway framework, the intervention logic is to contribute and connect to, promote and (co) organise multi-stakeholder **policy-specific dialogues**. The purpose of these policy dialogues is to enable concerned and relevant stakeholders to understand the most critical policy-related challenges and how they can, or should, act on these challenges, in the most effective and sustainable manner possible, at their level, in their sectors and/or domains of competence.

A **Team Europe approach** will bring together a variety of relevant and complementary EU players in policy dialogue, implementation, monitoring and review as well as strategic communication and public diplomacy. Team Europe approach will bring as much and as many **EU resources and expertise** as possible, public and private, from the EU and its Member States: investors, banks and other financial institutions, private companies, large, medium and small, research and innovation institutes; academia, think tanks and other relevant civil society actors, but also regions and cities.

Indicators of progress towards specific policy objectives should focus on and help demonstrate that: (i) Quality EU-India policy dialogue is taking place; (ii) Significant, policy-relevant actions and decisions from a large spectrum of concerned stakeholders are made, at various levels (national, sub-national or local, but also global and regional); (iii) Policy-specific results and outcomes have been achieved, for the benefit of people and the planet, directly or indirectly, including for women and youth.

Progress towards policy objectives can take place in many forms, at many different levels, on different critical dimensions, be they political, economic, financial, technical, social or environmental. Hence, what is at stake, and must be pursued, systematically, through and beyond policy-specific political dialogue is: more effective governance systems, greener economies, more sustainable financial investments, more sharing of know-how and technologies accessible to those who need them, greater social harmony, within and across national borders, and a healthier planet.

Based on a reinforced Team Europe approach, which will seek to mobilise more investment in sustainable connectivity focused on EU political priorities, the action will aim at achieving, and communicating, tangible impacts that complement at least one, if not three, **Global Gateway flagships**. Flagships are expected to emerge from sector-specific and cross-sectoral interventions on resilient infrastructure, just energy transition, sustainable urbanisation, resource efficiency and circular economy, water, migration and mobility as well as digitalisation.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.

The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results / indicators / Source of Data / Assumptions - no activities)

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development and the Paris Agreement on climate change	1 Progress towards SDG 17 2 Progress towards Paris Agreement commitments	1 2	1 2	1 2	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome	EU investments mobilised to another level , both in volume, quality and depth terms, in and with India, on resilient infrastructure, just energy transition, sustainable urbanisation, resource efficiency and circular economy, water, migration and mobility as well as digitalisation, with demonstrated benefit for the people and the planet in at least one of the above mentioned sectors, by December 2027	1 Increasing EU financial guarantee investments 2 Increasing number of EU private sector stakeholders engaged in political priority Team Europe partnerships 3 Diversity of EU stakeholders meaningfully engaged	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	EU stakeholders willing to engage and invest in India to a level that can make a difference
Policy Output 1 (PO-1)rel	PO.1 At least three SIDS supported in adopting and implementing a systemic approach to resilient, sustainable and inclusive infrastructure (CDRI)	PO.1 Direct economic loss in relation to global GDP, damage to critical infrastructure and number of disruptions to basic services, attributed to disaster (SDG 11.5.2) (OPSYS core indicator)	PO.1	PO.1	PO.1	Capacity to design and implement affordable resilient infrastructure; disaster prevention plans

Results	Results chain (a): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (a): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Policy Output 2 (PO-2)	PO.2 Key stakeholders in at least two coal regions of India supported to plan and/or implement a just energy transition pathway away from coal and towards a low carbon energy system (JETP)	PO.2 Participatory plans for a just energy transition pathway away from coal and towards a low carbon energy system developed and/or started to be implemented	PO.2	PO.2	PO.2	Willingness to partner and work together towards agreed objectives and targets
Policy Output 3 (PO-3)	PO.3 Circular economy policies adopted, promoted, implemented and enforced in India, inspired by EU experience, standards, tools and regulation (RE/CE)	PO.3 Number of policy and business decisions (incl. among MSMEs) on the circular economy made by governments and companies based on evidence created and disseminated with EU support	PO.3	PO.3	PO.3	Willingness to partner and work together towards agreed objectives and targets, beyond mere policy formulation
Policy Output 4 (PO-4)	PO.4 Strengthened technological, scientific and management capabilities of India in sustainable management of water resources, including through joint EU-India businesses, States, regions and/or cities initiatives in the water sector (Water)	PO.4 Degree of integrated water resources management (OPSYS core indicator) (Scores between 0-100)	PO.4	PO.4	PO.4	Willingness and capacity to work together towards bankable project identification
Policy Output 5 (PO-5)	PO.5 Improved sustainable urbanisation planning, governance and access to sustainable basic services, with an emphasis on EU best practice sharing and bankable project identification and promotion (Urbanisation)	PO.5 Number of people benefitting from improved housing conditions in urban areas, disaggregated by sex	PO.5	PO.5	PO.5	Willingness and capacity to work together towards bankable project identification
Policy Output 6 (PO-6)	PO.6 Facilitated EU-India exchange and convergence of best practices on digital policy and regulation, development and adoption of international standards supported as well as investment in digital connectivity, technologies and services enhanced on both sides (Digitalisation)	PO.6 Number of national strategies, action plans and digital related protection policies developed/revised with support of the EU-funded intervention	PO.6	PO.6	PO.6	Willingness to work together and converge throughout the policy, regulation and deployment continuum
Policy Output 7 (PO-7)	PO.7 Positive, forthright, informed and result oriented collaboration between the EU and India created, including coordinating with EU Member States and building on their efforts, for a better organised regular migration and well-managed	PO.7 Number of laws, policies and strategies addressing migration and mobility related challenges and opportunities developed/updated with support of the EU-funded intervention	PO.7	PO.7	PO.7	Willingness and capacity to work together towards better organised regular migration and well-managed mobility

Results	Results chain (a): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (a): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
	mobility, while preventing and combating irregular migration (CMM)					
Policy Output 8 (PO-8)	PO.8 Cross-sectoral geopolitical, political and technical challenges and opportunities debated and analysed, including recommendations for further analysis, action or resource mobilisation, at sector or cross-sector level (PDSF)	PO.8 Number of policies discussed, analysed and recommendations provided for improvement, particularly with regard to ongoing EU-India Partnerships.	PO.8	PO.8	PO.8	Quality sectoral and cross-sectoral expertise available

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 72 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

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

4.3 Implementation 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 measures¹⁵.

4.3.1 Direct Management (Procurement)

The procurement will contribute to achieving the following outputs detailed in section 3.1:

- Policy Output 3 relating to the RE/CE Partnership
- Policy Output 5 relating to the Sustainable Urbanisation Partnership (Urban)
- Policy Output 6 relating to the Digital EU-India Partnership (Digital)
- Policy Output 8 relating to the PDSF

The global budgetary envelope reserved for direct management through procurement is indicated in section 4.5.

4.3.2 Direct Management (Grant)

Grant: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant

As per Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation, direct grants can be awarded instead of a foreseen call for proposals.

The reasons for this decision are as follows. The direct award to the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) can be an asset to EU competitiveness and play a role in influencing one of the fastest growing economies and a trade partner whose links with Europe are increasingly critical. Based on the criteria for selection and experience of working with the EU, ETSI, as a non pillar assessed entity has been considered as the most appropriate organisation to award a grant of three years for this assignment.

The grant is aligned to the two specific objectives (Outcomes) of the multiannual action plan in favour of the Asia-Pacific region for 2022-2023 as stated in Sec 3.6 and feeds into/builds on a number of indicative activities across most outputs.

¹⁵ 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.

The grant will be in line with the EU Global Gateway, launched in December 2021, which aims at increasing the size, scale and impact of Team Europe investments. It seeks to optimize coherence, while developing synergies and complementarity among EU actors, including companies and businesses.

Moreover the action will lead to creation of a conducive environment in India for recognition and adoption of many EU Standards further implying supporting European regulations and legislation with the creation of harmonised standards and fits into the Policy Output 6 (PO-6), Facilitated EU-India exchange and convergence of best practices on digital policy and regulation, development and adoption of international standards supported as well as investment in digital connectivity, technologies and services enhanced on both sides (Digitalisation).

Going forward the action will directly contribute into the specific objectives and expected results of the Regional MIP for Asia and the Pacific 2021-2027, namely Sustainable Modernisation (SO1), and Good Governance/inclusive and participatory decision-making processes (SO3/ER3) and will lead into meeting the objectives of the EU-India Trade and Technology Council (EU-India TTC),

(b) Type of applicants targeted

Not-for-profit organisation

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

In case the preferred modality (ref. section 4.3.1 and 4.3.2) could not be implemented for reasons outside of the Commission's control, the chosen implementation modality would be via indirect management with a pillar assessed entity/ies, which will be selected by the Commission services using the following criteria:

- expertise in the concerned policies, in particular in the Indian context (or where the action takes place out of India)
- expertise in providing advisory services, capacity building, networking facilitation and/or technical assistance to both public and private sectors;
- knowledge of the Indian context;
- capacity to work in partnership with key bodies of the Indian Government (and other Governments where the action takes place out of India) relevant to the targeted sectors
- Proven capacity and experience in facilitating multistakeholder SDG- and/or Paris Agreement related policy dialogues.
- expertise on working with investors and/or financial institutions, including development financial institutions

4.3.4 Indirect Management with a pillar assessed entity

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management by pillar assessed entities, which will be selected by the Commission services using the following criteria:

- expertise in the concerned policies, in particular in the Indian context (or where the action takes place out of India)
- expertise in providing advisory services, capacity building, networking facilitation and/or technical assistance to both public and private sectors;
- knowledge of the Indian context;
- capacity to work in partnership with key bodies of the Indian Government (and other Governments where the action takes place out of India) relevant to the targeted sectors
- Proven capacity and experience in facilitating multistakeholder SDG- and/or Paris Agreement related policy dialogues.
- expertise on working with investors and/or financial institutions, including development financial institutions

The implementation by these entities entails contributing to achieving the following outputs, listed in section 3.1:

- Policy Output 1 relating to the IRIS
- Policy Output 2 relating to the JETP
- Policy Output 4 relating to the EU-India Water Partnership (Water)

- Policy Output 7 relating to the CAMM

The global budgetary envelope reserved for indirect management is indicated in section 4.5.

4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

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

4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3	
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	
Policy Outputs 3 (RE/CE), 5 (Urban), 6 (Digital) and 8 (PDSF)	8 500 000
Grant (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.2	
Policy Outputs 6 (Digital)	1 000 000
Indirect management cf. section 4.3.2	
Policy Outputs 1 (IRIS), 2 (JETP), 4 (Water) and 7 (CAMM)	14 000 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2	will be covered by another Decision
Audit – cf. section 5.3	
Contingencies	NA
Totals	23 500 000

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

Specific expertise will be mobilised in the specific thematic areas subject of this Action. The EU Delegation will constantly monitor and ensure the effectiveness and quality of the different policy and technical outputs requested and equally ensure the institutional interactions with Indian authorities, and from other countries when relevant. Dedicated steering committees chaired by the EU, will be established to act as advisory and reporting mechanism in order to provide the strategic and policy guidance needed to ensure smooth project implementation for each of the designated focus of the action. A steering committee should meet at least twice a year and will define the EU-India priority work streams to be addressed. The committee will review and endorse annual work plans, monitor project outputs and achievements and provide advice on how to address obstacles and challenges identified during implementation. The steering committee(s), whose composition will be further detailed, will comprise of relevant sections of the Delegation representing relevant Commission services. Participation of the EU headquarters will be encouraged through virtual platforms. Private sector organisations and networks, civil society, including women organisations, will be consulted and involved in the implementation of the action, as appropriate. The outcomes of these meetings and key implementation results will feed into the relevant EU-India Joint Working Group

Committees, Project Advisory Committees (or whatever the exact name governing the relevant EU-Partnership), and support EU-India Strategic Policy Dialogue in the focal areas of sustainable green energy, sustainable urbanisation, water, CE/RE, digitalisation, resilient infrastructure, migration and mobility. A coordination mechanism composed of the relevant Commission services and EEAS will oversee strategic communication aspects.

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, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcome) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality).

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

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring: The implementing entity(s) for each of the designated outputs will be responsible for day-to-day monitoring and reporting based on the agreed indicators in the log frame. Adjustments to the agreed indicators will be subject to a discussion and approval of the steering committees. The contracting authority will be responsible for the approval of progress and final reports.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, a mid-term and final evaluation may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

The mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to scoping for new actions.

The final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that the Action covers a wide and complex range of issues implemented with a strategic trade, investment and development partner.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 3 months 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.

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention (also generally called project/programme) is the operational entity associated to a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Interventions are the most effective (hence optimal) entities for the operational follow-up by the Commission of its external development operations. As such, Interventions constitute the base unit for managing operational implementations, assessing performance, monitoring, evaluation, internal and external communication, reporting and aggregation.

Primary Interventions are those contracts or groups of contracts bearing reportable results and respecting the following business rule: ‘a given contract can only contribute to one primary intervention and not more than one’. An individual contract that does not produce direct reportable results and cannot be logically grouped with other result reportable contracts is considered a ‘support entities’. The addition of all primary interventions and support entities is equivalent to the full development portfolio of the Institution.

The present Action identifies as:

Action level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	Coalition of Disaster Resilient Infrastructure's (CDRI) – Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) initiative (EUR 5 000 000)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	Just Energy Transition Partnership (EUR 5 000 000)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 3	Resource Efficiency & Circular Economy (EUR 2 500 000)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 4	Water partnership (EUR 2 500 000)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 5	Urbanisation partnership (EUR 1 500 000)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 6	Digitalisation/ICT (EUR 2 500 000)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 7	Migration & Mobility (EUR 1 500 000)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 8	Policy Dialogue Support Facility (EUR 2 000 000)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 9	Digitalisation/ICT (EUR 1 000 000)

Appendix 2 COMMISSION DECISION & TECHNICAL and ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

	Project modality (Incl. thematic and regional programmes, as well as calls for proposals)		Budget support		No activities to be implemented by, and no funds to be transferred to, the Partner country, with signature of a Financing Agreement based of the 'simplified' template	
Action Document	Annex Commission Decision	Technical and Administrative Provisions (TAPs)	Annex Commission Decision	Technical and Administrative Provisions (TAPs)	Annex Commission Decision	Technical and Administrative Provisions (TAPs)
1. SYNOPSIS						
1.1. Action Summary Table	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
1.2. Summary of the Action	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2. RATIONALE						
2.1. Context	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A
2.2. Problem Analysis	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A
2.3. Additional Areas of Assessment [For Budget Support Actions only]	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.3.1. Pre-condition on Fundamental values (for a SDG contracts only)	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.3.2. Public Policy	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.3.3. Macroeconomic Policy	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.3.4. Public Financial Management	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.3.5. Transparency and Oversight of the Budget	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION						
3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
3.2. Indicative Activities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
3.3. Mainstreaming	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
3.4. Risks and Lessons Learnt	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
3.5. The Intervention Logic	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
3.6. Logical Framework Matrix	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS						
4.1. Financing Agreement	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A
4.2. Indicative Implementation Period	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A

	Project modality (Incl. thematic and regional programmes, as well as calls for proposals)		Budget support		No activities to be implemented by, and no funds to be transferred to, the Partner country, with signature of a Financing Agreement based of the 'simplified' template	
Action Document	Annex Commission Decision	Technical and Administrative Provisions (TAPs)	Annex Commission Decision	Technical and Administrative Provisions (TAPs)	Annex Commission Decision	Technical and Administrative Provisions (TAPs)
4.3. Implementation of the Budget Support Component (and subsections)	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A
4.4. Implementation Modalities (and subsections)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
4.5. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
4.6. Indicative Budget	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
4.7. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	If applicable and relevant	If applicable and relevant
4.8. Pre-conditions [only for project modality]	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	If relevant and applicable
5. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT						
5.1. Monitoring and Reporting	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
5.2. Evaluation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
5.3. Audit and Verifications	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
6. STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY						
6. Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
APPENDICES						
Appendix 1 Reporting in OPSYS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Appendix 2 Commission Decision and TAPs	Delete and replace with Appendix for Blending if applicable	N/A	N/A	Delete and replace with Appendix for Budget Support if applicable	N/A	N/A
Other: Appendix only for Blending: List Lead Finance Institutions	To be added	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other: Appendix only for Budget Support (Disbursement Arrangements, Conditions and Performance Indicators)	N/A	N/A	N/A	To be added	N/A	N/A