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ANNEX 27

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 “the Initiative to support public-private dialogue and business cooperation within the EU-AU Partnership.”

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

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Initiative to support public-private dialogue and business cooperation within the EU-AU Partnership. CRIS Number: NDICI AFRICA/ 2022 / 044-077 OPSYS Number: ACT-61410 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (<u>NDICI-Global Europe</u>)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action will be carried out in Sub-Saharan Africa
4. Programming document	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	<p>This action contributes to Priority Area 5 ‘Sustainable Growth and Decent Jobs’ of the Sub-Saharan Africa Multi-Annual Indicative Programme, and in particular to its Specific Objective 3: An investment climate in Sub-Saharan Africa conducive to private sector development and investments, and improved business capacities and access to finance for micro, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).</p> <p>Results related to this specific objective are the following ones:</p> <p>Result 3.1: Improved investment climate, regional market intelligence and identification and facilitation of removal of barriers to investments.</p> <p>Result 3.2: Regional support measures for MSMEs business capacities are enhanced at continental and regional level.</p> <p>Result 3.3: Improved access to finance and investment readiness at the regional/continental level</p>

	This action will contribute to result 3.1. (Improve the investment climate) but also to the identification and implementation of measures to support MSMEs capacities and business opportunities.			
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION				
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Priority 5. Sustainable growth and Decent Jobs 250 – Business and other services			
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG (1 only): SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: SDG 12 – Ensure Sustainable consumption and production patterns SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals			
8 a) DAC code(s)	25010 - Business policy and administration – 40% 25030 - Business development services – 25% 32130 - Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) development – 25% 33110 - Trade policy and administrative management – 10%			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	Private Sector Institution – 60000			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity energy transport health education and research	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @ (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): BGUE-B2022-14.020120-C1-INTPA: EUR 5.250.000 (West Africa) BGUE-B2022-14.020121-C1-INTPA: EUR 5.250.000 (East and Central Africa) BGUE-B2022-14.020122-C1-INTPA: EUR 4.500.000 (Southern Africa and Indian Ocean) Total estimated cost: EUR 15 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 15 000 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing¹	Direct management through: - Procurement			

1.2 Summary of the action

The economy of the sub-Saharan region is facing a combination of shocks and policy challenges rarely seen before, in particular as Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is creating major additional stresses for the global

¹ Art. 27 NDICI

economy, weakening the post-pandemic recovery and putting macroeconomic stability at risk. The joint declaration of the 6th EU-AU Summit announced the Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package to help build more diversified, inclusive, sustainable and resilient economies. To implement this Global Gateway investment package, the mobilisation of private sector finance and expertise is key.

In this context, the proposed action will aim to contribute to EU-Africa economic integration, encourage sustainable and green investment and deepen the EU-Africa Partnership, through the establishment of a more continuous platform for public-private dialogue and Business to Business (B2B)/ Business to Government (B2G)/networking between EU and African public and private stakeholders, using the EU-Africa Business Forum (EABF) structure ('the action'). To address climate change challenges, a green transition approach will be applied to EABF content, and innovation will be fostered.

Since 2006, the EABF has been a major business forum preceding the AU-EU Summits. It brings decision-makers closer together to facilitate business and fosters dialogue between African and European leaders, from the public and private sector, around key topics² for the integration of EU-Africa value chains. This key public-private dialogue event is co-organised by the European Union (EU), the African Union (AU), together with African and EU business organizations.

To deepen and extend the impact of EABF, the 2022 Joint Declaration of the Business Organisations reiterated the call *"to reinforce the public private dialogue and enhance the long-term dialogue structures between African and European business organizations/associations through a permanent platform that will transform the EABF from a one-off event to a continuing hub of dialogue that will identify problems, find solutions and create a strong, effective and long-lasting business partnerships"*. This will further stimulate, enlarge and deepen the engagement of private sector actors around political priorities endorsed by the 2022 EU-AU Summit.

The overall objective of this action is to promote EU-Africa sustainable economic integration in the framework of the EU-Africa Partnership. The specific objective of this action is to increase public-private partnering in key areas for EU-Africa sustainable value chain integration. The outputs or results are: (1) An enhanced management, operational and coordination capacity of EABF; (2) An enhanced access to information on business environment and increased business opportunities and access to market for the private sector from both Africa and the EU; and (3) Increased and structured public-private dialogue between African and EU stakeholders.

The permanent EABF structure will oversee all EABF related activities. It will build on past EABF events to construct and nurture an EABF Community made of public and private stakeholders from Africa and the EU and will follow up the implementation of the EABF Business Declaration.³

Furthermore, in the framework of Global Gateway (GG) and Team Europe Initiatives, the action will encompass relevant GG flagships and facilitate private sector's consultation and participation in their implementation.

The private sector is a key actor in the Africa-EU economic integration, economic resilience of African countries and recovery from the different crises. This action sets a structured platform of EU-Africa public-private dialogue and exchanges that will contribute to improve the investment climate of partner countries and to identify and implement joint initiatives between EU and African public and private actors. It therefore contributes to meet the challenges of decent job creation and increased resilience by bringing in public and private forces together.

² As part of EABF 2022, key topics included: EU and Africa value chain integration, infrastructure, finance, energy, automotive, raw materials value chains, apparel industry, agri-food, health, youth, digital and gender. Sustainability considerations (such as green & circular transitions) was mainstreamed in all topics. These topics might evolve depending on context and priorities such as climate change and environmental challenges. Global Gateway key areas of partnership include digital, climate and energy, transport, health, education and research.

³ <https://www.euafrica-businessforum.com>

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The EU-Africa Business Forum (EABF) is the main side event of AU-EU Summits since 2006. As an impact-oriented forum, the business declaration and conclusions of the forum directly feed into the AU-EU political Summit. The 7th edition of the EABF consisted of a week of cross-sector EABF events held ahead of the EU-Africa Summit on 14-18 February 2022 – in a hybrid format, gathering more than 18 900 registered participants and resulting in 200 events. High-level participation included more than 30 Chief Executive Officers (CEOs)/Presidents from the private sector and more than 20 EU and AU Commissioners.

The business forum is co-organised by the European Union (EU), the African Union (AU), together with African and EU business organizations. It brings decision-makers closer together to facilitate business cooperation around key topics for the integration of EU-Africa value chains.

Since its inception, numerous declarations and recommendations have emerged from EABF's working groups and high-level panels. To bring discussions into actions, main EABF recommendations are implemented. For example, in 2022, the EABF enabled the signature of a joint plan to grow the automotive value chain in Africa, supported by African and European private sector associations⁴.

In relation to the EABF sectoral working groups, these have been developed over the years, gathering EU public and private actors. They have created a trusted network of relevant players. More than 500 people have been involved developing ties, signing agreements and identifying joint actions. This modus operandi has been developed over the years and is a valuable asset to the permanent EABF structure.

This project is a key element in the realisation of the economic pillar of the policy document '*Towards a Comprehensive Strategy with Africa*', which identifies decent job creation as a key target and African and European investment as a main driver, focusing on areas with the greatest potential for decent employment and sustainable value creation. It calls for actions on four interconnected tracks: (1) Strengthening strategic investment and the role of the private sector in job creation; (2) Investing in people through education and skills; (3) Strengthening the business environment and investment climate; (4) Realising the full potential of economic integration and trade.

Moreover, the joint declaration of the 6th EU-AU Summit⁵ announced the Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package to help build more diversified, inclusive, sustainable and resilient economies. To implement this Global Gateway investment package, the mobilisation of private sector finance and expertise is key, and this action will contribute to the objectives of the Global Gateway.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis:

The implementation of the EU-Africa Partnership and in particular actions towards EU-Africa economic integration require the joint work of public and private actors from both continents. The EABF permanent structure aims at enabling joint actions in this sense along sectoral priorities jointly defined. Particular vigilance and active impulse will be given to the promotion of green and digital transitions, including through supporting green MSMEs and circular economy actions with a view to create sustainable jobs.

⁴ <https://aaamafrica.com/2022/02/17/historic-mou-signed/>

⁵ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/fr/press/press-releases/2022/02/18/sixth-european-union-african-union-summit-a-joint-vision-for-2030/>

Building on the existing EABF structure and taking into consideration main lessons learned, this Action will be structured around different components that will enable to deepen the work undertaken until now and reinforce the activities that need to be further developed.

In particular, the following lessons learned can be mentioned: (1) the need to have a supporting structure to keep the momentum of the EABF working groups, created throughout the last years and where trust and joint work is being developed among actors; (2) to further develop the B2B/B2G activities that have been until now underdeveloped as per lack of capacity; (3) to increase the participation of relevant private sector actors (including different types of private sector actors) and their ownership; (4) to link the EABF dialogues to country level economic cooperation and diplomacy actions.

An EABF Management Unit will ensure an adequate coordination and implementation of the various aspects of the EABF platform such as the facilitation of the sectoral working groups, the organisation of EABF events, B2B/B2G events and, where relevant, economic missions.

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

The key stakeholders involved in the EABF are:

- African Union Commission (AUC) and the European Commission,
- National governments of each EU and AU Member state (e.g. Ministry of trade, Ministry of foreign affairs, etc.),
- European and African private sector organisations and networks (sectoral, continental, regional and national),
- Individual companies, and in particular women and youth entrepreneurs,
- Development Finance Institutions.

The EABF focuses on EU-Africa economic integration as well as intra-African economic integration. Supporting the AfCFTA is one of the objectives and as part of this, the AfCFTA Secretariat is a relevant stakeholder.

EU delegations will play a significant role in ensuring a coherent approach between continental, regional and national initiatives.

To some extent, the EABF will engage with civil society organisations (CSOs and NGOs), expert networks and government-led alliances and academic organisations from both continents.

The EABF platform will also be an opportunity to help the private sector take greater ownership of how it engages with women and youth. The challenges faced by MSMEs, and especially women and youth led businesses will be addressed by the EABF platform to insure inclusivity.

To address climate change and environmental degradation challenges, (which are among one of the greatest challenges of the century) a green transition approach will be applied, and circular business models and innovation will be fostered. EABF platform will make sure to bring these challenges as part of EABF events and discussions. To generate and foster innovation, the EABF will bring together companies leading on environmental and climate issues and more traditional businesses still trying to find their way regarding these issues.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **Overall Objective (Impact)** of this action is to promote the EU-Africa sustainable economic integration in the framework of the EU-Africa Partnership.

The **Specific Objective (Outcome)** of this action is to increase public-private and business partnering in key areas for EU-Africa sustainable value chain integration.

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

Output 1.1. Enhanced management, operational and coordination capacity of EABF;

Output 1.2. Enhanced access to information on business environment and increased business opportunities and access to markets for the private sector from both Africa and the EU;

Output 1.3. Increased and structured public-private dialogue between African and EU around EU-Africa value chain integration.

3.2 Indicative Activities

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

Activities relating to Output 1.1: Enhanced management, operational and coordination capacity of EABF;

1.1.1. Establish the EABF long term consultants' team and operational guidelines;

1.1.2. Establish planning of EABF events in coordination with the European Commission, the African Union Commission and private sector stakeholders, and implement these activities;

1.1.3. Ensure adequate project management approach, including coordination and complementarity between the different action's components, adequate monitoring and evaluation of the action's outcomes and outputs, and management of the different stakeholders' expectations;

1.1.4. Ensure adequate internal and external stakeholders' participation in the EABF events' decision making process (such as the EABF 'Core group' that was set as part of EABF 2022);

1.1.5. Follow-up on the implementation of Business Declaration related actions by (and 'with' where relevant) the EABF stakeholders;

1.1.6. Organise EABF continental events⁶ every three years, back-to-back with the EU-AU Summit;

1.1.7. Organise EABF sectoral events, as considered appropriate;

1.1.8. Establish the link to relevant events organised by EABF partners;

1.1.9. Manage and, where relevant, increase/adapt EABF partnerships;

1.1.10. Establish and implement planning of communication actions to ensure visibility of EABF activities and high participation to EABF activities by all EABF stakeholders;

1.1.11. Ensure good visibility and communication of the EABF events and their results;

1.1.12. Map existing Business to Business (B2B) initiatives.

Activities relating to Output 1.2: Enhanced access to information on business environment and increased business opportunities and market access for the private sector from both Africa and the EU.

1.2.1. Assess the relevance of sectors and stakeholders involved in the sectoral working groups (WG), as well as establish a workplan for WG meetings;

1.2.2. Facilitate/animate/ensure the logistics of sectoral WG meetings;

1.2.3. Facilitate information on the business environment to African and EU businesses, including green and digital transition, and increased business opportunities for the private sector from both Africa and the EU. As an example, it will disseminate market access studies and investment barriers analysis for a given local context and sector.

⁶ As part of EABF 2022, key topics included: EU and Africa value chain integration, infrastructure, finance, energy, automotive, raw materials, apparel industry, agri-food, health, youth, digital and gender. Sustainability considerations (such as green & circular transitions) was mainstreamed in all topics. These topics might evolve depending on context and priorities such as climate change and environmental challenges. Global Gateway key areas of partnership include digital, climate and energy, transport, health, education and research.

1.2.4. Ensure the follow-up of the WG related actions/agreements;

1.2.5. Ensure the complementarity and coherence between sectoral WGs with the rest of the EABF components and the link to policy priorities.

Activities relating to Output 1.3: Increased and structured public-private dialogue between African and EU stakeholders.

1.3.1. Do a workplan of the B2B/B2G/networking events together with relevant stakeholders;

1.3.2. Organise B2B and B2G events according to established policy/area priorities including around EU-Africa value chain integration;

1.3.3. Use an online platform that becomes an EABF reference (either by setting up one or by working with existing one/s, this to be assessed as part of the activities), in order to ensure MSME participation;

1.3.4. Link to (and where relevant support) national level existing B2B platforms (such as the Ghana and Nigeria new agri-platforms);

1.3.5. Facilitate the consultation and involvement of private sector relevant stakeholders in main Global Gateway flagships.

The action will establish a planning of EABF events, in coordination with the EU, AUC and African and EU business organizations and networks. Business fora might be organised by the European Commission, the African Union Commission or African and EU business organizations, independently from EABF (for example, country business forum organised by EUDs). In this situation, the action will plan adequate coordination with the EABF, such as on communication aspects.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

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

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

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

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

Climate risk aspects will be addressed during the design of the action.

But above all, the potential impact could be that of organising an in-person international event between the European Union and Africa that requires the air travel of several people attending the EABF event.

The permanent EABF will have no direct impact on the environment or climate change as it creates events between private companies and public organisations. On the other hand, one of the main positive impacts will be the highlighting and emergence of clean technologies, circular economy processes and green economy processes, whose implementation is essential for the fight against climate change and environmental degradation and the creation of value respectful of the environment and biodiversity, via the networking of private and public actors. In addition, increased international trade may have certain negative or positive impacts on environment and climate change. On the one hand, more trade and investment activities can put more pressure on the environment (land, air, water, coastal area, fisheries, etc) and contribute to further climate change. On the other hand, with the revenue and income generated from the increased trade and investment, Governments within the African Union may have more financial resources to tackle environmental problems and promote the agenda for investments in the green and circular economy.

The EABF secretariat will ensure that the inclusion of climate and environmental challenges are considered across all EABF activities and events, by public and private stakeholders. The EABF will promote and ensure the representativity of businesses having included environmental and climate issues at the core of their business. As part of matchmaking events, the EABF will encourage businesses to disclose their engagement around climate and environmental actions with a view to ease connections between like-minded companies regarding sustainability issues. To this end, the EABF secretariat will develop an appropriate list of criteria allowing to easily identify companies having the climate and environmental challenges at the core of their activities.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

Promotion of gender equality and its integration throughout the action will be one of the key issues that will underpin all activities.

Although Africa has both low- and middle-income countries, the poverty rate is still high. Most women work in precarious conditions, are poorly paid, and have very few opportunities for promotion.

In Europe as in Africa, the first problem women face is the difficulty of accessing the labour market. The second problem is the salary gap followed by the so-called ‘glass ceiling’.

Investing in women's economic empowerment is the surest route to gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth.

Regarding gender equality, EABF will ensure equal gender representativity from public and private stakeholders during EABF events, promote women-led business, and ensure that EABF deliverables consider gender equality and contribute to find solutions to challenges faced by women entrepreneurs.

Human Rights

Not applicable

Disability

Not applicable

Democracy

Not applicable

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

Not applicable

Disaster Risk Reduction

Not applicable

Other considerations - human rights, decent work and environmental sustainability

Not applicable

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/	Impact (High/	Mitigating measures
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		Medium/ Low)	Medium/ Low)	
People and the organisation	Risk 1: limited implication from the African Union	Low	High	Keep regular contact with contact points at the African Union Commission.
People and the organisation	Risk 2: limited implication from EU and African business organizations	Low	High	Keep regular contact with main business organizations.
People and the organisation	Risk 3: Lack of trust in EABF events due to poor event management	Low	High	Select a proficient organisation with experience in event organisation and understanding EU-Africa relationships.
People and organisations	Risk : Lack of representativeness of professional organisations in Africa relative to the private sector and sectors they are supposed to represent	Medium	Medium	Carry out a preliminary analysis of the representative and organisational structure of professional organisations in relation to their sector, the nature of the private sector they represent and analyse the non-political nature of the organisation.
Lessons Learnt: Building a community of partners around EABF requires time and effort but allows to build strong business forums and to increase the reach. Building and maintaining a strong community of partners will allow to reduce risks.				

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The EU-Africa Business Forum (EABF) has been the main side event of AU-EU Summits since 2006. It is a strategic occasion for EU and African private sectors to identify and/or consolidate joint opportunities in the spirit of the Comprehensive Strategy with Africa and the Africa-Europe Alliance for sustainable investment and jobs. The EABF is a highly visible event, hitherto organised jointly by the Commission and the African Union where both show case key initiatives and interact with a high-quality audience of business leaders. It is an opportunity for business representatives to discuss policy reforms in Africa with key policy makers (B2G), with the objective to improve the trade and investment environment. It is also a platform for direct interaction between EU and African business (B2B) with dedicated sessions organised sector by sector, including a focus on mainstreamed topics like green employment, women entrepreneurship, and circular economy.

To deepen and extend the impact of EABF, it has been decided to make the EABF a more comprehensive and lasting structure.

The EABF should now stimulate, enlarge and deepen the engagement of the private sector actors around the political priorities endorsed by the EU-AU Summit. **In the framework of Global Gateway and Team Europe Initiatives, considering EABF's work particularly in the context of relevant flagships should be considered as one of its objectives.** In its further evolution into a more continuous set of activities, the EABF should indeed focus on promoting public-private dialogue and sustainable business opportunities between EU and Africa at continental level.

Such a more continuous and structured engagement will allow the Commission to better steer the process, provide political guidelines, indicate common priorities, and facilitate the delivery of concrete results in terms of business opportunities for EU and African actors, including alignment with priorities of the EU Green Deal and the Global Gateway. A service provider will assist the Commission in organising the work in the most appropriate manner, involving different partners handling respective tasks within a coordinating structure.

The entity contracted to this end will support private sector engagement actions to deliver on the outcomes resulting from the EABF 2022, and public-private dialogue around the sectoral priorities for business development as agreed with the African Union. This in order to ensure implementation of the commonly agreed actions and to continue fostering dialogue spaces to improve the investment climate and promote sustainable (European) investments.

It will in particular take into consideration the following lessons learned: (1) the need to have a permanent structure to keep the momentum of the EABF working groups, created throughout the last years and where trust and joint work is being developed among actors; (2) to further develop the B2B/B2G activities that have been until now underdeveloped as per lack of capacity; (3) to increase the participation of relevant private sector actors (including different types of private sector actors) and their ownership; (4) to link the EABF dialogues to country level economic cooperation and diplomacy actions.

In this sense, the following 'components' are envisaged:

1. **Business-to-Business (B2B) + business-to government (B2G) cooperation:**

This would include **B2B and B2G events** (incl. matchmaking) for specific sectors, notably those linked to GG, peer-to-peer contacts and engagement between companies, and notably MSMEs from both continents preferably during continental events (for example, Africa Investment Forum, Intra-Africa Trade Fair⁷). This is about allowing business, notably MSMEs and their representatives, to develop job-creating contacts leading towards concrete projects/partnerships. Example: Energy matchmaking event under Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU in first half of 2021; EU-Africa pharma and healthcare matchmaking event announced at the EABF 2022.

2. **EABF events**

⁷ <https://www.africainvestmentforum.com/>; <https://www.intrafricantradefair.com>.

2.1. Back-to-back with EU-AU Summit: In addition to such more constant engagement, a highly visible EABF event will continue to accompany the AU-EU political summits when they take place, in principle every three years. This event will aim to support the EU-Africa sustainable economic integration.

2.2. Sectoral EABF events⁸.

2.3. The EABF will also support technically **national business fora with the EU**, between local businesses and with EU companies. This should be organised and led by EU delegations and the Commission, and be tailored to the specific value-added of EABF involvement. These could be organised in Africa or in the EU.

2.4. Depending on political steer the EABF could also technically assist in setting up **high-level economic missions from the Commission with EU companies**, backed by EU Commissioner(s) and EU ministers, or at lower level if appropriate⁹, to specific African countries to ensure that this structural dialogue and engagement is translated into specific opportunities of cooperation between EU and African business. These economic missions will be organised and led by EU delegations and the Commission. This engagement will be fully aligned with EU policies and interventions at country level, such a specific flagship or TEI. In concrete terms, such fora and/or missions would be a means to implementing actions and policies under respective Multiannual Indicative Programmes, in close cooperation with EU delegations.

3. Sectoral EU-Africa dialogues

The sectoral working groups bringing together EU and African business organisations, the AU and the EU services, have gone a long way in their dialogues based on exchange and having gained trust. Sectoral dialogues should build on these working groups and follow up on the outcomes they have defined as a result of EABF22, as well as going deeper in further matters to improve the investment climate and identify business opportunities. Other relevant actors such as sectoral business organisations or companies could be added to increase relevance and targeted discussions.

A service provider will be contracted to organise in a coherent manner the above-mentioned building blocks and related activities/events, and ensure interaction between all EABF members and participants, under the direction and guidance of the Commission and the corresponding service of the African Union Commission.

These activities should focus on concrete results and take place at a central and national level, in line with the regional and national MIPs and priorities.

Activities should be managed in a coherent way by one overall interlocutor/actor, whatever potential specific tasks be carried out by potential partners. Close coordination and coherence with EU-AU activities either by the Commission or outside bodies will be of the essence.

⁸ As part of EABF 2022, key topics included: EU and Africa value chain integration, infrastructure, finance, energy, automotive, raw materials, apparel industry, agri-food, health, youth, digital and gender. Sustainability considerations (such as green & circular transitions) was mainstreamed in all topics. These topics might evolve depending on context and priorities such as climate change and environmental challenges. Global Gateway key areas of partnership include digital, climate and energy, transport, health, education and research.

⁹ Such as Circular Economy Missions to be organised in some African countries for example. See https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international_issues/missions_en.htm

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

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

Results	Results chains : mains expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (at least one indicators per result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of datas	Assumptions
Impact	EU-Africa sustainable economic integration in the framework of the EU-Africa Partnership is improved	Increased number of EU-Africa sustainable and gender sensitive investment projects related to Global Gateway	TBD during inception phase	TBD during inception phase	DG INTPA following mechanism	
Outcome	Public-private partnering in key areas for EU-Africa sustainable value chain integration is increased	1.1 Share of private investment in EU-African value chains (total value includes private and public investments), even in green value chains 1.2 **GERF 2.15 Number of processes related to partner country practices on trade, investment and business, or promoting the	TBD during inception phase	TBD during inception phase	1.1 OECD and DG Trade databases 1.2. OECD databases and Environment climate diagnosis established by EC	Reliable and available economic information mainly concerning private investments

		external dimension of EU internal policies or EU interest, which have been influenced				
Output 1	R1. The management, operational and coordination capacity of EABF is enhanced	<p>1.1.1 Number of EABF event plans developed with support of the EU-funded intervention in coordination with AUC and private sector stakeholders</p> <p>1.1.2 Number of EABF events organised with support of the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>1.1.3 Number of monitoring systems for EABF activities developed with support of the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>1.1.4 Number of participants in the EABF events that confirm the events were beneficial, disaggregated by sex, sector and country</p> <p>1.1.5. Planning of EABF events in coordination with</p>	<p>1.1.1 011 in 2022</p> <p>1.1.2 011 in 2022</p> <p>1.1.3 011 in 2022</p> <p>1.1.4 011 in 2022</p> <p>1.1.5. N/A</p>	<p>1.1.1 number equal to or greater than 2022</p> <p>1.1.2 number equal to or greater than 2022</p> <p>1.1.3 number equal to or greater than 2022</p> <p>1.1.4 number equal to or greater than 2022</p> <p>1.1.5. N/A</p>	<p>1.1.1 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>1.1.2 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>1.1.3 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>1.1.4 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p>	High private sector engagement (number of participants / sectoral and geographical balance of participants).

		the AUC and private sector stakeholders is approved, and these activities are implemented and monitored			1.1.5 Activity report of the EABF permanent cell	
Output 2	R2. Access to information on business environment and increased business opportunities for the private sector from both Africa and the EU is enhanced	1.2.1 Number of actions by sector to disseminate sustainable economic growth (gender, environment, climate) implemented with support of the EU-funded intervention	1.2.1 TBD during inception phase	1.2.1 TBD during inception phase	1.2.1 Monitoring reports by EABF structure (assessment of the promotional campaigns)	EABF stakeholders are aware of EABF activities and cross-sectorial topics such as gender, environment and climate challenges. They understand the relevance of including these issues as part of EABF activities.
Output 3	R3. Public-private dialogue between African and EU stakeholders is increased and structured around EU-Africa value chain integration	1.3.1 Number of connections at matchmaking events (for B2B) established with support of the EU-funded intervention 1.3.2 Number of participants for B2G organised with support of the EU-funded intervention	1.3.1 20,000 contacts made / 26,000 discussions initiated for EABF 2022 (baseline for next full-fledged EABF) 1.3.2 (one continental, one sectoral, one regional, one national event).	1.3.1 More than for EABF2022 1.3.2 (one continental, one sectoral, one regional, one national event).	1.3.1 EABF digital platform 1.3.2 Follow-up reports by the EABF permanent structure	Well prepared and planned communication / good access to digital tools

		<p>1.3.3 Number of events facilitating B2B and B2G relations (such as matchmaking, roundtables, etc.) organized with support of the EU-funded intervention, disaggregated by the type of the event</p> <p>1.3.4 Number of participants in events facilitating B2B and B2G relations (such as matchmaking, roundtables, etc.) organised with support of the EU-funded intervention confirming that events were beneficial, disaggregated by the type of event, sector, and sex</p>	<p>1.3.3 Numbers of signatures or MoU signed during EABF 2022 events (TBD during inception phase)</p> <p>1.3.4 18 900 during EABF 2022</p>	<p>1.3.3 TBD during inception phase following number of EABF events forecasted</p> <p>1.3.4 TBD during inception phase</p>	<p>1.3.3 Follow-up reports by the EABF permanent structure</p> <p>1.3.4 EABF feedback report participants by EABF permanent structure such as was made for EABF 2022</p>	
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4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude financing agreements 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 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 measures¹⁰.

4.3.1 Direct Management (Procurement)

International tender procedure for a service contract. This will contribute to achieve the one and only specific objective. This call may be launched in the first quarter of 2023, under a suspensive clause prior to the adoption of this decision. This is justified because the permanent EABF structure set-up by the action will need to be operational as from early 2023 to allow sufficient time to nurture the private-public dialogue and show concrete results at the next EU-Africa Business Forum in the margins of the next EU-AU Summit.

4.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

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

4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf section 4.3	

¹⁰ 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.

Objective: increased public-private partnering in key areas for EU-Africa value chain integration, composed of	15 000 000
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	
Procurement – total envelope under section 4.3.1	15 000 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	may be covered by another Decision
Totals	15 000 000

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

Similar to the EABF 22, a core group will be set up to follow and monitor the planning and implementation of activities. The European Commission and the African Union Commission will coordinate closely and regularly to monitor action implementation. A Steering Committee will provide strategic overview and guidance. The members, role and responsibilities of the Steering Committee will be defined during the inception phase. Relevant Commission services as well as EU delegations can be invited to be part of the Steering Committee should it be required for the good implementation of the action. The Commission, as contracting authority of this action, will be directly involved in the Steering Committee.

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

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct 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).

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a final evaluation will not be carried out for this action or its components. In case an evaluation is not planned, the Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

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

5.3 Audit and Verifications

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

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

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

Action documents for specific programmes are no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned, in case this is covered by support measure action documents.

Appendix: 1

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

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

The present action identifies as;

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