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

**ANNEX 15**

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Sub-Saharan Africa for 2022-2026 Part 2

**Action Document for One Stop Shop for Green Energy Investments and an Africa-EU energy partnership**

**MULTIANNUAL PLAN**

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

## 1 SYNOPSIS

### 1.1 Action Summary Table

<b>1. Title</b> <b>CRIS/OPSYS</b> <b>business reference</b> <b>Basic Act</b>	<u>One Stop Shop for Green Energy Investments and an Africa-EU energy partnership</u> OPSYS number: ACT-61216 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument ( <u>NDICI-Global Europe</u> )
<b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>	Yes Africa-EU Green Energy Initiative (AEGEI)
<b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>	The action shall be carried out in Sub-Saharan Africa
<b>4. Programming document</b>	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa 2021-2027
<b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results</b>	<p>The proposed Action intends to contribute to RIP Priority Area 3 “<b>Green Transition</b>”. The Specific Objectives concerned are <b>SO1: Strengthen climate resilience</b> and <b>SO2: Support the development of an efficient, sustainable and resilient African energy sector</b>.</p> <p>The main expected RIP results are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>result 2.1:</b> Higher share of renewable energy sources in primary energy production in SSA is promoted; and</li><li>• <b>result 2.3:</b> increased access to affordable, reliable clean and sustainable energy services for households, social services and productive uses.</li></ul>
<b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	Priority Area 3 “ <b>Green Transition</b> ”, targeting the following sectors: Sustainable energy and Climate Change Mitigation and Resilience.
<b>7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	The action will primarily contribute to the following SDGs:

	SDG 7 “Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”, and SDG 13 “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”.  It also contributes significantly to SDG 9 “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”.			
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	23210 – Energy generation, renewable sources – multiple technologies; 35% 23231 – Solar energy for isolated grids and standalone systems; 35% 23631 – Electric Power Transmission and Distribution (isolated mini grids); 12% 32174 – Clean cooking appliances manufacturing; 15% 23181 – Energy education/training; 3%			
<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel</b>	40000 – Multilateral organisations - Delegated co-operation			
<b>9. Involvement of multilateral partners</b>	N/A			
<b>10. Targets</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
<b>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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women’s and girl’s empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. Internal markers and Tags	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
13. Amounts concerned	<p>Budget line(s):</p> <p>Total estimated cost: EUR 35 000 000</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 10 000 000</p> <p>The EU contribution is for an amount of EUR 10 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union</p> <p>Budget lines:</p> <p>14.020120-C1-INTPA WEST AFRICA:</p> <p>EUR 1 750 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2022</p> <p>14.020121-C1-INTPA EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA:</p> <p>EUR 1 750 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2022</p> <p>14.020122-C1-INTPA SOUTHERN AFRICA AND INDIAN OCEAN:</p> <p>EUR 1 500 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2022</p> <p>14.020120-C1-INTPA WEST AFRICA:</p> <p>EUR 1 750 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2024</p> <p>14.020121-C1-INTPA EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA:</p> <p>EUR 1 750 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2024</p>			

	<p>14.020122-C1-INTPA SOUTHERN AFRICA AND INDIAN OCEAN:</p> <p>EUR 1 500 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2024</p> <p>Subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths</p> <p>This action is co-financed in joint co-financing by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Germany through GIZ for an amount of EUR 17 500 000;</li> </ul> <p>This action is co-financed in parallel co-financing by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Swedish Development International Agency (SIDA), for an amount of EUR 2 500 000,</li> <li>- the Netherlands for an amount of EUR 4 500 000, and</li> <li>- Austrian Development Agency (ADA) for an amount of EUR 500 000.</li> </ul> <p>These amounts are subject to further consultation and will be confirmed with respective contributors.</p> <p>The Commission may be entrusted with the responsibility of managing the contribution transferred by SIDA, covering Africa and global activities of GETPro, after the signature of the corresponding transfer agreement, in accordance with the procedures applicable to the EU budget.</p> <p>Key Member States providing support: Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands and Austria. It is foreseen that new MS and non-MS can join and contribute at a later stage.</p>
<b>MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>	
<b>14. Type of financing</b>	Indirect management with GIZ, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

## 1.2 Summary of the Action

The **One-Stop-Shop (OSS)** for Green Energy Investments in Africa aims to accelerate the implementation of the Africa-EU Green Energy Initiative (AEGEI), one of the Global Gateway (GG) Investment Package flagship TEIs, boosting private investments in green energy by offering a credible and skilled platform bringing together finance providers and finance seekers (investors) so as to facilitate and scale up clean energy investment projects. The action also aims to respond to the strongly articulated need coming from the industry for a single access point to European support and financing instruments for clean energy solutions in Sub-Saharan Africa (one of the resolutions of the recent EU-Africa Business Forum). Overall, it will also support business development, sustainable growth and job creation, which are among the Global Gateway Investment Package objectives endorsed at the last AU-EU summit.

The **One Stop Shop** will act as a reliable, open access intermediary between investors and financiers by facilitating the process of project ideas reaching the bankability stage (based on request and transparent service protocol) as well as development of sustainable project pipelines that financial institutions can draw from (by helping them to find suitable investees). The OSS service will thus strive to bundle different European contributions to the green energy transition for Africa.

The OSS will be an evolution of the existing action powered by the ongoing programme GETt.invest<sup>1</sup>. The GET.invest programme funded since 2016 by the EU and four MS, and managed by GIZ, provides direct support to private investors in renewable energy and offers a wide scope of advisory services concerning available and suitable finance instruments (currently over 100+ relevant finance and support instruments in the GET.invest operated database), appropriate business models and project structuring and facilitation of B2B contacts among others. Over the last several years, this support facility has established itself well in the Renewable Energy market and the rate of GET.invest supported projects successfully engaging with finance instruments and reaching the stage of financial close is considerable.

<sup>1</sup> Part of the broader GET.Pro initiative in support of Global Energy Transition ([GET.pro \(global-energy-transformation.eu\)](https://get.pro/global-energy-transformation.eu))

The One Stop Shop activities will be enhanced and catalysed by support to the existing **Africa EU energy partnership (AEEP)** and support to regulatory reform in Africa. The recent Africa-EU Green Energy Initiative (AEGEI) has given a new impetus and scope to the AEEP activities and will support the strong link between the two continents on energy both in supporting investment but also on the creation, of solid energy markets.

While not exclusive to, the OSS support will be steered by European Commission and other GET.invest contributors and will focus on European instruments, incl. EFSD as well as EU Member States funded facilities and will provide both ad hoc feedback and regular reporting on support activities provided to individual investors as well as financiers.

## 2 RATIONALE

### 2.1 Context

Across the world, renewable energy is becoming the most cost-effective option to generate electricity and address the needs of a rapidly growing population. Africa can become a major global market for renewable energy and will clearly be the EU's geographical priority for promoting green energy transition and accelerating access to sustainable energy. At present, despite being one of the world's richest regions in renewable energy resources, still some 570 million people in Africa do not have access to electricity and 850 million lack access to clean cooking. Yet, technology solutions are abundant and ready to be deployed and development cooperation funds can help to leverage private sector investment in clean energy.

The EU has been backing and boosting private investments in the sustainable energy sector for the past several years. Through the OSS support, the Team Europe partners (EU + Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, Austria) intend to further step up their support to private entrepreneurs so as to facilitate their access to appropriate financial instruments (and financiers) in order to help sustainable energy projects reach the financial close stage. The OSS service will in principle assess project ideas and refer investors to relevant sources of funding, including the EFSD/EFSD+ facilities in the first place, depending on the intended technology, business model and project size. It will also closely cooperate with financiers that will be able to source information on prospective projects matching their financing profile as well as refer investors requiring specialized advice to the OSS team.

To support the implementation of the **sustainable energy actions**, both through the NDICI-Global Europe and EU Member States own contributions and actions, all relevant efforts in the energy sector should be bundled under a well-coordinated and strategic approach, coupled with clear branding and strong promotion of the Initiative making full use of Energy and Climate diplomacy, serving one global vision and building on the long relationship between African and European countries on energy<sup>2</sup>.

The idea of OSS support to private sector is enshrined in the Africa-EU Green Energy Initiative (AEGEI) and is meant to support its key priority - implementation of the green energy transition and sustainable energy investments in the continent. Thus, the Action intends to contribute to objectives defined for the Africa-EU Green Energy Initiative (enhanced renewable energy generation potential, enhanced access to energy), support the EFSD+ operations, as well as 20+ MIPs in Africa which identified energy as one of the key sectors of intervention. To allow for continental/regional effect, it is important to have an efficient project preparation support facility that can assist private sector investors regardless of their country of origin, while matching the sustainable energy needs of Africa and business opportunities for the EU and African industry and the EU Member States.

This Action is also aligned with priorities of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular with the vision of the European Green Deal for a Just Green Energy Transition, goals of the EU Energy and Climate Diplomacy and key objectives of the GG Investment Package for Africa<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> Including the Africa Europe Energy Partnership (AEEP) launched in 2008 under the Joint Africa Europe Strategy.

<sup>3</sup> i.e. accelerating green and digital transition, sustainable growth and decent jobs

## 2.2 Problem Analysis

### Short problem analysis:

According to IEA (International Energy Agency), the demand for electricity is expected to triple globally by 2040. But while increasing energy needs of a growing population have to be met in order to power socio-economic development in developing countries, in parallel the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions must be drastically reduced to contain climate change at acceptable levels.

In order to reconcile these two challenges and avoid a trade-off between fighting climate change and socio-economic development, a global energy transformation based on clean energy technologies is therefore essential. In particular African context, renewable energy investments, esp. decentralized solutions (mini grids and off grid systems) can play an important role in meeting these challenges and provide energy in line with the needs of all consumers: at household level, for productive uses in small and mid-size companies (SMEs) or social institutions and up to industrial scale demand. Moreover, IEA estimates that decentralized renewable energy technologies will account for almost 20% of the electricity generation in 2040 and will be the most viable means to provide access in rural areas. Billions of euros of investment capital need to flow every year in order to make this transition to and massive scaling-up of decentralized supply structures happen.

However, this investment must be first unlocked: it must be triggered and stimulated. Boosting investment in renewable energy in developing countries, in particular by mobilizing the private sector and other locally based actors, is therefore a key priority in order to complement scarce public resources, which play a more preparatory and leveraging role. At the African Union Commission level, the need for mobilising private sector in green energy investments is uncontested. However, domestic policies to encourage private investments vary across Africa and generally lack firm implementation support.

As a matter of fact, there is no shortage of financing opportunities for renewable energy in developing countries. A multitude of new energy and climate financing initiatives have been launched in recent years - for example GEEREF, Energy Access Ventures, AfDB's SEFA or the GCF to name just a few. At the EU level, several other new instruments, such as e.g. the Electrification Financing Initiative (ElectriFI) have also introduced new funding mechanisms for renewable energy deployment. However, all these instruments require well-developed project proposals at a relatively advanced stage of maturity adhering to specific criteria. The sheer complexity in the financing landscape significantly affects prospective investors, esp. locally based actors, who usually lack exposure and the know-how on how to approach sophisticated financing schemes.

In general, it can be also stated that private sector lacks the capacity to develop sufficiently viable and bankable project proposals and this leads to an insufficient number of renewable energy project proposals that effectively connect with available financing opportunities (**core problem**) and are put in operation despite the availability of funding from both public and private sources. In addition, project development takes too much time which leads to high costs for both developers as well as financiers, delaying investment, and ultimately slowing down the development of future-proof renewable energy projects. If there were more viable projects, more of the available financing could be deployed, and the political targets (access, climate change, economic growth and jobs, etc.) would be achieved faster.

This proliferation and very complex landscape of different financing instruments as well as scattered and fragmented information readily available (financing needs vary and depend on a given business model) pose a number of challenges in sustainable energy promotion and call for enhanced coordination among donors and initiatives and a single entry support platform that could direct investors to appropriate funding source and provide advice on steps required to improve a business model/project idea in order to make it attractive for relevant financiers.

It is against this background that the EU and other MS involved have decided to mandate GET.invest, an existing multi-donor European facility, with the implementation of a "One Stop Shop" for Green Energy Investments. The One Stop Shop would operate as a single (but not mandatory) entry point to link European partners with the available support (incl. EFSD+) in Sub-Saharan Africa.

GET.invest fills important gaps in the financing instruments landscape due to the following:

- It covers all renewable energy market segments, incl. on- and off-grid electricity, clean cooking, productive use, hydrogen and supports projects of different sizes (from grass-root level to EUR 80+ million in value) thus closing the gap between household energy and utility scale power producer,
- It focuses on the often-neglected decentralized renewables, which are largely underutilized in developing countries, and which are associated with particularly high development benefits (access, jobs, GHG emission reductions, local economic and social development) due to their decentralized nature, their proximity to local communities, and their potential to promote productive use,
- It creates an otherwise largely missing link between the limited viable investment opportunities in particular at the local level, and the growing number of available financing instruments,
- It makes a tangible and substantial contribution to increasing the number of viable investment opportunities that are ready for financing,
- It has already developed a broad partner network with financiers and industry associations and this networking effort is continuously enhanced.

The OSS service will be embedded in and powered by GET.invest programme, which currently operates in Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific regions and will continue to run until 2026 at least and will build on its experience and core rationale to mobilize private sector investments and support project proponents to get their proposals ready for financing as fast as possible. The new feature that the OSS brings on board will be the extended and more structured partnership with financiers and their financial instruments, esp. EFSD guarantees (work in progress) as well as further streamlining of its advisory portfolio with focus on clientele likely to benefit from the EU or MS supported instruments and enhanced reporting regime. GET.invest launched (and will implement) a pilot phase of the One Stop Shop in February 2022, including stakeholder and partner consultations and other preparatory activities, and its full roll-out is expected in 2023.

In this way, the Action aims to support renewable energy investments across Sub-Saharan Africa working directly with project developers and financial institutions concerned and linking them according to needs and profiles at stake. The One Stop Shop will also benefit from parallel EU supported facilities aimed at removing policy or regulatory barriers to investment climate in African countries and beyond (e.g. Global Technical Assistance Facility for sustainable energy).

It is also expected that several dedicated Country Windows will be created under GET.invest from funds allocated to EU Delegations under relevant MIPs/NDICI (such windows already exist for Mozambique and Burundi but will come to an end in 2023, new CW has just been agreed for Eswatini). In such case, these funds may also contribute to the OSS related support depending on the scope and priorities set for each individual country window.

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

The main stakeholders of the action are private sector companies and project developers on the one hand, and financing institutions on the other. The action shall link companies and project developers (i.e. private sector) who are in need of financing and support with the providers of such solutions.

- The private sector actors include: green energy private sector companies based in Africa and EU or international actors/partnerships doing business in Africa, local banks, entrepreneurs, local communities etc.
- The financing actors include in particular the European financiers and their financing instruments (as project pipeline beneficiaries). This comprises primarily the instruments with European funding, specifically European Commission funding (blending, EFSD, EFSD+ in future), as well as financing instruments with member states contribution. Other financing instruments are covered only in so far as there is a direct benefit to the wider objectives pertinent for AEGEI.

Other stakeholders include the industry associations both at international as well as where applicable national level. These associations play an important role in market development in general. For the action, they are directly relevant in terms of spreading information about the action as well as mobilising private sector.

Civil society will be inherently involved through cooperation with NGOs, in this case industry associations, who are at the core of the action. Consultations with industry organizations are ongoing, they will also be involved as beneficiaries (awareness, capacity building) or independent feedback providers. Local authorities will be indirectly involved wherever required by respective investment project supported through the action to ensure adherence to local regulation requirements. Furthermore, through its private sector mobilisation activities, the action provides a critical platform for local authorities to communicate with the industry fostering critical exchange between often disconnected stakeholder groups.

The ultimate beneficiaries of GET.invest/OSS support are the people in partner countries benefitting from a sustainable, affordable and reliable access to energy, which in particular relates to the poorer part of the population living in rural areas.

The action will be implemented by GIZ with funding from the German government as well as other MS co-financiers (Sweden, Netherlands, Austria) who will be also involved in strategic steering of the action through regular Steering Committee meetings of GET.invest. It is expected that other EU MS partners may join and provide further financing of the action beyond 2022.

The action will also involve cooperation with related EU agencies where possible and relevant. This includes in particular the Joint Research Centre (JRC), which has developed several services and know-how products such as the Clean Energy Access Tool that relates to both core services as well as the envisaged data platform. Moreover, it will interact and engage with other EU supported technical support instruments aiming at facilitating private sector investments (e.g. technical assistance to be provided under the EFSD/EFSD+ guarantee facilities).

## 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

### 3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to **contribute to the achievement of universal access to energy and transition towards renewable energy in Sub-Saharan Africa.**

The Specific Objective (Outcome) of this action is to: **Enhance support to private sector investments in clean energy production and access to electricity in partner countries and support the partnership between Africa and EU on energy.**

This is achieved in the form of contributing to an enhanced pipeline of bankable renewable energy projects which are linked with relevant financial instruments.

The 5 Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objective (Outcome) are:

- 1.1 Enhanced private sector capacity to deliver bankable renewable energy projects,
- 1.2 Capacity of financiers (incl. domestic actors) to provide financial products for renewable energy projects, companies and end-users is strengthened,
- 1.3 Private sector is mobilised and empowered for investments in clean energy projects (incl. key industry associations),
- 1.4 The availability of market related information and data required to enable energy investments is improved.
- 1.5 The Africa EU energy partnership (AEEP) is supported towards realising the goals of the Africa-EU Green Energy Initiative (AEGEI)

### 3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities related to Output 1.1:

- The action will provide companies and project developers with direct support towards successful fundraising from European and other financiers through competent advisory and coaching services,



- The action will deploy dedicated advisory services taking into account different support needs across beneficiary groups (international vs. domestic, early-stage vs. more advanced, big ticket vs. small scale) ensuring relevance and match with the different applicable financing instruments.

#### Activities related to Output 1.2:

- Experiences and lessons learnt from the finance access advisory services are well structured and provided to relevant stakeholders (European Commission, EU Member States, DFIs, etc.) through research, information sharing and knowledge products, thereby contributing to the improvement of available financing instruments in the market,
- Optionally, and in so far as added value for AEGEI and European financing instruments can be demonstrated, this could also include capacity development and mobilisation of domestic financiers.

#### Activities related to Output 1.3:

- The action will engage in partnerships with industry associations as critical multipliers in the market space, leveraging these partnerships for enhanced outreach & mobilisation of private sector developers feeding into Output 1.1,
- The action will facilitate meetings and exchanges between market actors towards establishing new partnerships as well as facilitating knowledge transfer through capacity development and building networks, thus contributing to developing a future pipeline of projects, as well as creating visibility for European financing instruments and initiatives (such as AEGEI).

#### Activities related to Output 1.4:

- The action will develop and publish an online database of funding instruments covering especially the European financing landscape. The database will be regularly updated in close coordination with relevant financiers and in particular European DFIs, and it performs as the basis for other efforts, including the advisory under Output 1
- Development of other relevant information and market know-how products that ultimately contribute to building a pipeline for the One Stop Shop purposes.

#### Activities related to Output 1.5:

- Support Team Europe activities in the energy sector of Africa, supporting actions promoting the strategic partnerships between Europe and Africa on energy by implementing statistical, market and sectoral analyses, support knowledge exchanges such as study tours
- Implement communication activities aiming to enrich and widen the partnership of the two continents on energy bringing together as well as informing EU member states, African institutions at continental and regional level and international partners including the industry, private sector, academia and civil society
- Support regulatory reforms for renewable energy penetration and access to energy such as those supported by Team Europe sector partners such as GTAF and GET.Transform that are necessary to improve the status of the renewable energy markets in Africa
- Actively support continental and regional African Institutions in fulfilling their role of creating an harmonised market for energy investments and a promoting the “hard” and “soft” energy investments needed
- Link with GET.Transform and Member State agencies in streamlining Team Europe

### 3.3 Mainstreaming

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

With its focus on clean/green energy, the action is expected to deliver positive environmental and climate change benefits because it aims to increase the use of renewable energy across Africa and improve energy efficiency, thus reducing carbon emissions, air pollution and dependence on fossil fuels. The action is also expected to promote a more efficient use of biomass, currently a major source of thermal energy needs at household level (cooking, heating) and reduce the environmental and health hazards associated with indoor air pollution.

Thus, the action will by default contribute to mitigating i.e. reducing or avoiding present or future greenhouse gases emissions. This is achieved through substituting current or future fossil fuel use (for example in diesel generators or thermal power plants), by avoiding energy consumption with fossil fuel components in energy efficiency investments, or by avoiding unsustainable use of biomass.

In addition, some climate change adaptation impacts can be expected as, in general, a decentralised energy system is less exposed to natural disasters or other risks arising from weather extremes (e.g. increased soil erosion in excessive rainfall situations, leading to hydropower dam siltation and thus reduced power generation). Mini-grids, in addition to strengthening the overall system resilience by way of being isolated from risk-exposed main grids, enable localised value addition, like food processing and storage, thus contributing to more resilient food supply and economic activity. On the other hand, standalone systems include productive use systems with similar benefits to mini-grids (solar mills, fridges, etc.), and support solar water pumping which enables tailored irrigation solutions for individual farms. Finally, clean cooking solutions are an essential factor to tackle deforestation, which is of critical importance given the link between forests, soil erosion and water supply.

#### **Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening**

Not applicable at action level – the direct beneficiaries (i.e. companies and project developers) are expected to carry out their own EIA as part of the typical investment and fundraising process. While the ultimate verification of EIA is undertaken by financiers as part of the due diligence process, if the project is taken up, the OSS advisors will also do the initial EIA quality assurance and plausibility verification as part of the access-to-finance advisory work package. Furthermore, EIA quality assurance may also be supported through other activities such as workshops with associations for knowledge and experience sharing, special formats during conferences, or capacity development through domestic financiers.

#### **Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening**

Not applicable at action level - see above. However, there are significant climate change effects that can be achieved by the action as it will contribute directly to a reduction of climate risk exposure for many of the supported companies and projects. Thus, the initial climate risk exposure assessment will be also performed as part of the OSS advisory support package, similarly as is the case for EIA.

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#### **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 equality and empowerment of women and girls is a significant objective of the action (GAP III, SDG 5). The action inherently addresses gender equality through its support to decentralised business models that empower local stakeholders, both entrepreneurs as well as end-users, incl. women and youth, through access to energy and digital solutions, among others. Moreover, GET.invest applies a gender-sensitive approach to support the integration of female participants in business models under consideration and has so far supported a significant number of local, female owned companies based on “last mile” business models as well as developed a monitoring and reporting framework to capture this dimension.

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#### **Human Rights**

In general terms, the action will contribute to addressing the energy access gap, considered derived human right, and thus prevalent development challenges and poverty in all the countries where the companies and projects supported will operate. Addressing energy poverty will help remove a significant socio-economic barrier that prevents many Africans, esp. in rural areas, from enjoying their formal rights. The action will also strive to leverage appropriate financing mechanisms in the EU cooperation toolbox to de-risk investments in the energy sector and direct activities, wherever possible, to the most vulnerable.

In addition, the action will implement the principles of no one left behind, do not harm and will encourage the private sector to respect the guiding principles on Business and Human Rights.

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#### **Disability**

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this Action is labelled as D0. However, access to affordable energy has an important impact on persons with disabilities as they tend to have higher energy needs. For instance, they have a greater demand for electricity to operate assistive technologies that help them to become more self-sufficient. Since persons with mobility difficulties also tend to spend more time at home, their energy bills are higher than for households without persons with disabilities and often they have fewer financial resources available to pay their energy bills. The key to overcoming the energy challenges faced by people with disabilities lies mainly in increasing access to affordable electricity, which is one of the objectives of this project.

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#### **Democracy**

By ensuring that energy services reach the most marginalised people, in a more inclusive and sustainable way, this action will enhance equal opportunities among targeted population and will contribute to reinforcing people's trust in the institutions and democratic governance. Access to electricity is also an enabler for digitalisation, connectivity and access to information. In addition, the promotion of renewable and clean energy will help reduce the dependence on fossil fuel imports and thus reduce exposure to political or market risks in this regard.

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

The action may support companies and projects that operate in conflict or post-conflict areas. This could for example include companies providing energy solutions for refugee contexts or host communities. In addition, more equitable access to energy services and improved livelihoods will help address social inequalities in general and reduce the gap between urban and rural areas. This will contribute to mitigating the risks of social conflict and improve country resilience.

#### **Disaster Risk Reduction**

The Action does not specifically target disaster risk reduction. However, many of the project and business types that will be supported have direct or indirect implications for disaster resilience. Generally, by contributing to diversified and robust energy markets, the resilience to natural disasters is enhanced. In addition, there are disaster risk effects for specific thematic issues, such as clean cooking, in the chain of events from reduced firewood and charcoal consumption, reduced deforestation, soil erosion, flood risk, etc.

#### **Digitalisation**

With regards to expected target groups, many of the companies and projects are based on digital service delivery models. In fact, the energy sector has already been, for example in terms of mobile payment for energy services, mobile and remote maintenance, as well as smart metering at the forefront of digital innovation. In addition, the action will be linked with an innovative digital and open-source energy use data platform that is currently in preparatory stages.

### 3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

<b>Category</b>	<b>Risks</b>	<b>Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)</b>	<b>Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)</b>	<b>Mitigating measures</b>
<b>External environment</b>	External risks and uncertainties (e.g. pandemic and war crisis) lead to a general market slowdown and decrease in energy investments	Medium/ High	Medium	The action will cover many different project types and business models, as well as many countries, thus reducing the risk that such factors affect the action strongly. In addition, the action will retain the inherent flexibility to adapt to changing market circumstances, for example by switching the advisory objective from capital raising to risk management and crisis survival.
<b>People and organisation</b>	Projects and companies fail, or take much longer than anticipated, to reach viability	Low	Medium	Thorough screening and selection of projects and companies to ensure that only those with an actual potential and good likelihood of success get supported. Support services geared to accelerate the process, incl. engagement with financiers and other stakeholders, to tackle the causes of delays.

<b>People and Organisation</b>	Financiers are unwilling or unable to take up projects and companies supported by the action	Low	Medium	The action will engage closely and work with many different financiers and provide reliable information thus ensuring that there are appropriate solutions available. Furthermore, it will provide feedback to donors and in particular the EU to guide financing instruments.
<b>Planning, processes and systems</b>	Market opportunity - European financiers do not offer matching and competitive solutions to market needs	Low	Medium	The action will provide feedback to donors and financiers on actual market needs, based on cooperation with industry associations, thus informing the adjustment of financing instruments, if necessary. The action will also inherently strive to “pull” projects and companies toward European financing instruments. If need be, the action will approach other financiers to crowd in European financiers (e.g. to reduce their risk exposure).
<b>People and organisation</b>	Lack of transparency/equal treatment in managing requests for advice/support	Low	Medium	This will be mitigated through a clear and simple protocol to handle requests received and strict reporting obligations towards EU and co-financing partners as well as involvement of key IFIs and industry associations in the design of the support mechanism to reflect their expectations.
<b>Legal and regulatory aspects</b>	Enabling environment barriers such as lack of conducive policies, complex licencing and permitting landscape, no cost-reflective tariffs, lack of technical standards etc.	Low	Medium	These will be mitigated by the cross-country nature of the action, where temporary delays or challenges caused by policy/regulatory factors in one country are offset by demand from other countries. Moreover, the action will closely cooperate with other EU funded facilities that provide technical assistance tailored to tackle challenges of regulatory nature (e.g. GET.transform or GTAF)

#### **Lessons Learnt:**

The action integrates experience from long standing cooperation with private sector and industry associations and draws from feedback articulated by their representatives. It reflects furthermore the initial rationale, which was confirmed during the implementation of the last 3 years of the GET.invest programme that the action will build on. The underlying assumption and starting point, confirmed through lessons learnt, is that there is a prevailing systemic market failure that can be depicted from two perspectives. From the perspective of private sector, the landscape of financing instruments is too fragmented and too complex, the modalities not too transparent and case-by-case, and the process of identifying, accessing and absorbing appropriate financing too expensive, both in terms of resources as well as in terms of time. From the perspective of financiers though, many potential investees are too small, too risky or their proposals are not at a stage where finance can be deployed efficiently. The One Stop Shop support needs to address this reality, if it is to be successful. The need for and added value of a credible, competent and independent One Stop Shop as an efficient intermediary between the two ‘worlds’ has been strongly confirmed through consultations with both financiers as well as private sector, undertaken over the course of several last months. It has furthermore been articulated that such a setup should go beyond a mere “information desk” function, but actually

provide competent and hands-on support and feedback that directly addresses the specific needs of the key stakeholders.

There is thus a strong case for a credible facilitator that provides assistance and advice that can bring the two perspectives together and facilitate matching solutions. Experience has also shown that such a facilitator should be impartial and not linked with a specific financing solution, in order to be credible and in order to truly reflect a demand driven approach that enables transparent market development. This is another crucial success factor for an effective One Stop Shop.

An additional lesson learnt is that this action should build on existing structures and a proven approach. This is due to the appreciation of the effort it takes to set up and effectively manage a facility that can credibly and competently act as a One Stop Shop across many different countries and many different types of projects and companies that fall under the scope of clean and green energy. This includes complementing the core functions of providing information about financing instruments and linking them with projects and companies with complementary and closely linked services that ensure mobilisation of beneficiaries, as well as knowledge management and information.

Another important observation that can be drawn is the rapid pace of innovation in the energy sector and the corresponding rapid evolution of both project types and companies, as well as financing options. This requires a high degree of market understanding, close engagement with stakeholders, in particular industry associations, and the inherent ability of the delivery mechanisms to quickly and credibly react to such developments, and to the evolving needs of different stakeholder and target groups.

The implementation of similar and predecessor actions has clearly shown that there is a strong need for close coordination among key stakeholders, efficient flow of information, and good steering of such an action. This translates directly into appropriate planning, steering and governance, and is built on a comprehensive monitoring and tracking system of all activities and all results achieved. The action will reflect this by building on the established processes and setup of GET.invest.

The existing Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) is the partnership entrusted by the EU and the African Union Commission to implement the energy agenda of the Joint Africa Europe Strategy (JAES), as agreed and renewed in the AU-EU summit of November 2017 in Abidjan. The AEEP focused on institutional and capacity support to African counterparts such as the African Union Commission, the African Energy Commission (AFREC) and African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), while promoting Africa-EU cooperation on energy via communication activities. The AEEP has supported the launch of new European initiatives (such as RES4Africa) in the past and has linked with industry players such as RenewAfrica that promote a closer relation of the two continents in the energy sector. Following the AU-EU summit of February 2022, the AEEP will operate under the scope of the newer Africa-EU Green Energy Initiative (AEGEI) and with a more streamlined mandate to be agreed between partners.

### 3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that through a chain of parallel and interlinked events and services, the action will mobilize private sector investments in green energy that will feed into, in particular, European financing instruments, thus enabling them to achieve the expected results and ultimately facilitate the success and overall objective of the action, that is enhanced access to energy and transition towards renewable energy in Sub-Saharan Africa. At the operational level, a complementary and synergetic relationship with many financial instruments is at the heart of GET.invest and thus One Stop Shop activities: to add value “upstream” and to enhance the potential pool of bankable projects. On the other hand, by mobilising private sector, and by building a pipeline of financeable projects (through advisory services), it allows financing instruments to disburse more resources and accelerate their rate of financing.

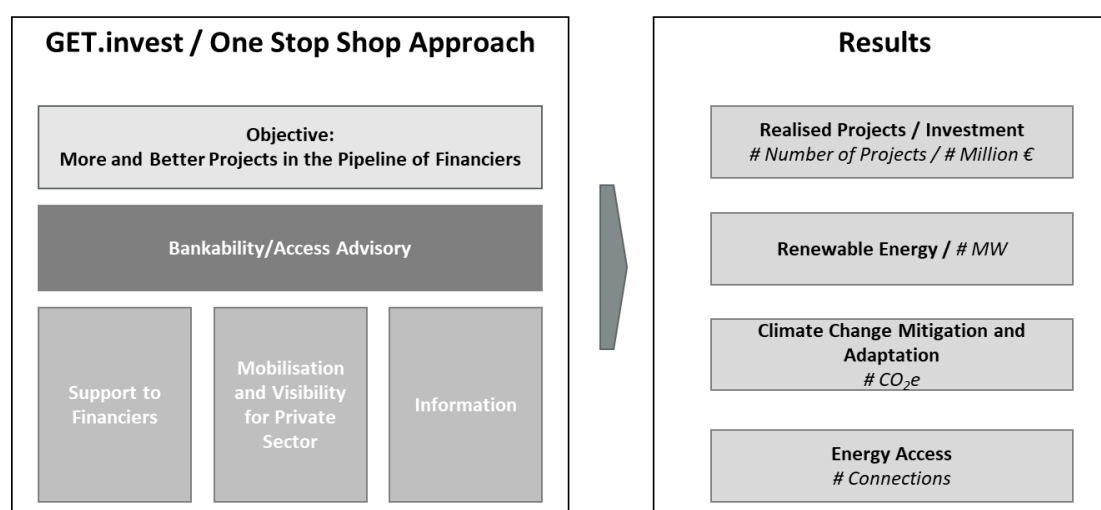
GET.invest will, under guidance of its contributors, approach relevant European financiers and engage them in a more systematic dialogue. This will help to ensure that the OSS’ support to project preparation delivers in line with the needs and expectations of financiers.

The relationship with financing instruments materialises in three ways. GET.invest feeds projects into the financing instruments, based on a sound understanding of modalities and requirements, by empowering private sector to present bankable proposals. Secondly, financiers can also refer projects and companies to GET.invest to improve their business models and make them bankable. And lastly, many projects that are already being considered by a financier need further support to help them reach financial close faster.

This core function can however only be successful on the basis of complementary services: private sector needs to be informed about services of GET.invest and mobilised towards assistance offered by the One Stop Shop. Therefore, there is also a strong need to create visibility for the action, and for Team Europe support to green energy investments in a wider sense. This is ideally achieved through working with multipliers, in particular relevant industry associations. Private sector also needs information in particular about the different financing instruments that the OSS is expected to link with, and it can benefit greatly from other, preferably digitally supported solutions of availing information and data relevant to investing in a given region or country. This will be achieved through delivering visibility and matchmaking events as well as by availing information and data contained in the GET.invest managed database on financial instruments and information platform on investments supported by various financiers.

Last but not least, the action will liaise with and work with financiers, both in terms of providing feedback on market needs and finance instrument performance, as well as in terms of crowding in domestic financiers (e.g. commercial banks), both for operational as well as for political reasons.

The overall intervention logic is also depicted in the graph below.



\* note: the climate change adaptation indicator will be operationalized in the early phase of the action, incl. an adaptation impact assessment assignment through external experts/evaluators.

### 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.

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To contribute to the achievement of universal access to energy and transition towards renewable energy in Sub-Saharan Africa.	1. Increase of access to energy measured in number of new connections  2. Increase of renewables in the energy mix (power production) measured in %	1- 46% ( 2019)  2 - 57% (2018)	1-100% (SDG target, 2030)  2 - 68% (2030)	1 IEA, IRENA  2 IEA, IRENA	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	Enhanced support to private sector investments in clean energy production and access to electricity in partner countries	1.1 Investment volume of projects receiving OSS support (mEUR)  1.2 Projected renewable energy generation capacity installed (MW) with OSS support  1.3 Projected number of people with access to electricity with OSS support disaggregated by sex.  1.4 Projected GHG emission reduced per year (in tCO <sub>2</sub> e/a)	  1.1– 423 (2021)  1.2 - TBC  1.3 - TBC  1.4 - TBC	  1.1 - 1,300 (2026)  1.2 – 1 GW (2026)  1.3 – 6 million (2026)  1.4 - 2 million (2026)	  GIZ reports (based on feedback / documentation from financiers and/or project developers);	Demand for clean energy continues to grow;  The underlying economic viability of DRE is not affected by e.g. external price shocks, political risks;  Projects will be implemented without major delay
Output 1.1	Enhanced private sector capacity to deliver bankable renewable energy projects	1.1.1 Clean energy investment and energy access projects/companies supported by GET.invest reaching financial close	1.1.1 – 36 (2021)  1.1.2 – 70 (2021)  1.1.3– 213 (2021)	1.1.1 – 140 (2026)  1.1.2 – 260 (2026)  1.1.3 – 400 (2026)	GIZ reports (assessment based on confirmation by financing institutions and supported projects/companies)	Demand for GET.invest support remains high;  Tailored support and embracing partnership approach mitigate relatively higher



		<p>1.1.2 Clean energy investment and energy access projects/companies supported by GET.invest taken up by financiers (for negotiation)</p> <p>1.1.3 Projects/businesses coached and advised</p>				<p>specific risks with new target groups.</p> <p>Financing institutions cooperate and desire concrete support in pipeline development</p> <p>On average one in two projects taken up by financing institutions reaches financial close.</p>
<b>Output 1.2</b>	The capacity of financiers (incl. domestic actors) to provide financing products for renewable energy projects, companies and end-users is strengthened	1.2.1. No of knowledge products or advisory inputs (out of which 3 include a specific focus on gender-responsive approaches to financing clean energy) developed to advise financiers and donors on developing and assessing the applicability of various financing mechanisms, including guarantees.	1.2.1- 3 (2021)	1.2.1- 10 (2026)	GIZ reports and library of knowledge products and interventions that took place	Financing institutions cooperate and desire concrete support in pipeline development.
<b>Output 1.3</b>	Private sector is mobilised and empowered for investments in clean energy projects (incl. key industry associations)	<p>1.3.1 participants in GET.invest supported industry information events and trainings</p> <p>1.3.2 - % of the responding participants at GET.invest supported events and trainings</p>	<p>1.3.1 – 13,613 (2021)</p> <p>1.3.2 – 68 (2021)</p>	<p>1.3.1 – 20,250 (2026)</p> <p>1.3.2 – 75 (2026)</p>	GIZ Surveys (post events)	Partner associations continue to cooperate, provide relevant contacts and remain interested in support;

		confirm that knowledge and capacities applicable to their job has been strengthened.				Virtual means of CD support are as effective as physical ones;
<b>Output 1.4</b>	The availability of essential information and data required to enable energy investments is improved.	1.4.1 Visitors accessing market information products made available on GET.invest's website.	1.4.1 - 138,000 (2021)	1.4.1 - 300,000 (2026)	GIZ reports based on website statistics	Market intelligence is relevant and actively demanded by stakeholders; GET.invest outreach successfully reaches stakeholders
<b>Output 1.5</b>	The Africa EU energy partnership (AEEP) activities are supported towards realising the goals of the Africa-EU Green Energy Initiative (AEGEI)	1.5.1 Reports on the status of the Africa-EU cooperation on energy 1.5.2 Annual forum bringing together Africa and EU actors	1.5.1 0 (2021) 1.5.2 0 (2021)	1.4.1 2 (2026) 1.4.2 5 (2026)	AEEP reporting	Cooperation with African Union bodies is fluid  Interest from EU member states and actors to engage with African energy sector

## 4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1 Financing Agreement

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

### 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 Implementation Modalities

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

#### 4.3.1 Indirect Management with a Member State Organisation

This action may be implemented in indirect management with GIZ. This implementation entails all indicative activities as per section 3.2 contributing to results specified in section 3.

The envisaged entity has been selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

- Technical competence in the energy sector and leverage for private sector investments,
- Established presence in the renewable energy market in Sub-Saharan Africa, including exposure to various financing instruments and links with financiers,
- Strategic relevance for EU multilateral engagement (link with TEI - a demand-driven instrument: it provides a modular, scalable toolbox, which can be deployed by contributors towards optimal performance against their political and strategic objectives),
- Administrative capability and experience to implement this type of intervention due to its mandate and expertise,
- Experience with management of delegated funds from the EU,
- Demonstrated capacity to coordinate with various stakeholders.

If negotiations with the above-mentioned entity fail, this action may be implemented in indirect management with another pillar assessed entity, including multilateral organisations. The implementation by this alternative entity would be justified as long as it complies with the criteria listed above.

In case the envisaged entity would need to be replaced, the Commission's services may select another replacement entity using the same criteria. If the entity is replaced, the decision to replace it needs to be justified.

N/A

## 4.4 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution for 2022 (amount in EUR)	EU contribution for 2024	Third-party contribution, in currency identified
<b>Implementation modalities</b> – cf. section 4.3			
<b>4.4.1 Indirect Management with a Member State Organisation</b>	5 000 000	5 000 000	EUR 25 000 000
<b>Total</b>	5 000 000	5 000 000	EUR 25 000 000 *

\* The budget is indicative and subject to further consultation with other EU MS contributors. It represents a realistic estimate based on initial pledges of their commitments.

## 4.5 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

This strategic action targeting enhanced capacity of the private sector to develop sustainable energy projects and raise investment capital for those will be co-funded by Germany through GIZ, Sweden through the Swedish Development International Agency (SIDA), the Netherlands and Austria (Austrian development Agency) and the EU. Other EU MS contributors/co-financiers will either sign their individual financing agreements/contracts with GIZ, as the main implementing partner, or contribute through transfer agreement arrangements with EU (this option is considered for Sweden). These implementation arrangements have been used for the multi-donor programme GETPro (of which GET.invest is part) and will be replicated for the extended GET.invest mandate with the OSS service at its core. Under this action, the Commission may be entrusted with the responsibility of managing the contribution to be transferred by SIDA, focusing on all of the activities mentioned (GET.pro, OSS, GET.Transform and support to the AEEP) after the signature of the corresponding transfer agreement, in accordance with the procedures applicable to the EU budget.

An appropriate coordination and steering mechanism between the partners is already in place. A Steering Committee has been put set up for the management of the GET.invest project, which is chaired by GIZ and gathers all the above parties, and is intended to continue for the extended period of its operation beyond 2022. The Steering Committee meetings can be attended by representatives of other EU MS, depending on needs, so as to ensure complementarity with other initiatives of relevance or similar nature. Moreover, more frequent and regular meetings and exchanges between the European Commission and GIZ are foreseen in order to ensure a ‘real time’ steering of the OSS support, as is currently the case with GET.invest programme as well as coordination and coherence with the team Europe activities of the Africa-EU Green Energy Initiative (AEGEI) team Europe Initiative.

At this stage, formal agreements between European DFIs who will benefit from the pipeline of projects supported by GET.invest and GIZ are not foreseen. This cooperation will be based on structured partnership of equals and mutual trust basis and guided by practical arrangements as deemed appropriate.

N/A

# 5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

## 5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner’s responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall

establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, 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.

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 entity (GIZ) will have full responsibility in partnership with their advisory support beneficiaries (financiers, project developers) to collect, analyse, monitor and report on data relevant for the monitoring of the indicators stated out in the logframe of the action. The statistical and monitoring systems of GET.invest as well as the quality of data reported will be assessed during the ongoing mid term evaluation of this programme. This assessment is expected to further feed into the design of the action, including in terms of how it is taking into account the rights-based approach and gender equality.

## 5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a mid term and final evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission. These evaluations may be undertaken jointly with contributing Member States to provide an overview of the action within the larger impact of the TEI it supports.

It will be carried out for accountability, problem solving and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), in particular with respect to the innovative aspect of the action that seeks to establish an efficient and sustainable connection between renewable energy investors and relevant finance providers.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 30 days in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and *inter alia* provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

## 5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

# 6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle has adopted a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

Action Documents for specific sector programmes are no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned.

However, in line with Article 46 and subject to Article 47 of the NDICI Regulation, all entities implementing EU-funded external actions shall take all reasonable measures to publicise the European Union's support. 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.

## Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

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

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

The present Action identifies as;

<b>Action level</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action