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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX 23

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Sub-Saharan Africa for 2024-2025

Action Document for “Team Europe Initiative – Technical Assistance Facility (TEI-TAF) to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)”

MULTIANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the multiannual 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

<p>1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act</p>	<p>“Team Europe Initiative – Technical Assistance Facility (TEI-TAF) to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)” OPSYS number: ACT-62332 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)</p>
<p>2. Team Europe Initiative</p>	<p>Yes Regional Team Europe Initiative (TEI) - Support to African economic integration towards the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)</p>
<p>3. Zone benefiting from the action</p>	<p>Africa</p>
<p>4. Programming document</p>	<p>Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa 2021-2027</p>
<p>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results</p>	<p><u>Priority Area 5</u>: Sustainable Growth and Decent Jobs <u>Specific Objective 1</u>: Increase sustainable intra-African trade and mobility, making them safer, cheaper, faster and greener; and strengthening Africa-EU trade. Result 1.1: Country, regional and continental actors have improved capacity to effectively design, manage and implement economic agreements (AfCFTA, regional measures, (i-) EPAs and multilateral agreements) in coherence with the continental economic integration process. Result 1.2: Trade facilitation is improved and customs administration is strengthened across African countries at continental, regional and cross-border level. Result 1.5: Non-tariff barriers are reduced. Result 1.6: Liberalisation of trade in services progresses and digital trade is facilitated.</p>

	<p>Result 1.7: Accompanying trade related policies are harmonised in order to strengthen the continent's business environment and foster investment.</p> <p><u>Specific Objective 3</u>: An investment climate in Sub-Saharan Africa conducive to private sector development and investments, and improved business capacities and access to finance for MSMEs.</p> <p>Result 3.1: Improved investment climate, regional market intelligence and identification of barriers to investments.</p>			
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION				
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	<p>Sub-Saharan Africa Regional MIP: Priority Area 5: Sustainable Growth and Decent Jobs (Economic Integration and Trade)</p> <p>DAC Sector: 331 - Trade policy and regulations</p>			
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	<p>Main SDG: SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth</p> <p>Other significant SDGs: SDG 1 – No Poverty, SDG 5 – Gender Equality, SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities, SDG 12 - Sustainable Consumption and Production, SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals</p>			
8 a) DAC code(s)	<p>33110 - Trade policy and administrative management - 15%</p> <p>33120 - Trade facilitation - 25%</p> <p>33130 - Regional trade agreements (RTAs) - 25%</p> <p>25010 - Business support services and institutions - 25%</p> <p>33181 - Trade education/training - 10%</p>			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	11004 - Other public entities in donor country (EU Member State agency)			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Disabilities @			
	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers and Tags	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/
	digital governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	digital entrepreneurship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	digital skills/literacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	digital services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/
energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
education and research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reduction of Inequalities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget lines (article, item) ¹ : Total estimated cost: EUR 22 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 15 700 000 14.020120 : EUR 1 400 000 14.020121 : EUR 1 400 000 14.020122 : EUR 1 200 000			

¹ Calculated as follows: The EU contribution (EUR 4 000 000) was split along the 3 budget lines as such: 35% on West Africa line (EUR 1 400 000), 35% on East and Central Africa line (EUR 1 400 000), 30% on Southern and Indian Ocean line (EUR 1 200 000).

	<p>This action is co-financed in joint co-financing by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), for an amount of EUR 5 000 000; -Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs/Ministry of Economics, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty (General Directorate of the Treasury) for an amount of EUR 1 300 000. <p>The Commission will be entrusted with the responsibility of managing the contribution for an indicative amount of EUR 11 700 000 transferred in by Sweden (SEK 49 000 000; approx. EUR 4 300 000), Denmark (DKK 18 350 000; approx. EUR 2 500 000), The Netherlands (EUR 2 500 000), Finland (EUR 2 000 000) and Ireland (EUR 400 000), after the signature of the corresponding transfer agreements, in accordance with the procedures applicable to the EU budget².</p> <p>The current TEI-TAF project under the TEI supporting the AfCFTA covers the 2022-2024 period, and is financed by EU (EUR 9 500 000), Germany (EUR 8 000 000), France (EUR 4 000 000) and Sweden (EUR 3 000 000).</p>
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION	
13. Type of financing	Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.1.

1.2 Summary of the Action

<p>This action aims to strengthen and expand the ongoing Team Europe programme "European Union - Technical Assistance Facility – EU-TAF" supporting the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which is a flagship objective of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and a key deliverable of the Regional Team Europe Initiative (TEI) in support to African Economic Integration towards the AfCFTA. This action will continue to strengthen the impact and visibility of the EU-Africa cooperation in sustainable trade and economic integration.</p> <p>The current TEI (EU-TAF) covers the 2022-2024 period, and is co-financed by EU (EUR 9 500 000), Germany (EUR 8 000 000), France (EUR 4 000 000) and Sweden (EUR 3 000 000). The new and expanded TEI-TAF AfCFTA subject of this Action Document will cover the 2024-2027 period to which the EU (EUR 4 000 000), Denmark (DKK 18 350 000; approx. EUR 2 500 000), Finland (EUR 2 000 000), Ireland (EUR 400 000), The Netherlands (EUR 2 500 000), Sweden (SEK 49 000 000; approx. EUR 4 300 000), Germany (EUR 5 000 000) and France (EUR 1 300 000) will contribute as per the above.</p> <p>This action is meant to give continuity to an efficient, reactive and flexible mechanism, which supports directly capacities development of the African Union (AU) (AfCFTA Secretariat, African Union Commission (AUC) and some AU specialized agencies), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), AU Member States, private sector and civil society organisations (rights-holders), to build and implement the AfCFTA agreement.</p> <p>The joining of the EU, many EU Member States and potentially other partners (Switzerland, Canada...) under a single roof for this Action is a good example of the Team Europe approach, and more broadly, the illustration that like-minded donors could pool their funds in aim to reach common goals. This joint project provides a more important leverage than individual efforts, and increase the value-for-money (rationalisation of the resources, avoiding duplications...) to achieve our partners' objectives (the Africa they want, notably a continent more economically integrated).</p> <p>The Overall Objective (impact) of this action is <i>African continental economic integration process is boosted</i>, Its Specific Objective (outcome) is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Operationalise the African Continental Free Trade Area – AfCFTA. <p>The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objective are:</p>
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² Of which EUR 15 215 202 will be made available for the project and EUR 484 798 will be for administrative fees.

- 1.1 The capacities of the AfCFTA Secretariat to steer the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement are strengthened
- 1.2 The capacities of the AUC and its specialized agencies to advance Continental Economic and Industrial policies complementary to the AfCFTA are strengthened
- 1.3 The capacities of targeted RECs to implement AfCFTA related priority reforms and to facilitate cross-REC exchanges are strengthened
- 1.4 The capacities of countries' authorities to implement AfCFTA commitments are strengthened
- 1.5 The capacities of private sector organisations to benefit from the AfCFTA are strengthened
- 1.6 The integration of transversal areas (e.g. gender, youth and climate) in the African continental economic integration process including through the engagement of civil society and/or think tanks organisations having the capacities to lead initiatives, is facilitated

1.3 Zone benefitting from the Action

The Action shall be carried out in Africa (continental, regional and national levels), all African countries (Member States of the African Union) included in the list of ODA recipients.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement is one of the African Union flagship projects under the ten-year implementation plan of its Agenda 2063, whose main objective is to “*create a single market for goods and services with free movement of people and investments*”. This expansive market is expected to encompass 1.27 billion consumers (expected to increase to 1.7 billion by 2030), with an aggregate GDP of more than USD 2.2 trillion, thus expanding intra-African trade across the continent, enhancing competitiveness, and supporting economic transformation. Proof of the African Union political commitment, 2023 has been declared the year of the “*Acceleration of AfCFTA implementation*” by the AU. Likewise, within the AU’s Agenda 2063 there are specific outcomes related to women’s economic empowerment³. ‘Freedom of movement’ is an integral component of women’s empowerment. Mobility is correlated to work. Therefore, women’s mobility is known to be crucial to the economies of many countries, where the remittances sent home by women migrants are very significant.

The AfCFTA agreement covers goods, services, investment and intellectual property, competition, digital trade, women & youth in trade and spells out the principles of liberalisation, and the permitted exceptions. It includes individual countries’ commitments progressively eliminate tariffs (97% Tariff lines), and non-tariff barriers to trade (NTBs), and to liberalise services markets. The agreement also sets out procedures for settling disputes.

The promise of the AfCFTA goes far beyond increasing trade flows, and indeed beyond economic issues. It is expected that if efficiently implemented the AfCFTA could also contribute to peace and security within the Continent as well as to catalyse a transition towards environmentally sustainable practices

As of September 2023, 54 out of the 55 African countries have signed the Agreement (only the Eritrea is yet to sign) and 47 have ratified the Agreement.

Analyses by various international institutions assess the benefits of the AfCFTA and examine conditions for a successful implementation. It is estimated that “*implementing the AfCFTA will increase the volume of intra-African trade by 81 % by 2035 and increase the volume of total African exports by 29 %. By boosting intra-African trade and fostering regional value chains and production networks, the AfCFTA is expected to drive Africa’s structural transformation. Implementing the AfCFTA could increase wages by 10 %, with larger gains for unskilled workers and women*”⁴ It could also lead to a “*USD 10 billion decrease in imports from outside the continent, while boosting agriculture and industrial exports by up to USD 45 billion (+7%) and USD 21 billion (+5%) respectively*”⁴. Freer trade under the AfCFTA is also expected to address gender inequality in Africa by

³ [Key Transformational Outcomes of Agenda 2063 | African Union \(au.int\)](#)

⁴ World Bank, 2020.

increasing employment opportunities for women and helping to lower the gender wage gap on the continent. According to the Africa Gender Index Report 2019, vulnerable employment gender gap represents 70.7% while the gender gap for participation in business is about 44.3%. Young women are more likely than young men to be in informal, low paid and vulnerable employment⁵.

In addition, the AfCFTA can create new opportunities for African manufacturers and workers, which raises hopes into its potential to boost industrialisation on the continent. The World Bank (2020) estimates “*that within the increase of total exports by almost 29% relative to business as usual, manufacturing exports would gain the most, with intra-Africa manufacturing trade increasing by 110% and manufacturing exports to the rest of the world rising by 46%*”.

However, it is expected that the distributional impacts of the AfCFTA will vary across countries and societal groups - across sectors, between skilled and unskilled workers, formal and informal traders and on female and male workers. Further, different sectors are likely to face different challenges while each country also faces a complex range of interests and incentives.

Trade and Economic integration are areas of common interest for the EU and the AU and constitute an important component of the Africa-EU partnership.

This Action aligns with EU-African political priorities as flagged in the last AU-EU summit. Its ultimate aim is to help boosting intra-African trade and EU-Africa trade (through the Economic Partnership Agreements), help driving African post-COVID 19 economic recovery, developing the opportunities offered by the green and digital transition, and deepening the sustainable economic transformation of the African continent, for the creation of more and better jobs and inclusive and sustainable development, allowing African partners to strengthen their role in global supply chains.

The European Union, as first trade partner for African products, primary *Aid for Trade* provider and key partner for sustainable investment and green & circular economy in Africa is the strategic partner to support the African economic integration agenda. As an international partner with experience in implementing its own single market, the EU can play a strategic role in helping working on the next step of the Continental Integration Agenda with the ultimate goal to have a Continental Single Market. The setting up of a EU-AU High Level Dialogue on economic integration, as decided during the previous Commission-to-Commission meeting will also be precious for the EU to share its experience.

The EU will build on its longstanding partnerships with the African Regional Economic Communities to make sure that the regional integration builds towards the continental vision and ambition of the AfCFTA. The action will ensure the complementarity with other national, regional and continental initiatives in order to ensure funds-efficiency. Especially regarding Trade Facilitation and Private Sector development programmes.

The AfCFTA also offers a new opportunity to build on strengthening trade and economic links between the EU and Africa that are currently anchored on regional and bilateral trade agreements with some African countries and regions (the Economic Partnership Agreements). The AfCFTA is an opportunity to put some coherence and a common goal to those different existing regional economic processes and actions at national level on different themes related to the AfCFTA. The AfCFTA is a major priority area for the European Commission and it is a key strand in the *EU Comprehensive Strategy with Africa* as well as the *Investment Package* under the **Global Gateway**, and its commitments to address gender equality throughout its five priority sectors.

In addition, as outlined in the *EU Trade Policy Review*, the AfCFTA allows for enhanced linkages between the EU and Africa, and the long-term prospect of a continent-to-continent trade agreement. The EU is a long-standing supporter of economic integration in Africa, as an engine for inclusive economic development, poverty reduction, decent jobs, trade, investment and sustainable development across the continent. The EU is here to fully back the AfCFTA by putting at the disposal of the AU, RECs and their Member States its experience and expertise in regional integration and economic partnerships towards a common market and, in the longer run, in building a customs union.

It is also part of the deployment of the Global Gateway Africa – Europe Investment Package, including the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+), that aims among others, to strengthening economic integration at regional and continental levels to achieve sustainable and inclusive development, decent and green job creation, as well as, promoting transformative and competitive economies.

⁵ [Africa Gender Index Report 2019 - Analytical report | African Development Bank Group - Making a Difference \(afdb.org\)](https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/story/africa-gender-index-report-2019-analytical-report)

The Action will also contribute to the implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) III for the EU's external action, specifically to its key thematic area of engagement: 'Strengthening economic and social rights and the empowerment of girls and women and to advancing equal participation and leadership'.

EU's support could ultimately help pave the way for a future continent-to-continent trade agreement.

Additionally, the Action will be aligned to the AU Strategy on Gender Equality and women's Empowerment (GEWE), 2018-2028⁶.

Finally, in terms of support in the context of the Team Europe approach, potential additional contributions to the above may be expected from France, Germany, Malta, Switzerland and the EU.

2.2 Problem Analysis

To ensure that the AfCFTA achieves its objectives of boosting intra-Africa trade and accelerating Africa's market integration, the AU Summits established the AfCFTA Architecture, endorsed the Action Plan for Boosting Intra-African Trade (BIAT), directed by the AUC, in collaboration with the RECs and development partners, "to develop an implementation strategy for the Action Plan, entailing [...] responsibility at national, regional and continental levels". In addition, the AfCFTA Secretariat has been established as a distinct oversight body, to handle the AfCFTA negotiation and implementation.

Successfully implementing the agreement will go beyond complying at the country, regional, and continental levels, with the explicit requirements and obligations of the agreement. Given that African Member States have concerns about the potential impacts of the AfCFTA to their economies and livelihoods, it is important to anticipate and address these concerns to mitigate potential losses resulting from economic restructuring.

In this regard, an [AfCFTA Adjustment Fund](#) has been created "to support AfCFTA State Parties to adjust to the new liberalised and integrated trading environment established under the AfCFTA Agreement".

Moreover, in the [AfCFTA Agreement](#), in its Article 5 ("Principles"), it is mentioned that the "AfCFTA shall be governed by" some "principles", notably "(c) variable geometry" and "(d) flexibility and special and differential treatment". Hence, in aim to demonstrate the efficiency of the AfCFTA and limiting the complexity of advancing at more than fifty countries, 8 "interested State Parties" (Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda, Tanzania and Tunisia) are engaged in a "[Guided Trade Initiative](#) (GTI)"; kind of pilot serving "as a gateway to encourage continued trade under the AfCFTA".

Until now, the effective implementation of trade agreements in African was quite limited; mainly due to a series of market impediments, which include economic structural challenges (lack of production capacities, poor infrastructures...), policy related challenges, and institutional and governance challenges. Taking into account the lessons from these experiences, the TEI-TAF support will mainly:

- a) strengthen capacities to prepare and conduct the remaining AfCFTA negotiations (if any)
- b) strengthen capacities for sensitisation and implementation of the agreement (protocols and annexes)
- c) strengthen capacities to conduct AfCFTA reforms at REC level and harmonize trade rules and standards
- d) strengthen capacities of countries to implement AfCFTA commitments
- e) strengthen capacities of private sector organisations to fully benefit from the AfCFTA
- f) strengthen capacities of civil society organisations (rights-holders) and think tanks to influence other stakeholders (duty bearers) to take into consideration sustainability (governance, social and environmental aspects) and inclusivity (women, youth, organisations of persons with disabilities,...) into the development and implementation of the AfCFTA

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

- Policy bodies: AfCFTA Secretariat, AUC (notably Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Mining - ETTIM; Women, Gender, Development and Youth – WGDY), Regional Economic Communities

⁶ [Strategy for Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment 2018-2028 | African Union \(au.int\)](#)

(RECs), AU Member State national ministries and other government entities, AU specialised agencies working on themes related to the AfCFTA.

- Continental and regional business councils, business associations (notably representing MSMEs) and chambers of commerce, as well as women, youth, and persons with disabilities organisations, NGOs and CSOs at regional, national or local level, to ensure women’s representativeness, empowerment and long-term sustainability. Additionally, trade unions and NGOs related to trade, digital, environment and human rights (including migration) issues.
- Academia and think tanks, and other research institutions.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this Action is that the African continental economic integration process is boosted

The Specific Objective (Outcome) of this action is to:

1. Operationalise the African Continental Free Trade Area – AfCFTA

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objective are:

- 1.1 The capacities of the AfCFTA Secretariat to steer the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement are strengthened
- 1.2 The capacities of the AUC and its specialized agencies to advance Continental Economic and Industrial policies complementary to the AfCFTA are strengthened
- 1.3 The capacities of targeted RECs to implement AfCFTA related priority reforms and to facilitate cross-REC exchanges are strengthened
- 1.4 The capacities of countries’ authorities to implement AfCFTA commitments are strengthened
- 1.5 The capacities of private sector organisations to benefit from the AfCFTA are strengthened
- 1.6 The integration of transversal areas (e.g. gender, youth and climate) in the African continental economic integration process including through the engagement of civil society and/or think tanks organisations having the capacities to lead initiatives, is facilitated

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities relating to Output 1.1 (AfCFTA Secretariat):

- Strengthening the institutional and organisational capacity of the Secretariat (notably via tools, instruments, experts mobilisation – including from EU Member States)
- Technical assistance to the conclusion of the negotiations of the Protocols on Competition, Investment Policy, Intellectual Property Rights, Digital Trade, Women and Youth in Trade, and their annexes and regulations, as well as their implementation
- Technical assistance to the finalization of the remaining negotiations under the Protocol of Trade in Goods, specifically Rules of Origin, and under the Protocol of Trade in Services, specifically support to the submission of schedules of specific commitments for the 5 priority sectors and the 7 remaining sectors, sectoral regulatory frameworks, and mutual recognition agreements for professional services
- Support to the piloting of trade under the AfCFTA in the context of the Guided Trade Initiative, with a focus on Trade in Goods and Services
- Technical assistance to the Secretariat to coordinate, steer, and support implementation of the AfCFTA across all levels (RECs and Member States)
- Support the Secretariat through specific tools and approaches for the monitoring of progress towards AfCFTA implementation
- Support to outreach, awareness, and communication on the AfCFTA, across all topics, including support to AfCFTA flagship events (such as Business Forums and Symposiums, etc.), with increased observation of climate neutral practices in their organisation

- Provide technical assistance to the Secretariat in coordinating continental and regional efforts on trade facilitation, specifically along trade corridors, including studies and technical assistance on environmental/climate impacts of corridor development
- Support to continental monitoring of EU Economic Integration programmes
- Collection of Trade data on women and youth in trade in Africa and development to support the implementation of the AfCFTA Protocol on Women and Youth.

Activities relating to Output 1.2 (AUC and agencies):

- Strengthening the institutional and organizational capacity of the relevant directorates of the AU Commission, as well as specialised AU agencies (notably via tools, instruments, experts mobilisation – including from EU Member States)
- Support to initiatives and programmes that support the private sector’s participation in the AfCFTA, including capacity building and trainings, taking into account the HRBA and gender perspective
- Raising awareness and sensitization on different themes related to the AfCFTA (e.g. specific continental value chains), including through the support to AfCFTA related flagship events (such as Industrialisation week, SME and SEZ forums, etc.)
- Raising awareness and sensitising on green, circular and climate-neutral aspects in revised sustainable development policies at the continental level as well as linked to specific value chains
- Support to initiatives on industrialization, increasing productivity and green/circular economy

Activities relating to Output 1.3 (RECs):

- Support to the establishment of AfCFTA regional committee
- Support to the development of AfCFTA regional strategy: custom revenue loss, impact studies (development of market analysis tool), and sectoral studies amongst others.
- Support to the revision of existing laws and regulations at regional level to align with the AfCFTA agreement
- Capacity building measures for staff from regional economic communities’ secretariats and commissions on topics related to the AfCFTA
- Support on regional trade activities, with a focus on cross-cutting objectives linked to environment and climate and taking into account vulnerabilities faced by women and youth traders
- Support to the REC’s function to facilitate the exchange of best practices among their Member States and between different REC’s
- Data sharing and information exchange
- Focus on capacity building for Women and Youth in Trade Directorates to enhance gender inclusion and awareness

Activities relating to Output 1.4 (Countries):

- Support to the establishment of AfCFTA Committee to oversee the implementation of the Agreement in line with regional committees
- Support to the development of AfCFTA national strategy: custom revenue loss, impact studies (development of market analysis tool), and sectoral studies amongst other.
- Support for the negotiations on all levels, including studies, workshops, trainings, and facilitation of preparatory meetings.
- Support the domestication of commitments and alignment of national trade and economic policies with the goals and principles of the AfCFTA, i.e. through technical assistance for the Revision of existing laws and regulations
- Training of staff from relevant national agencies in charge of negotiating and implementing AfCFTA protocols (example: Customs trainings and revision of customs codes/handbooks, support to implement trade facilitation measures of border agencies)
- Training on the Protocol on Women and Youth in trade
- Implement trade facilitation measures to streamline customs procedures, reduce non-tariff barriers, and expedite the movement of goods
- Public-Private Dialogue to harness the opportunities in AfCFTA
- Study tours and semi-twinning for experience and best practice sharing, including good practices on gender mainstreaming

- Support to the development of specialized offers to members, analysis of export opportunities.
- Data collection and database development (trading companies, informal traders, etc.)

Activities relating to Output 1.5 (Private sector):

- Institutional support to regional and continental private organisation to implement supportive policies and to make linkages with national business associations to reap the benefits of AfCFTA,
- Support participation to various business forums / workshops on the AfCFTA, while observing climate-neutral practices
- Training on AfCFTA agreements, rules of origin, non-tariff measures, compliance, NTB
- Support the development of MSMEs digital platform to network and promote continental value chain
- Raise MSMEs awareness on green and environmental priorities in value chain promotion, including the possible development of a gender and climate-smart analysis of selected value chains.
- Support platforms for Public-Private sector dialogue on AfCFTA.
- Support organisations and their awareness (emphasis on women and youth-led ones) to better participate in the AfCFTA process
- Incorporate gender and youth-sensitive aspects when organizing and implementing events, by providing a booth for women-owned/led and youth enterprises at events
- Development of business guides on AfCFTA.

Activities relating to Output 1.6 (Civil society and/or think tanks):

- Institutional support to continental civil society organisations (rights-holders) (specially women, persons with disabilities and youth-led organisations) to strengthen their capacity to participate in the public discourse on AfCFTA, including in the negotiations and continental, regional, and national fora and dialogues
- Strengthen civil society capacity for advocacy, e.g. through the development of position papers and campaigns
- Support academia and other research-focused civil society organisations (rights-holders), such as think tanks, to conduct and publish research, studies, and impact analysis on sustainability issues related to the AfCFTA
- Support the revision of regional/national AfCFTA strategies and/or action plans to include transversal themes, such as greening trade, women and youth, human rights, etc.
- Awareness raising activities / campaigns, from a HRBA, gender equality and inclusion perspective
- Promote vulnerable people's participation in the decision-making processes related to the AfCFTA

All proposed activities, will need to be complementary to the specific support provided by other programmes in some of the specific areas mentioned above.

The commitment of the EU's contribution to the Team Europe Initiative to which this action refers, will be complemented by other contributions from Team Europe members. 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.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Activities supporting value chains development and sustainability will directly address environmental sustainability, e.g. awareness raising on environmental standards, environment and sustainability impact assessments, building the capacity of MSMEs. Trade and the environment have positive and negative effects on each other. On one hand, for example, each stage of the trading process can generate pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, e.g., exacerbating climate change. At the same time, trade can be disrupted by climate change with extreme weather events often devastating transport and logistics. On the other hand, trade can offer a solution by helping countries invest in green and circular economy and to adapt to higher average temperatures and more extreme weather events, for example, by offering consumers lower-emissions goods and services and facilitating the use of climate-friendly technology. The action aims to mainstream environment and climate change to use trade to adapt and leverage new opportunities as Africa adjusts to climate change.

Outcomes of the SEA screening

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that no further action was required.

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening

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

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 the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that the Action will take specific measures to offer women the same chances as men to benefit from the services that will be provided (trainings, financial supports, etc.), being representatives of public administrations or from the private sector alike.

The engagement of women in international trade issues will be encouraged so that they can benefit equally to men. The support to trade governance will not only facilitate women traders' organisations consultation, but also mainstream gender equality issues in trade policies. Women's social and economic situation may be improved by removing barriers preventing women from market access, investment and business development, empowering them.

All data and indicators will be disaggregated by sex and age, where applicable. Monitoring of progress and change will secure adequate emphasis on gender equality results. The Implementing Partners will be requested to develop or update their Gender and Youth Strategy during the design stage (Description of the Action). This Strategy provides concrete interventions for gender and youth inclusion into the activities of the TAF to support and increase the involvement of women and youth in the AfCFTA. This is expected to be done both at the level of implementation of Activities under the TAF and by incorporating a gender and youth dimension in the day-to-day EU-TAF project management.

Human Rights

The Action will actively promote the *Business & Human Rights* principles, notably those of the *UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights*, the *UNDP Human Rights Due Diligence Training Facilitation Guide*, and the *EU Directive on corporate sustainability due diligence*.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that no specific results will be related to disability. However, in the implementation of the activities, the implementing partners will be required to facilitate equal participation of people with disabilities (accessibility of actions, consulting with disabilities organizations and encourage inclusive communication).

Article 4 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) requires governments to include persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in policy planning.

The Action will be in line with the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030, and the EU Guidance Note Disability inclusion in EU external action

Reduction of inequalities

Even if it is a potential indirect impact of the Action, it is not a direct result of the implementation of the activities (outcomes & outputs). However, the implementing partners will have to consider this objective when selecting the direct beneficiaries (rights-holders) of the activities (for example, targeting – if possible –vulnerable people and MSMEs).

Democracy

N.A. (apart eventually promoting better trade governance, notably for better women and youth participation)

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

N.A. (apart eventually promoting trade diplomacy as an instrument of conflict resolution)

Disaster Risk Reduction

N.A.

Other considerations if relevant

Youth: Same as for women (cf. above).

Digital: The Action will try to support responsible digital transformation (green, privacy, etc.), notably the use of handy platforms (such as the African Trade Observatory) and the e-commerce (without compromising local consumption principles).

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
People and organisations	Risk 1 - EU Member States would not choose transfer agreements with the EU	Low	Medium	A revised management cost for transfer agreements is proposed
People and organisations	Risk 2 - Challenges in ensuring the actual implementation of reforms identified	Low	High	Ensuring engagement and ownership of continental institutions, in particular the AfCFTA Secretariat, which is leading the process.
People and organisations	Risk 3 - Lack of capacities / conditions / means to participate and / or integrate the Technical Assistance provided	Medium	Medium	Joint development of targeted Technical Assistance to AU Member States, taking their respective challenges and capacities into consideration and proposing mitigation actions to ensure adequate absorption.
Communication and Information	Risk 4 - Lack of means / information to request for Technical Assistance from some RECs or AU Member States, which lag behind in the AfCFTA implementation	Medium	Medium	Promoting actively Technical Assistance to RECs and Member States facing challenges in advancing in the negotiations or in the implementation of adapted regional policies and regulations.
Partners and Stakeholders (duty bearers) management	Risk 5 : Challenges in implementation due to a multiplicity of working levels and actors driving continental trade	High	Medium	Identify effective workflows and communication with the different partners in order to deliver and ensure ownership at all levels.

	policies and integration.			
Partners and Stakeholders (duty bearers) management	Risk 6: Overlap with other ongoing trade-sectorial specific programs that support some of the areas proposed also in the AfCFTA implementation	Medium	Medium	The requests for support under the TAF will need to be assessed comprehensively to check that support is complementary and tackles a specific element not covered by other programs and partners. Key partners will be part of the governance structure to ensure complementarity.
Gender Equality	Risk 7: A gender-blind, neutral, or negative context and problem analysis could reinforce existing gender inequalities and non-realization of human rights in the sector, and hinder the efficiency and sustainability of the action.	Medium	Medium	Knowledge and tools of gender mainstreaming are available. Raising awareness of the benefits of applying HRBA, including gender equality. Gender-sensitive monitoring, use of sex-disaggregated data, and gender-sensitive indicators. Gender mainstreaming is applied in all phases of the support services.

Lessons Learnt:

One of the main issues being discussed is the degree of integration of the EU-TAF within the AfCFTA Secretariat. Indeed, there is a need to strike a balance between the latter aspirations and the need of EU support to follow EU and respective implementing partners' regulations and processes. At the time of writing, a good balance has been found and improvements are still under consideration (such as better harmonisation of regulations).

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that:

- IF the various capacities of stakeholders (duty bearers) involved in the development and implementation of the AfCFTA [AUC and AU specialised agencies, AfCFTA Secretariat, Regional Economic Communities, national authorities, private sector and civil society organisations (right-holders)] are correctly developed;
- IF the adequate structuring of activities (trainings, tools development, etc.) and relevant communication initiatives (advocacy, information sharing, etc.) implemented by/for these stakeholders (duty bearers) are well implemented;
- IF the political/policy dialogue among stakeholders (duty bearers) and within each category of actors, and more broadly the partnerships between them are well managed;

THEN, the AfCFTA agreement (protocols, annexes...) would be operationalised: fully developed, strengthened, implemented, and utilised.

THUS, if this institutional framework (AfCFTA) is respected and entirely implemented, notably by RECs and AU MS,

THEN the African continental economic integration process would be boosted.

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 (a): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (a): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines 2021	Targets 2027	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	African continental economic integration process is boosted	1. Percentage of intra-african trade of total African exports and imports 2. Africa Regional Integration Index (ARII) 3. Trade complimentary Index	1. 14.4% 2. 0.62 3. 0.201	1. TBD 2. TBD 3. TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNCTAD Trade database ▪ Africa Regional Integration Index 	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1 (Specific Objective)	Operationalise the African Continental Free Trade Area – AfCFTA	1.1 Number of finalised negotiations 1.2 Provisions of the Protocols having been implemented on continental level (per Protocol). 1.3 Member States governments confirm to have made progress towards implementation of the AfCFTA (disaggregated by Protocol).	1.1 TBC 1.2 0 1.3 TBD	1.1 <i>Protocols, Annexes, and related agreements and frameworks adopted</i> 1.2 <i>Annexes adopted</i> 1.3 TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AfCFTA Secretariat data and reports ▪ Report of the General Assembly of the African Union ▪ Reports of the Council of Ministers ▪ Reports of the Senior Trade Official meetings ▪ Reports of respective sub-committees ▪ Member State survey (annually) 	AUC and AU MS political will is sustained to finalise the AfCFTA process Commitment from AUC, RECs and AU MS to be fully involved in the implementation is guaranteed.

Output 1 relating to Outcome 1	1.1 The capacities of the AfCFTA Secretariat to steer the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement are strengthened.	1.1.1 Number of completed measures to strengthen the institutional and organizational capacity of the Secretariat (including tools, instruments, experts, etc.) through TAF support.	1.1.1 0	1.1.1 TBD	▪ Progress reports for the TAF - including attendance sheet	Political will
		1.1.2 Number of relevant stakeholders (public and private actors) reached through capacity development measures supported by the TAF, who confirm to have increased their knowledge on themes related to the AfCFTA and regional economic integration through the engagements (disaggregated by beneficiaries, sex, youth).	1.1.2 0	1.1.2 TBD		
		1.1.3 Number of strategies, policies, studies, and background papers developed and circulated/disseminated with the support of the TAF (disaggregated: negotiation / implementation, etc.).	1.1.3 0	1.1.3 TBD		
		1.1.4 Number of stakeholders reached with exchange formats (workshops, conferences (disaggregated by category, sex, youth).	1.1.4 0	1.1.4 TBD		
		1.1.5 Number of individuals directly reached by communications offers by or supported by the TAF, e.g., through awareness campaigns and communication channels (e.g. social media) (disaggregation by communication offer).	1.1.5 0	1.1.5 TBD		
Output 2 relating to Outcome 1	1.2 The capacities of the AUC and its specialized agencies to advance Continental Economic and Industrial policies complementary to the AfCFTA are strengthened.	1.2.1 Number of completed measures to strengthen the institutional and organizational capacity of the AUC (including tools, instruments, experts etc.) through TAF support.	1.2.1 0	1.2.1 TBD	▪ Progress reports for the TAF - including attendance sheet	Political will

		<p>1.2.2 Number of relevant stakeholders reached through capacity development measures supported by TAF, who confirm to have increased their knowledge on themes related to the AfCFTA and regional economic integration through the engagements (disaggregated by category, sex, and youth).</p> <p>1.2.3 Number of strategies, policies, studies, and background papers developed and circulated/disseminated with the support of the TAF (disaggregated by negotiation / implementation, etc.).</p> <p>1.2.4 Number of stakeholders reached with exchange formats (workshops, conferences - disaggregated by category, sex, age) with the support of the TAF (disaggregated by category, sex, youth).</p>	<p>1.2.2 0</p> <p>1.2.3 0</p> <p>1.2.4.0</p>	<p>1.2.2 TBD</p> <p>1.2.3 TBD</p> <p>1.2.4 TBD</p>		
<p>Output 3 relating to Outcome 1</p>	<p>1.3 The capacities of targeted RECs to implement AfCFTA related priority reforms and to facilitate cross-REC exchanges are strengthened.</p>	<p>1.3.1 Number of ad-hoc requests implemented, of which at least X% incorporate elements tailored towards youth and gender equality and women’s empowerment (GEWE) and/or the environment.</p> <p>1.3.2 Number of regional and inter-regional engagements and steering meetings supported by the TAF.</p> <p>1.3.3 Number of relevant stakeholders trained or reached through capacity development measures organized by the RECs, who confirm to have increased their knowledge on themes related to the AfCFTA and regional economic integration through the</p>	<p>1.3.1 0</p> <p>1.3.2 0</p> <p>1.3.3 0</p>	<p>1.3.1 TBD</p> <p>1.3.2 TBD</p> <p>1.3.3 TBD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Progress reports for the TAF - including attendance sheet 	<p>Political will</p>

		<p>engagements (disaggregated by REC, sex, youth).</p> <p>1.3.4 Number of RECs regulations/strategies/policies drafted and/or reviewed with the support of the TAF to benefit from AfCFTA agreement (disaggregated by REC).</p>	1.3.4 <i>TBD</i>	1.3.4 <i>TBD</i>		
Output 4 relating to Outcome 1	1.4 The capacities of countries' authorities to implement AfCFTA commitments are strengthened.	1.4.1 Number of ad-hoc requests implemented, of which at least X% incorporate elements tailored towards youth and women and/or the environment.	1.4.1 <i>0</i>	1.4.1 <i>TBD</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Progress reports for the TAF - including attendance sheet 	Political will
		1.4.2 Number of national AfCFTA steering and coordination meetings supported by the TAF.	1.4.2 <i>0</i>	1.4.2 <i>TBD</i>		
		1.4.3 Number of AfCFTA implementation strategies or action plans developed and/or revised with the support of the TAF.	1.4.3 <i>0</i>	1.4.3 <i>TBD</i>		
		1.4.4 Number of MS regulations / laws / legal instruments reviewed, revised, developed or amended with the support of the TAF.	1.4.4 <i>0</i>	1.4.4 <i>TBD</i>		
		1.4.5 Number of participants who attended a training and/or awareness raising event supported by the TAF, who acknowledge having acquired skills/knowledge on AfCFTA (disaggregated by awareness/training, sex, youth).	1.4.5 <i>0</i>	1.4.5 <i>TBD</i>		
Output 5 relating to Outcome 1	1.5 The capacities of private sector organisations to benefit from the AfCFTA are strengthened.	1.5.1 Number of ad-hoc requests implemented, of which at least X% incorporate elements tailored towards youth and women and/or the environment.	1.5.1 <i>0</i>	1.5.1 <i>TBD</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Progress reports for the TAF - including attendance sheet ▪ Annual survey with Women or Youth led organizations supported by the TAF 	
		1.5.2 Number of regional and continental private sector organizations whose management confirms that they strengthened their organizational and/or	1.5.2 <i>TBD</i>	1.5.2 <i>TBD</i>		

		<p>institutional capacity through the support of the TAF.</p> <p>1.5.3 Number of private sector representatives trained with the support of the TAF, who acknowledge having acquired skills/knowledge on AfCFTA (disaggregated by SMEs, sex, youth).</p> <p>1.5.4 Number of private sector stakeholders reached through exchange formats (workshops, conferences - disaggregated by SMEs, sex, youth) with the support of the TAF.</p>	<p>1.5.3 0</p> <p>1.5.4 0</p>	<p>1.5.3 TBD</p> <p>1.5.4 TBD</p>		
Output 6 relating to Outcome 1	1.6 1 The integration of transversal areas (e.g. gender, youth and climate) in the African continental economic integration process including through the engagement of civil society and/or think tanks organisations having the capacities to lead initiatives, is facilitated	1.6.1 Number of civil society organisations (CSOs) and/or think tanks whose management confirm that they strengthened their capacities related to promote transversal areas (gender, environment, etc.) in trade issues (notably the AfCFTA), through the support of the TAF.	1.6.1 0	1.6.1 TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Progress reports for the TAF - including attendance sheet ▪ Annual survey with CSOs supported by the TAF 	
		1.6.2 Number of events, related to transversal areas in trade issues, to which CSOs and/or think tanks attended through the support of the TAF.	1.6.2	1.6.2		
		1.6.3 Number of position papers, studies, social impact analyses and other publications publicly available and/or fed into the AfCFTA decision-making process (continental, regional, national)	1.6.3 0	1.6.3 TBD		
		1.6.4 Number of practices aimed at removing barriers preventing women from market access, investment and business development through the support of the TAF	1.6.4	1.6.4 TBD		

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4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

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

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 of the Budget Support Component

N.A.

4.4 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures⁷.

4.4.1 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

This action may be implemented in indirect management with one or more entities, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

- Proven operational capacity to deliver projects of this nature and size, and having prior satisfactory experience working on EU-funded initiatives with similar activities;
- Physical presence in Ghana or/and Ethiopia, or if already physically present in other African countries, the capacity to be quickly operational and physically present (< 6 months) in Ghana or/and Ethiopia;
- Ability to engage with a wide spectrum of notable stakeholders (duty bearers) and partners and being already working with key trade and economic integration stakeholders (duty bearers) in Africa, especially at the continental or/and Regional Economic Community level;
- Extended experience on trade and economic integration issues in Africa, and especially in areas related to this Action, i.e. AfCFTA negotiations and implementation and already working on these issues;
- Extended experience in working with stakeholders (duty bearers) in the private sector and/or in supporting the private sector, especially related to importation/exportation and already working on these issues in Africa;
- Capacity to mobilise additional funds, especially from an EU Member State to co-finance the action, and to co-ordinate effectively these partnerships.

The implementation by this entity entails all the outputs of the action

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

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

Should the implementation through indirect management with an entrusted entity as described in section 4.4.1 reveal not possible due to circumstances outside of the Commission’s control, the Commission will revert to direct management – grants and procurement, contributing in achieving all objectives and outcomes foreseen in section 3 as follows:

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The purpose of the grant is to conduct activities related to Output 1.6 “The integration of transversal areas in the African continental economic integration process including through the engagement of civil society and/or think tanks organisations having the capacities to lead initiatives, is facilitated”.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

National or international Non-Governmental Organisation(s).

Procurement: (direct management)

Part of the activities may be implemented in direct management, for all other outputs “1.1 The capacities of the AfCFTA Secretariat to steer the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement are strengthened; -1.2 The capacities of the AUC and its specialized agencies to advance Continental Economic and Industrial policies complementary to the AfCFTA are strengthened; 1.3 The capacities of targeted RECs to implement AfCFTA related priority reforms and to facilitate cross-REC exchanges are strengthened; 1.4 The capacities of countries’ authorities to implement AfCFTA commitments are strengthened; 1.5 The capacities of private sector organisations to benefit from the AfCFTA are strengthened.

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.

4.6. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR) <small>of which SEK 49 000 000 (approx. EUR 4 300 000) from Sweden, EUR 2 500 000 from The Netherlands, DKK 18 350 000 (approx. EUR 2 500 000) from Denmark, EUR 2 000 000 from Finland, and EUR 400 000 from Ireland, through a transfer agreement to be signed⁸</small>	Third-party contribution (amount in EUR)	Total contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.4			
Objective 1: Operationalise the African Continental Free Trade Area – AfCFTA composed of	15 215 202	6 300 000	21 515 202
Indirect management with an entrusted entity – cf. section 4.4.1	15 215 202	6 300 000	21 515 202

⁸ Of which EUR 15 215 202 will be made available for the project and EUR 484 798 will be for administrative fees.

Evaluation – cf. section 5.2	N.A.		
Audit cf. section 5.3			
Totals	15 215 202	6 300 000	21 515 202

4.7 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) and Technical Working Groups (TWGs) will be created.

Direction, with its 3 different roles:

- Business assurance: one Executive (responsible of the project, notably developing the outline of business case, assuring the value for money, etc.) – representing the EU and other contributors;
- User assurance: Senior User(s) (in charge of protecting needs and interests of direct and final beneficiaries of the project) – representing the AfCFTA Secretariat, AUC, RECs, AU MS, private sector, and civil society (and ultimately African population);
- Supplier assurance: Senior Supplier(s) (in charge of defending the interests of those implementing the project, including by presenting the limits related to the means) – representing the Implementing Partners (GIZ, Expertise France, and FIIAPP).

Management: The Project Manager representing the Programme Management Unit (PMU)

The AfCFTA Secretariat and the EU will be co-chairs of the PSC. The AUC, RECs, AU member states, private sector, and civil society (rights-holders // woman, youth, and trade unions) will be represented, at least for the annual session related to the presentation of the “progress report” a rotational basis of this participation could be foreseen. Other contributors (especially EU Member States) could of course also be present at the PSC, but the EU will be the spokesperson for the group of donors. Therefore, pre-PSC meetings among contributors will facilitate their coordination in aim to deliver common messages.

For the other ordinary sessions, a reduced group may be invited in order to ease the discussions.

The **TWGs** will be in charge of identifying and discussing technical solutions for the Action, and – depending of their strategic level – directly validate them or submit them to the PSC.

At least one TWG will be created to deal with all usual topics related to everyday implementation of the Action. EU and IPs will be represented. Other stakeholders (duty bearers) may be invited if necessary.

Other TWGs may be created (i.e. one by output) to deal with specific topics/thematic areas. EU and IPs will be represented, as well as other relevant stakeholders (duty bearers) directly affected by each group topic / thematic area.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

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 Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner’s strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

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 entrusted entities (IPs) have *a priori* relevant internal monitoring systems on which the project could rely on; especially if the selected IPs would be the ones in charge of the current EU-TAF to support the AfCFTA.

In case of a Multi-party contribution agreement (only one contract), the lead-organisation will have the ultimate responsibility of assuring the adequate monitoring, reporting and evaluation tasks. Even in the case of multiple contracts with different IPs, the reporting will have to be a joint work, with joint documents.

The IPs will have to provide the contractual reports, populate OPSYS with the relevant data (cf. LogFrame), and being able to provide (in reports and on *ad hoc* requests) additional useful data and reports related to Trade and Economic Integration in Africa (notably via collaborations with academia and think tanks).

Monitoring and reporting should strive to assess how the Action is considering the principle of gender equality, human rights-based approach, and if possible, rights of the persons with disabilities, including inclusion and diversity. Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by sex.

Finally, IPs may have to support the key partners of the project for strengthening their own M&E capacities (systems and staff).

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, a mid-term and/or final evaluation(s) will be carried out for this action or its components via an implementing partner.

In case a mid-term evaluation: It will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to the continuation of the action, eventually also for preparing an extension or a new intervention.

In case a final evaluation: It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that it has been a TEI and a project supporting an AU key priority (Agenda 2063).

Evaluations should strive to what extent the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach as well as how it contributes to gender equality, women's and youth's empowerment, and eventually, disability inclusion.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders (duty bearers) 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.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Given the nature of the action, provision for Audit and Verifications for this action or its components is not necessary.

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.

In line with the 2022 "[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)", 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

A Primary Intervention (project/programme) is a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Identifying the level of the primary intervention will allow for:

Articulating Actions or Contracts according to an expected chain of results and therefore allowing them to ensure efficient monitoring and reporting of performance;

Differentiating these Actions or Contracts from those that do not produce direct reportable development results, defined as support entities (i.e. audits, evaluations);

Having a complete and exhaustive mapping of all results-bearing Actions and Contracts.

Primary Interventions are identified during the design of each action by the responsible service (Delegation or Headquarters operational Unit).

The level of the Primary Intervention chosen can be modified (directly in OPSYS) and the modification does not constitute an amendment of the action document.

The intervention level for the present Action identifies as (tick one of the 4 following options);

Action level (i.e. Budget Support, blending)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Group of actions level (i.e. top-up cases, different phases of a single programme)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSYS#):
Contract level		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	
	(...)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of contracts 1	