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

**ANNEX**

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the individual measure in favour of the Republic of Mauritius for 2022

**Action Document for “European Solidarity Action with Mauritius (EnSAM) - Cooperation Facility”**

**MEASURE**

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

**1 SYNOPSIS**

**1.1 Action Summary Table**

<b>1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act</b>	European Solidarity Action with Mauritius (EnSAM) – Cooperation Facility OPSYS number: ACT-61392 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument ( <u>NDICI-Global Europe</u> )
<b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting (inter alia) TEI Environment and Climate Adaptation for a Green Recovery.
<b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>	The action shall be carried out in the Republic of Mauritius.
<b>4. Programming document</b>	Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) for the Republic of Mauritius 2021-2027
<b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results</b>	The Cooperation Facility will contribute to all the objectives set out in the MIP
<b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	Not applicable
<b>7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	Main SDG: 17 (partnerships for the goals) Other SDGs: 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	15110 – Public sector policy and administrative management
<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel</b>	N/A

<b>9. Involvement of multilateral partners</b>	No			
<b>10. Targets</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
<b>11. Markers (from DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective @</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Biological diversity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>12. Internal markers and Tags:</b>	<b>Policy objectives</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Digitalisation @ digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity @ transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

	Migration @ (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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BUDGET INFORMATION</b>				
<b>13. Amounts concerned</b>	Budget line: BGUE- B2022-14.020122-C1-INTPA Total estimated cost: EUR 1 500 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 1 500 000			
<b>MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>				
<b>14. Type of financing<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Direct management:</b> - Procurement			
<b>15. Type of measure</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cooperation facility <input type="checkbox"/> Measures in favour of Civil Society			

## 1.2 Summary of the Action

The Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027 for the Republic of Mauritius focuses on (1) Environmental protection and climate change adaptation and resilience, and (2) Good Governance. A Team Europe Initiative (TEI) “Environment and Climate Change for a green recovery” will have a central role in the pursuit of this strategic objective of the MIP, including to achieve both impact and visibility. It involves all Team Europe members active in Mauritius - namely the EU (including through Interreg), France (notably the Embassy, AFD and the Region of Reunion) and the European Investment Bank (EIB). The TEI is expected to combine development support and financial instruments with coherent high-level political dialogue to deliver on the expected results and allow a structural response to the Covid-19 crisis, through a cleaner, greener, sustainable, low emission and climate-resilient economic recovery.

The Cooperation Facility, branded European Solidarity Action with Mauritius (EnSAM) - Cooperation Facility (CF), aims to strengthen the cooperation between the EU and the Republic of Mauritius. Specifically, the CF aims to:

- (1) Support the EU Delegation and institutional partners in the implementation of the MIP, of the Government’s emerging needs and priorities, and of the TEI;
- (2) Support policy dialogue with governments and other key stakeholders; and
- (3) Support the EU’s strategic communication and public diplomacy in Mauritius.

The key stakeholders will be the government, public and private institutions, non-governmental organisations and the civil society (such as foundations, producer associations, business federations, advocacy groups, etc) based and established in Mauritius.

The action will contribute to the achievement of SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), as well as SDG 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

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

## 2 RATIONALE

### 2.1 Context

Mauritius has served as model of a well-accomplished transformation from a low-income, mono-crop agricultural (sugar) economy in the 70s to the highly diversified and competitive economy it is today. Mauritius is an Upper Middle Income Country with a population of approximately 1.3 million. The country temporarily became a High Income Country in 2020 but lost this status in 2021 due to the Covid-19 crisis. In 2020 the country suffered its first recession after 40 years with a negative growth rate of 15%. A gradual economic recovery started in 2021 and is expected to continue in 2022 and beyond. Tourism, one of the main drivers of growth, gradually resumed in the second semester of 2021 with travel restrictions easing following increasing vaccination rates. Besides, continued recovery of manufacturing exports is in line with global demand. Uptakes in construction, wholesale trade, and financial and insurance services are also expected. The recovery remains subject to significant risks, including a prolonged pandemic or failure to address longstanding structural constraints to investments, competitiveness, and skills development.

In October 2020, Mauritius was identified by the EU as a high-risk third country on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Terrorist Financing (AML/CTF). With consistent support from the EU and other donors and thanks to the efforts by the authorities, the country addressed the strategic deficiencies identified by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), stopped being subject to the FATF monitoring process in October 2021 and was delisted by the EU as of March 2022.

Mauritius is a key partner for the EU. An ally for regional integration in the African and Indian Ocean regions (it is a member of Africa Union, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) whose HQ it hosts, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) as well as Indian Ocean Rim Association), it has the potential to be a champion for the Indo-Pacific vision.

Mauritius has a generally good track record for the implementation of EU funds.

By supporting the implementation of the MIP and of the TEI, the CF will contribute to the implementation of the Government “Vision 2030” and to the Masterplan for Environment (2020-2030). In both the public and the private sector in Mauritius, there is a lack of necessary resources and expertise to carry out studies, project preparation, to carry out effective policy dialogues and for promoting EU’s action. The CF will provide the required support to both the EU and institutional partners in the implementation of the MIP and Government’s emerging needs and priorities and of the TEI. It will also support policy dialogues and ensure awareness and understanding of the EU’s action in, and cooperation with Mauritius through strategic communication and public diplomacy.

### 2.2 Problem Analysis

Despite the intrinsic political stability of Mauritius, Government's priorities tend to change very rapidly in Mauritius and the EU is often confronted with requests to assist the authorities in a number of varied areas that are constantly changing. It is important to have an adequate capacity to respond to request with high level quality technical assistance to support at the national institutions, also to ensure the successful implementation of the EU cooperation and the sustainable development of the country.

Also, the end of the role of the National Authorising Officer (NAO) under the NDICI/Global Europe represents an opportunity to develop new cooperation mechanisms with the Government and to ensure that the limited resources are used to support common priorities, as established in the MIP.

At the same time, the few past experiences with technical assistance support to private sector organisations have shown that dynamic local entrepreneurs have clear ideas in mind, with strong potential for innovation, job creation and value added, but often lack access to good international expertise or do not know how to activate the right channels to obtain the support needed to structure, design and kick-start innovative projects. Moreover, it is the private sector which is in the driver seat for the Mauritian economy. As a consequence, the EU plans to use this CF to work more

with the private sector organisations than in the past, to better leverage the private sector's contribution in achieving the objectives of the MIP.

Environment protection and Climate change will be one of the two priority areas of this Cooperation Facility. According to the World Risk Report, Mauritius is the 10<sup>th</sup> most exposed country to natural disasters and the 19<sup>th</sup> in terms of risks due to its state of preparedness. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Mauritius is the 3<sup>rd</sup> country in term of most threatened plant species. The country, which is currently reviewing its National Determined Contribution (NDC), ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in the Mo Ibrahim Index for Sustainable Environment, owing to poor scores for sustainable management of land & forests and especially for land & water biodiversity. Mauritius is still heavily reliant on fossils fuels; despite the Government's ambition to achieve 60% Renewable Energy in 2030, only about 20.7% of electricity is generated from renewable sources. Excessive use of pesticides is another threat to the environment, more specifically to biodiversity (soil and sea contamination), not to mention the threat on the population's health. Tourism is one of the main pillars of the Mauritian economy, therefore Environment protection and climate change actions are important for survival of the sector. Therefore, focus should be on achieving a resilient and inclusive growth.

Finally, EU will need specific expertise to assist it in formulating its actions and policies, but also to carry out specific studies if the need arises.

All in all, the experience with the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) Technical Cooperation Facility (TCF) has shown that the EU needs to have a flexible instrument at its disposal to be able to: a) respond rapidly to the varied requests of the government and its institutions and agencies in a number of areas; b) support the private sector in its innovative ideas; and c) study specific topics and to formulate new actions.

Finally, given the large and visible presence on the national scene of other countries, the EU cooperation needs to have the means to have a clear presence in Mauritius and organise the policy dialogue.

A CF will be necessary to address the above issues. It will provide:

- i. the necessary technical assistance (capacity development, studies, project preparation) to the national stakeholders for the implementation of the MIP and of the TEI as well as to respond to emerging needs and opportunities that will arise when the Government of Mauritius devises new development priorities;
- ii. the necessary support for policy dialogues;
- iii. the necessary support to the EU to increase awareness, understanding and support to the EU and our partnership with Mauritius.

The main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action: Government, public and private institutions, non-governmental organisations and the civil society.

### 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

#### 3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to strengthen the partnership between the EU and the Republic of Mauritius.

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

- 1) Support the EU Delegation and institutional partners (both in the public and the private sector<sup>2</sup>) in the implementation of the MIP, of the Government's emerging needs and priorities, and of the TEI;
- 2) Support policy dialogue with the Government and other key stakeholders;
- 3) Support the EU's strategic communication and public diplomacy.

The expected Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (Outcomes) are as follows. The main areas of intervention correspond to the priorities of the MIP, namely (1) Environmental

<sup>2</sup> Chamber of commerce, chamber of agriculture, and similar institutions.

protection and climate change adaptation and resilience, and (2) Good Governance (including a specific focus on gender equality and empowerment).

#### Outputs contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1)

- 1.1. Develop and strengthen capacities and institutions;
- 1.1. Strengthen sectoral knowledge and support the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the EU cooperation with Mauritius, including to support initiatives that would need a grant component (catalyser, initiator, facilitator) for projects of much greater scope funded by Financial Institutions;
- 1.2. Facilitate the Team Europe approach at country level and attempt to pave the way to more concrete investments (including EFSD+ opportunities), including in the context of the TEI;
- 1.3. Operationalise the TEI;
- 1.4. Support Mauritius in its role as lead technical coordinator for the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) deepening process between the EU and five countries of Eastern and Southern Africa (Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Zimbabwe).

#### Outputs contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2)

- 2.1. Support policy dialogue: events, conferences, studies, fellowships, exchange platforms to support sector dialogues.

#### Outputs contributing to Outcome 3 (or Specific Objective 3)

- 3.1 Implement strategic communication and public diplomacy activities, including to reach new audiences.

### 3.2 Indicative Activities

#### Activities related to Specific Objective 1

- Deploy technical assistance and exchange of public expertise for capacity development and institutional building;
- Conduct studies, analysis and other technical work in areas of EU cooperation for project identification and preparation, including to support initiatives that would need a grant component (catalyser, initiator, facilitator) for projects of much greater scope funded by Financial Institutions (including guarantees<sup>3</sup>);
- Organise conference, trainings, missions, exchange platforms;
- Organise technical assistance missions, analysis, missions, trainings, seminars for the operationalisation of the TEI.

#### Activities related to Specific Objective 2

- Organise events, meetings and conferences, studies, fellowships, press releases and events, exchange platforms with various actors to support sector dialogues.

#### Activities related to Specific Objective 3

- Design and roll out at national level of major public campaign(s) aimed at ordinary citizens, with the objective of measurably increasing the profile, awareness, understanding and approval of the EU's partnership with the country (all such campaigns will be data-driven, rigorously tracking hard key performance indicators that will allow content to be constantly adjusted in line with evidence of the material and approaches that resonate most successfully with the audience);
- Promote understanding and awareness of the EU values, interests and specific policies, including the Global Gateway, inter alia through conferences and public events;
- Strengthen networks and long-term relationships with key target audiences and partners (e.g. youth, students, academics, think tanks, CSOs, business, creative industries), including leveraging existing EU programmes, in order to facilitate future cooperation across policy areas.

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

<sup>3</sup> Including, if needed, for green bonds.

### 3.3 Mainstreaming

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

The action is expected to have a positive impact on the environment as it will support the implementation of the MIP, whose main priority is the protection of the Environment and adaptation to climate change. It will do so by preparing the ground for a resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth based on a cleaner, greener, sustainable, low emission and climate-resilient economy, in line with the Government's objective to embark on a true ecological transition. Mauritius, a like-minded partner on climate change issues at international for a, will be supported in the implementation of Mauritius' National Determined Contribution (NDC) and environment related commitments in the trade and sustainable development chapter of the full EPA currently under negotiation.

The action will enable the EU and other members of the Team Europe Initiative to accompany this transformative process, across all 8 pillars of the Mauritius Masterplan for the Environment 2020-2030, which corresponds closely to the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030. This CF, well integrated and complemented by ongoing and future actions supported by the Team Europe approach, should allow establishing further milestones of the circular economy in the country and a particular attention will be paid to further increase the role of women in the ecological transformation.

The specific objective of this priority area will be to support the Government in achieving its own targets on renewable energies production, waste management and environment protection (e.g., zero coal plants, ban single use plastics, increased obligation to include Environmental Impact Assessment for large constructions), as formulated in the National Environmental Strategy 2020-2030. The EU has a successful 40 year partnership in place with Mauritius in the environment and climate change fields but other partners like United Nations are considered as the main player. With these interventions under the NDICI-Global Europe, Mauritius will continue to support the EU in international fora for global climate change commitments.

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

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

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

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

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

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that gender targets will be mainstreamed in the implementation of this action. The action will contribute specifically to the objective of promoting girls' and women's participation and leadership in environmental protection and climate change adaptation and resilience, as well as good governance; in order to ensure gender-responsive strategies to these two areas.

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#### **Human Rights**

Addressing green transition and good governance challenges, by improving the policy decision making processes using evidence-based information systems involving concerned stakeholders, promoting partnerships and inclusiveness are guiding principles that will allow a resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth and fight against gender inequality and corruption, respectively.

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#### **Disability**

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. While disability has not been identified as a significant objective, the action will promote an inclusive approach towards people with disabilities in its communication and participatory activities

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#### **Democracy**

The action will promote good governance, in some of the areas where the EU has developed a constructive dialogue with Mauritius, including for example fiscal transparency, the electoral process, freedom of expression, rights of women, children and persons with disabilities, etc..

**Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience**

The action will support Environmental protection and climate change adaptation and resilience.

**Disaster Risk Reduction**

The action will support Environmental protection and climate change adaptation and resilience.

**Other considerations if relevant**

N/A

### 3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
Governance	Low demand from the public sector for technical assistance	Medium	High	Continuous dialogue with the public sector and open the funding opportunities to more institutions, including in the private sector.
Governance	Lack of capacities to implement the activities	Medium	High	Capacity building to be provided as and when required.

**Lessons Learnt:**

The action will build on the lessons learnt from the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF TCF which has shown that there was a lack of interest in/ownership of projects by Government institutions. Continuous dialogue with the public sector and open the funding opportunities to more institutions, including in the private sector.

Projects undertaken with the private sector (chamber of commerce, chamber of agriculture, and similar institutions) were successful, as they were very involved and owned the projects.

### 3.5 The Intervention Logic<sup>4</sup>

The underlying intervention logic for this action is to strengthen the partnership between the EU and the Republic of Mauritius.

It will enable the EU to provide support the objectives and implementation of the MIP and of the TEI and to respond to emerging needs and opportunities that will arise when the Government of Mauritius devises new development priorities.

The CF will also deepen the technical knowledge needed to formulate projects and develop the technical tools necessary for the operationalisation of the TEI and the consolidation of the EU dialogue with the government and other stakeholders.

Finally, through the CF, the EU will implement strategic communication and public diplomacy activities according to the principles of public diplomacy, with a view to supporting priority EU messages and strengthening the support for the EU cooperation.

<sup>4</sup> [@TEI Methodological Note to Support Design](#)

### 3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

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

## 4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1 Financing Agreement

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

### 4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

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

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

### 4.3 Budget Support

Not Applicable

### 4.4 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures<sup>5</sup>.

#### 4.4.1 Direct Management (Procurement)

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Type of Procurement</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Technical assistance, studies, expertise, events, conferences, and exchange platforms to support sector dialogues, visibility items, photography services, production of videos, publicity and promotion in media (Specific objectives 1, 2, 3)	Services, supplies	Implementation period
Strategic communication, public diplomacy (Specific objective 3)	Services	Implementation period

### 4.5 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

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

<sup>5</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu). Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

## 4.6 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components <sup>6</sup>	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
<b>Implementation modalities</b> – cf. section 4.4	
<b>Objective 1) “Support the EU Delegation and institutional partners (both in the public and the private sector ) in the implementation of the MIP, of the Government’s emerging needs and priorities, and of the TEI”</b> composed of	1 000 000
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.1	1 000 000
<b>Objective 2) “Support policy dialogue with the Government and other key stakeholders”</b> composed of	200 000
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.1	200 000
<b>Objective 3) “Support the EU’s strategic communication and public diplomacy”</b> composed of	300 000
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.1	300 000
<b>Procurement</b> – total envelope under section 4.4.1	1 500 000
<b>Totals</b>	1 500 000

## 4.7 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The Contracting Authority for the implementation of the action is the EU Delegation. In order to ensure coordination and appropriation at country level, the EU Delegation will continue the current practice to inform the Ministry of Finance on each request of supports received under this CF, either by public institutions and agencies or from outside the government.

The EU Delegation will ensure proper coordination with the National Coordinating Body for all external cooperation programmes – the Ministry of Finance Economic Planning and Development. The EU Delegation will keep the Ministry informed of (i) all requests not emanating from the Ministry, and (ii) of the financial status of the programme.

Similarly, and given our longstanding partnership, the Ministry will continue referring to the EU Delegation every requests for technical assistance which is proposed by other Government entities. Given the amount of funding available under this CF, the EU Delegation and the Government will have to prioritise requests that fall within the priority of the Mauritius MIP 2021-2027 and with the biggest expected impact in term of socio economic development.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action.

## 4.8 Pre-conditions

Not Applicable

<sup>6</sup> N.B: The final text on audit/verification depends on the outcome of ongoing discussions on pooling of funding in (one or a limited number of) Decision(s) and the subsequent financial management, i.e. for the conclusion of audit contracts and payments.

## 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 the responsibility of the Contracting Authority which is the Delegation. To this aim, the Delegation shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced.

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

### 5.2 Evaluation

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

The Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner. The 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

At country level, action documents for specific sector programmes are no longer required to include a provision for communication actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

Strategic communication activities will be implemented to foster public awareness, understanding and support for the EU's partnership with the country, including by promoting the Team Europe approach and initiatives. Public diplomacy activities designed to foster, maintain, strengthen and connect networks and communities will be implemented. Strategic communication and public diplomacy activities will promote the EU's values, interests, policies and impact in the country. All strategic communication and public diplomacy activities will be based on a strategic plan drawn up by the EU Delegation.

To that end, the Delegation will first develop short strategic communication and public diplomacy plans that reflect the objectives of the Delegation as a whole in this domain, initially covering the period up to the Mid-Term Review (MTR). The plans will be endorsed by a coordination mechanism comprised of the EEAS, DG INTPA, DG NEAR and FPI, and will be reviewed, modified and extended as appropriate as part of the MTR process.

The communication and public diplomacy plan will cover the following:

1. The audiences targeted;
2. For each group targeted, the principal communication objective, couched in terms of measurable outcomes;
3. The core narrative, formulated in terms not of what we do in the country concerned, but why we do it;
4. Preliminary suggestions for content (messages, straplines, hashtags), partnerships (influencers) and channels;
5. Key administrative information: timeline, budget and the programme manager responsible for implementation.

The EU Delegation may avail of the services of a consultant to prepare the communication and public diplomacy plan.