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

**ANNEX I**

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Vietnam  
for 2023 part 1

**Action Document for EU-Vietnam Women-led Green Partnership Programme**

**ANNUAL PLAN**

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

# 1 SYNOPSIS

## 1.1 Action Summary Table

<b>1. Title</b> <b>OPSYS business reference</b> <b>Basic Act</b>	<b>EU-Vietnam Women-led Green Partnership Programme</b> OPSYS number: <b>ACT-61405</b> Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument ( <u>NDICI-Global Europe</u> )
<b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>	The Action will fully contribute to TEI-1 (Climate resilient, low carbon circular economy) and partially to TEI-2 (Green decent employment and inclusive entrepreneurship) in Viet Nam. At the same time, the Action will promote <b>Team Europe</b> approach in dealing with dual principal objectives of <b>Green</b> Transition and <b>Gender</b> Equality.
<b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>	The action shall be carried out in Viet Nam.
<b>4. Programming document</b>	Viet Nam Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027
<b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives</b>	The Action contributes to MIP Priority Area 1 on <b>Climate-responsive digital circular economy</b> , with a focus on Specific Objective 1.1 on <b>Strengthened resilience to climate related hazards and natural disasters</b> and Specific Objective 1.3 on <b>Conserved natural resources</b> . It contributes also to EU Gender Action Plan III Country Level Implementation Plan (CLIP); the EU Roadmap for engagement with civil society; and the EU Strategy for Human Rights in Viet Nam.
<b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	DAC <b>41010</b> - environmental policy and administrative management DAC <b>15170</b> - women's rights organisations and movements & government institutions
<b>7. Sustainable Development Goals</b>	Main SDGs: <b>SDG13</b> on Climate Actions and <b>SDG5</b> on Gender Equality Other significant SDGs: 7 and 12
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	DAC 41010 – 50%

	DAC 15170 – 50%			
<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel</b>	20000: Non-governmental organisations and Civil society			
<b>9. Targets</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
<b>10. Markers</b>  (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>11. Internal markers and Tags:</b>	<b>Policy objectives</b>	Not targeted	Significant 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 type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Connectivity @		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		YES	NO	

	digital connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/
	energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	education and research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @ (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BUDGET INFORMATION</b>				
<b>12. Amounts concerned</b>	Budget line(s) (article, item): BGUE-B2022-14.020131-C1-INTPA Total estimated cost: <b>EUR 15 000 000</b> Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 15 000 000			
<b>MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>				
<b>13. Type of financing</b>	<b>Direct management</b> through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement</li> <li>• Grants</li> </ul>			

## 1.2 Summary of the Action

Viet Nam is a disaster-prone country and, as a result of climate change, these risks are increasing. Women predominantly work in agriculture, a sector that is more vulnerable to disaster risk impacts. For instance, according to ILO, 85.9% of women in agricultural employment are in fact involved in subsistence agriculture (versus 52 % men).<sup>1</sup> But they have fewer savings and other resources, compared to men, to cope with disaster-related losses, including less access to land and assets needed to secure financing to do so. In addition to that, women have limited skills, competences and capital to invest in climate-resilient and adaptation options. Women experience limited political participation in decision making bodies and have difficulties in making their voices heard in relation to Viet Nam's political priorities and macro issues, such as green growth; climate change; disaster preparedness; etc. Viet Nam seeks to implement its international commitments, including on rules and standards for social, climate, environmental, gender equality and human rights. However, the participation of non-State-actors (NSAs) in monitoring the implementation of the policies codifying these international commitments, is still limited due to the fact that the government remains to be sceptical vis-à-vis the NSAs. Building on the EU's understanding of the political context and its experience in engaging with NSAs, the EU-Viet Nam Women-led Green Partnership Program aims for a long-term vision of an enabling environment, which will allow NSAs in Viet Nam to engage efficiently and effectively in the development and governance process of the country (in particular related to climate change adaptation and mitigation). The added value of the EU is translated into the Action's overall objective: 'Women in all their diversity influence decision-making processes on climate change and environmental conservation policies and actions in Viet Nam'. The Action will contribute to the Viet Nam MIP Priority Area 1 on Climate-responsive digital circular economy, with a focus on Specific Objective 1.1 on Strengthened resilience to climate related hazards and natural disasters and Specific Objective 1.3 on Conserved natural resources. It aligns mainly to SDGs 13 and 5 and significantly to SDGs 7 and 12, with its dual principal objective of aid to environment and gender equality, and will contribute to both TEI 1 (Climate resilient, low carbon circular economy) and TEI-2 (Green decent employment and inclusive entrepreneurship). In view of the TEI-1, the Action will assist in

<sup>1</sup> Gender and the labour market in Viet Nam; An analysis based on the Labour Force Survey

monitoring the implementation of climate change adaptation and resilience policies, such as the one on disaster risk reduction, and promoting climate change mitigation via low-carbon and circular innovations. In view of TEI-2, the Action will contribute to inclusive and responsible business conduct by promoting equal participation of girls and women and helping the private sector at implementing and promoting corporate social responsibility.

## 2 RATIONALE

### 2.1 Context

Viet Nam is a **strategic player** in ASEAN, often supportive of enhancing the EU involvement in the region. No other country in South East Asia is party to as many agreements with the EU (e.g. Partnership and Cooperation<sup>2</sup>, Free Trade<sup>3</sup>, Sustainable Forestry<sup>4</sup>, Investment Protection<sup>5</sup>). In the context of an accelerating geopolitical and geostrategic shift in the region, the EU has responded with its Indo-Pacific and Global Gateway Strategies<sup>6</sup>. Based on both frameworks, through the implementation of the MIP and the TEIs, the EU will deepen its engagement with Viet Nam, to promote a rules-based international order, a level playing field, as well as an open and fair environment for trade and investment, under the above mentioned agreements, tackling climate change and supporting connectivity with the EU.

Despite Viet Nam positioning itself as an active promoter of peace, security and human rights in the world, a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (2020-2021) and recently-elected Vice President of the UNGA's<sup>7</sup> 77th session for Asia-Pacific region, significant challenges remain in the human rights and gender equality agendas. According to the Global Gender Gap Report 2021<sup>8</sup> of the World Economic Forum, Viet Nam ranks 87th out of 156 countries, in terms of **gender gap**, and particularly low in the area of women's political empowerment (only 121st out of 156). Over the last 10 years, Viet Nam has **not** met its own targets in relation to women's representation in the Party's Committees; National Assembly; and Provincial People Councils. At a closer look, female deputies sit mainly in non-essential Committees (such as Ethnic Council and Culture Committee) instead of the more politically influential Committees (such as Security and Defense or Economic/Finance/Budget ones). Prevalent social norms about gender have been significant barriers for women to pursue and attain leadership positions in political bodies.

Viet Nam is a disaster-prone country<sup>9</sup>, with extremely high exposure to flooding, 4-6 typhoons and numerous storms striking the country each year, often accompanied by strong wind, tidal waves, stormy surges and incessant rainfall. As the result of climate change, these events are more likely to be increasingly severe with potentially-catastrophic damages to the country, especially in coastal areas, islands and deltas. There is therefore an **urgent need for strengthening climate-change adaptation and disaster resilience** in Viet Nam as climate change is expected to interact with cyclone hazard in complex ways which are currently poorly understood. Women

<sup>2</sup> EU-Viet Nam PCA: Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, of the other part, OJ L 329, 3.12.2016, p. 8–42 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A22016A1203%2802%29>

<sup>3</sup> EU-Viet Nam FTA: Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, ST/6051/2019/INIT, OJ L 186, 12.6.2020, p. 3–1400 [https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/vietnam/eu-vietnam-agreement\\_en](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/vietnam/eu-vietnam-agreement_en)

<sup>4</sup> EU-Viet Nam FLEGT VPA: Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on forest law enforcement, governance and trade, ST/10877/2018/INIT, OJ L 147, 5.6.2019, p. 3–209 <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/pdf/Vietnam.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> EU-Viet Nam Investment Protection Agreement: [https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/vietnam/eu-vietnam-agreement\\_en](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/vietnam/eu-vietnam-agreement_en)

<sup>6</sup> Joint Communication on the Indo-Pacific: [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/joint-communication-indo-pacific\\_en](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/joint-communication-indo-pacific_en) and Joint Communication on the Global Gateway: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/joint\\_communication\\_global\\_gateway.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/joint_communication_global_gateway.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnam-becomes-vice-president-of-un-general-assembly/229808.vnp>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.weforum.org/reports/global-gender-gap-report-2022/>

<sup>9</sup> According to the Global Climate Risk Index 2020 (CRI), Viet Nam has worsened from 9th spot in the CRI 2019, which reviewed 1998 to 2017, to 6th in 2018 on the global vulnerability ladder.

predominantly work in agriculture, a sector that is highly vulnerable to natural disasters as outlined by a study conducted by FAO<sup>10</sup> in 2019 where a vulnerability index (VI) was developed for 6 types of crops (rice, maize, sugarcane, coffee, fruits, cassava), 5 livestock (pig, poultry, cattle, buffaloes, dairy), 2 aquaculture varieties (fish, shrimp), and 53 813 water resources infrastructure assets. As the most vulnerable social group to natural disasters, women have fewer savings than men, limited access to resources such as land, credit, agricultural inputs, decision-making structures, technology, training and extension services that would enhance their capacity to adapt to climate change and improve disaster resilience.<sup>11</sup> Promoting an effective and inclusive social protection system, with a special focus on supporting the most vulnerable people, including women, and to foster the use of technology in disaster risk reduction and prevention would enable more efficient and targeted public services provision. Last but not least, women's limited participation in decision making bodies and are experiencing difficulties at making their voice heard in relation to Viet Nam's political priorities and macro issues, such as policies on green growth, climate change and disaster preparedness.

Viet Nam seeks to comply with its **international obligations** regarding respect and observance of social, climate, environmental and human rights.

- In view of the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction, the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025 highlights the need to protect human rights of women and other vulnerable groups and strengthen institutional and human capacity to implement climate-change adaptation and mitigation, especially among vulnerable communities. And the 7th session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, (Bali May 2022), reconfirms commitments to taking the Sendai Framework implementation forward.
- The most recent commitment of Viet Nam on climate change (CC) mitigation was the Prime Minister's announcement of "net-Zero by 2050", made at COP26 in Glasgow, which will be a basis for JETP (and other climate-related processes in the future), and should be translated into Green Growth Action Plan between now and 2030, an on-going formulation process, led by MPI. e. After the COP26, Viet Nam has been improving its NDCs, in view of updating mitigation targets in 5 sectors of energy, agriculture, industrial processes, land-use; land-use change; and sustainable forestry (LULUCF), and waste for 2021–2030. On top of that, the revised Law on Environmental Protection establishes a mandate for MONRE and for MOF to design a domestic Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) for carbon credits, set up mechanism and allows for the inclusion of domestic and international offsets. In January 2022, the Government of Viet Nam issued "Decree 06/2022/ND-CP", which provides regulations under the "Law on Environmental Protection" and outlines a roadmap for the implementation of a National Crediting Mechanism (NCM) and the ETS. The decree requires facilities with annual GHG emissions above 3 000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e to submit a biennial inventory report of their emissions from 2025 onwards. The Government approved the the National Climate Change Strategy to 2050 on 26 September 2022.
- Adaptation plays a key role in Viet Nam's NDCs. MoNRE, through an inter-ministerial working group and stakeholder consultations, is working on a National Climate Change Adaptation Plan of Viet Nam (NCCAP). Covering the period of 2021-2030, the Plan is expected to (i) Reduce vulnerabilities to climate change impacts, by enhancing adaptive capacity and resilience; and (ii) Enhance the integration of climate change adaptation actions into relevant policies, strategies, programprogram and projects, especially in socio- economic development planning of ministries, branches and localities. UNDP is supporting Viet Nam to enhance gender mainstreaming in the National Adaptation Plans to become more gender-responsive and better able to meet the needs, priorities, and challenges faced by women. From the pilot/financial side UNDP is working with farmers in the south-central coastal province of Binh Thuan, especially women, to save 50 percent in energy consumption for off-season dragon fruit production and through a Green Climate Fund-financed project, UNDP is supporting vulnerable communities to enhance their resilience to storms by providing climate resilient houses to meet the needs of vulnerable women and their households .
- As a follow-up of COP26, German G7 Presidency proposed to explore the possibility to launch Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETP) with a number of countries, including Viet Nam. Negotiations are being led by the EU and UK. Though there is no commitment reached, the JETP initiative would bring in opportunities for structured dialogues on CC mitigation that the Action could consider to engage.

<sup>10</sup> June 2021, Vulnerability and risk assessments of agriculture sector in Vietnam , FAO and UNDP

<sup>11</sup> UN Chronicle

- Another commitment is the FLEGT-VPA, which is being translated into an implementation plan. MARD has established a VPA multi-stakeholder group (EUD as observer), which is co-chaired by VNFOREST and by NSAs (on rotating basis), to foster technical dialogue and to prepare for policy dialogue between the Government and the EU.
- Of equal importance is the commitment made by Viet Nam to SDG12 on sustainable consumption and production (SCP). Such commitment has been translated in to SCP Action Plan 2021-2030, approved by the Prime Minister in June 2020, which are implemented and monitored at different levels.
- Regarding gender equality, Viet Nam ratified CEDAW in 1982 and submitted 5 periodic review reports to CEDAW committee. The latest concluding observations of the CEDAW committee cut across various areas of concern, including reproductive health; gender-based violence; women political participation; economic empowerment; etc. The committee stresses on the crucial role of Viet Nam's National Assembly in ensuring the implementation of these observations in a complete manner.
- In 2020, the world celebrated 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women-Peace-Security (WPS). On such occasion and under Viet Nam's chairmanship of the ASEAN, the ASEAN Ministerial Dialogue on Strengthening Women's Role for Sustainable Peace and Security took place in Hanoi, where Foreign Affairs Ministers underscored the importance of Resolution 1325 (adopted in 2020) and 1889 (adopted in 2009). There is a need for Viet Nam to develop a National WPS Action Plan and starts implementing it, with proper follow up and monitoring.

In contrast with government's commitments, the effective **participation of non-State-actors** (NSAs), be it NGOs, Community Based Organisations (CBOs), academia, research institutes, associations, unions, social enterprises, youth and women movements, and private sector actors, in policy making and monitoring processes is still challenging due to shrinking space and increased administrative control. According to a research paper by Nguyen Hong Hai,<sup>12</sup> the resilience of Viet Nam's Communist Party relies on its success in maintaining public trust, constraining its opposition and reducing external pressures. Observations of the Delegation in the last few years are as follows. **1)** COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted Viet Nam's economic performance and consequently the living standard of Viet Nameese. In such context to win public trust, the country steps up its Party-led anti-corruption campaign across various public sectors and in different provinces, arresting and jailing quite a few high-ranking officials. The Party seems to demonstrate that they take pro-active actions to combat corruption involving Party's members, regardless of social pressure, if any. **2)** At the same time, the country puts further restrictions on non-State actors (NSAs), whose operations are perceived to entail risks to the political regime. While perception does not always mirror the facts, it leads to sceptical attitude throughout the entire political system vis-à-vis the NSAs, who want to promote democracy; transparency; accountability; etc. The paradox is that the more support donors provide to NSAs the less freedom NSAs enjoy. Thus, the traditional approach in supporting NSAs may be able to generate "quick wins" of tangible outputs at small scale level but fails to create an institutional environment at large to enable NSAs to operate properly. **3)** Viet Nam has been active in promoting diplomatic relations to reduce external pressures. The country seems to want to position itself as an increasingly responsible regional and global player, with minimum democracy and human rights issues. Representatives of the country become more vocal and decisive at international conferences, such as the COP26, and more visible and active in international organisations and fora, such as UNSC and UNGA. The government tends to discuss openly with international partners (including with the EU, its Member States, and financial institutions acting in a Team Europe approach) on Climate Actions and about Gender Equality.

**Engaging with NSAs** in Viet Nam is a mixed picture. **1)** In the political context of Viet Nam, where NSAs are not yet seen as legal entities, insisting in naming non-profit-organisations and non-governmental-organisations as NSAs often puts these organisations at risk of being questioned by the authorities. This Partnership Programme will focus on the results, rather than arguing about terminologies. **2)** Despite limited resources and shrinking space, the NSA community in Viet Nam is vibrant and dynamic. The number of registered NGOs has risen from fewer than 200 in the late 1990s to an estimated 1 700 today. But beyond the NGOs, the NSA landscape in Viet Nam is experiencing rapid and multiple changes, as new types of informal organisations, actors and activities are coming into play and are active in the civic space, both physical and online, from initiatives arising organically from daily life needs, such as 'Rice with meat' or 'Restaurant 2000' or more recently "Rice ATM" in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to youth and student groups, social impact business initiatives and start-ups. Online and social media are also booming and attracting a wide audience, despite restrictions by the authorities. The government, however,

<sup>12</sup> <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/186810341603500202>



does not always see NSAs as the integral contributors of development process. Individual projects, implemented by NSAs at local level, may be appreciated by provincial authorities. But, there is not (yet) official acknowledgement of central government on the role of NSAs. **3)** There have been significant obstacles when the Delegation tried to sell the idea of Financing Agreements, having NSA component in Action's design, to various agencies of the government (i.e. MPI, MoJ, etc.). The consequence was that the Delegation either failed to get the FA signed before the deadline (N+1) or experienced serious delays in having such NSA component up and run, due to cumbersome authorization processes.

Building on the above political analysis and experience in engaging with NSAs, the EU-Viet Nam Women-led Green Partnership Programme will deliver on the external dimension of the **EU Green Deal** and the **EU Gender Action Plan III**, in order to address climate, environmental and gender equality challenges in Viet Nam. The Action aims to combine the “green lens” and the “gender lens”, in accordance with DG INTPA guidelines notably “Gender Action Plan III and the Green Deal”<sup>13</sup>. The **key word** of this Action is “Partnership” and its **long-term vision** is to strive for an enabling environment, which allows NSAs in Viet Nam to engage efficiently and effectively in the country's development and governance process; including for example interaction with the Viet Nam Women's Union, a mass organisation that is considered legitimate to represent the rights and interests of women and girls in Viet Nam and with its specific mandate in mobilizing all social entities, to promote the role of the NSAs in Green, Just and Sustainable development.

## 2.2 Problem Analysis

As discussed under 2.1, there is a significant gender dimension to climate and environmental action. Women have significantly lower participation in decision making, including in environmental and climate related matters and women have limited access and control over resources such as land property. Local committees on natural disaster prevention are mostly led and attended by men. Women face barriers in accessing new technologies, gaining knowledge of new climate smart agricultural practices and accessing Climate Information Services regarded as pivotal features to allow women taking decisions on planting and mitigating climate risks. The gap between gender and climate change can be reduced allowing women to i) have more information about water-saving solutions to save/conservate water resources that become scarce due to droughts in some areas and ii) shift to green climate friendly agriculture if properly knowledge is created. If women are not encouraged to participate in the political process, if they are not trained on climate opportunities linked to sustainable agriculture and related co-benefits, their needs will not be represented nor addressed. In order to identify specific women's needs and vulnerabilities, there is an urgent need of sex-disaggregated data. Even though the government is implementing policies on climate change and disaster risk reduction, the intersection of climate change and disaster risk reduction with gender issues is often overlooked. This situation hampered its dimension during COVID-19 outbreak, as the paucity of gender oriented climate actions emerged, outlining the vulnerability of women. Difficult conditions of domestic work impede the resilience and rights of women. As outlined in the UN Commission on the Status of Women (Sixty-sixth session 14–25 March 2022), women's survival rates are lower in disasters<sup>14</sup> as the limited access to social protection and infrastructure increases their vulnerability to climate change, environmental degradation and disaster risks. In fact, women play a crucial role in climate actions and environmental sectors, which makes them well-placed to identify and implement effective and sustainable solutions. But they are still missing from environmental and climate change processes and leadership. There is a lack of mechanisms to empower NSAs to represent the voice of different entities in the society, to advocate for change, to serve as accountability agents and to act as service providers in relevant policy areas. So, the problems this Action seeks to address is the inadequate implementation of relevant international commitments, endorsed or ratified by Viet Nam and implemented in Viet Nam. These commitments may include:

EU priorities	International commitments	Policy Instruments
Green Deal	UNFCCC; EVFTA (TSD chapter); VPA-FLEGT; Paris Agreement under UNFCCC;	

<sup>13</sup> [https://myintracomm-collab.ec.europa.eu/networks/gfp/Guidance and tools/GAPIII Briefing note n. 3 Green Deal 202109.pdf](https://myintracomm-collab.ec.europa.eu/networks/gfp/Guidance%20and%20tools/GAPIII%20Briefing%20note%20n.%203%20Green%20Deal%20202109.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> Mary Picard, “Empowering women in climate, environment and disaster risk governance: from national policy to local action”, background paper prepared for the Expert Group Meeting during the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, October 2021.

	PM's announcement of "net-Zero by 2050" at COP26 in Glasgow	Viet Nam's NDCs and related CC adaptation and mitigation strategies, such as the NCCAP and the PDP8, etc.
MEAs	CBD; CITES PM's announcement of "net-Zero by 2050" at COP26 in Glasgow; JETP SEDAI Framework and conclusions of the 7 <sup>th</sup> session of Global Platform for disaster risk reduction	The Government has just approved the the National Climate Change Strategy to 2050 (on 26/07/2022). Viet Nam Green Growth Action Plan 2021-2030, Forest Development Strategy 2021-2030, VPA Implementation Plan, SCP Action Plan 2021-2030, National Environment Strategy to 2030 with vision to 2050. Law on Natural Disaster Prevention and Control and the Law on Dikes (both under revision), Decree 06/2022/ND-CP", regulating the "Law on Environmental Protection" as well as the roadmap for the implementation of the NCM and the ETS
Gender Equality / GAP III	CEDAW, Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; UNSC Resolutions 1325 & 1889 on WPS	Gender Equality Law, the Law on Anti Domestic Violence, National Gender Equality Strategy 2021-2030, etc.

As discussed under 2.1, the main reason why the government employs different measures to scale up restrictions on NSAs is because of its perception about NSAs as the potential risks to Viet Nam's political regime. For the same reason, NSA is a "sensitive" terminology in the country. There is no definition of NSA in Viet Nam's legislation and, even more so, NSA recently becomes a "taboo" for any members of the Communist Party. The new rules for Viet Nam's Communist Party members (Regulation 37-QĐ/TW dated 25/10/2021) feature 19 acts that those members must NOT do. The first Article of such Regulation is translated into Guidance note No.2 of the Central Party' Inspectorate, which bans Party members from demanding for "civil society"; "separation of powers"; "multi-party regime"; and "de-politicise the armed forces". So, the problems that NSAs are now facing emanate from their legal status and the lack of Government's trust on them.

There are two sets of **stakeholders**, corresponding to the 2 Outcomes of the Action.

1. **Outcome 1:** The stakeholders and final beneficiaries are non-State-actors (NSAs). The action seeks to officialise their roles in ensuring social accountability of public policies, relating to EU Green Deal and EU Gender Action Plan III. Decision 217-QĐ/TW of the Communist Party's Central Committee mandates six **mass organisations**<sup>15</sup> in Viet Nam with the whole-of-society monitoring and debating mechanism. Decision 217 basically defines:

- monitoring as following-up and evaluating the implementation of State's policies and laws and detecting the short-comings for recommended improvements
- debating as assessing and commenting on the proposals for State's policies and laws and arguing for recommended improvements

The "**whole-of-society**" feature of Decision 217 requests mass organisations to collect opinions and info (be it positive or negative or criticism) through their nationwide networks, from local people, from relevant experts, from anonymous or non-anonymous letters of individuals or entities and from allegations by mass media - to form their positions in monitoring and debating. In other words, such Decision of the ruling Party promulgates an **existing mechanism** to bring to the surface the voice of people and entities from grassroots level. As part of such mechanism, mass organisations are also mandated to (a) have structured dialogue with executive agencies (relevant Ministries or People's Committees at lower levels), who are responsible for implementing or proposing policies and laws, and (b) periodically report the findings; results; recommendations; and feedbacks to the legislative agencies (National Assembly and People's

<sup>15</sup> These mass organisations, also called socio-political organisations, are defined by Viet Nam's Constitution. Each of the socio-political organisations represents a certain force in the society, who takes part in social activities at mass scale with political purpose. These organisations are well structured to operate at all levels nationwide. Basically, socio-political organisations facilitate the proper functioning of a 2-way communication channel between the Government/Party and the Citizens.



Councils at lower levels), to the Politburo, Communist Party's Secretariat Committee, and the Government (or, in brief, to the highest level of the State). The initial purpose of Decision 217 is to ensure proper implementation of **commitments** in practice, effective **governance**, **civil rights** protection, improved **democracy** and social **consensus**. Though it may be not perfect, such mechanism, once strengthened, could become inclusive to actually engage NSAs and pave the way to a future enabling environment for NSAs to bring the voices of Vietnamese people on board. It offers an obvious chance to deepen the social accountability of public policies in Viet Nam, given the above-mentioned context and restriction. Therefore, and building on such mechanism, the programme could allow **EU to engage at political level, establishing a more structured dialogue** and, thus, to aim for **transformational impact**.

Out of the six mass organisations under Decision 217, the mandate of **Viet Nam Women's Union (VWU)** is to represent the rights and interests of Viet Nameese women and girls. Following several rounds of consultation and a joint field trip with them, the VWU appears to be keen on improving country's resilience to climate change and natural disaster and on promoting circular economy, while supporting women leadership; women economic empowerment; and women-peace-security agenda. VWU has strongly expressed its readiness to establish a strategic cooperation with Team Europe actors in improving the democratic governance mechanism, defined by Decision 217. With its nationwide network (from central to grassroots levels) and openness to work with the NSAs, Legislative agencies and Executive agencies, the VWU represents the best option for hosting the institutional capacity development, particularly the structured dialogues. Beside VWU being, it will be essential to ensure proper engagement with other **important stakeholders such as** other mass organisations (especially the Youth Union and the Fatherland Front), National Assembly's Committees, line Ministries; and relevant NSAs (especially academia, social enterprises and associations) and umbrella organisations such as VUSTA<sup>16</sup>, PACCOM<sup>17</sup>, but also provincial authorities.

2. Outcome 2: The monitoring and implementation of Viet Nam's international commitments related to Green Deal, MEAs, climate change and Gender Equality require greater and effective engagement of **NSAs, as key stakeholders**. The Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change recognized the centrality of gender equality, the empowerment of women, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations (FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1). The Glasgow Climate Pact emphasized gender equality, the empowerment of women and the full, meaningful and equal participation of women in climate action (FCCC/PA/CMA/2021/L.16). Following the 3<sup>rd</sup> EU Roadmap for engagement with CSOs in Viet Nam; the EU Strategy for human rights; and the EU Gender Action Plan III Country Level Implementation Plan, the Action aims to support NSAs in implementing national/local policy instruments, raising the awareness of communities and citizens, monitoring the implementation of policy instruments, advocating for international standards and inclusiveness, pursuing transparency and accountability, **pioneering innovations, especially those initiated by Youth and Women, that can spearhead changes on gender-responsive green transition, climate change mitigation and adaptation and environmental protection**. While the Action builds on relevant experience in working with international NGOs through Calls for Grant Proposals, it is expected that the sub-granting and service-provision mechanism allow to extend EU's support and the visibility of the EU and its Member States's acting in a Team Europe approach to a great deal of Viet Nameese NSA stakeholders, be it cooperatives, business and/or professional associations, universities and research institutes, private sector and social enterprises, academia, youth and women movements, NGOs, CBOs, etc. Since the technical capacity varies between NSAs, the Action encourages NSA stakeholders to form alliances for cross-sharing expertise; experiences and knowledge. As the financial capacity of Viet Nameese NSAs deteriorates due to the economic downturn and the serious impact of COVID-19 pandemic, the Action considers waiving their contribution (co-financing) as they apply for EU grants or sub-grants under the Action.

<sup>16</sup> Viet Nam Union of Science and Technology Associations is the biggest umbrella organisation for Viet Nam's local NGOs. Its mission is "gathering and uniting Viet Nameese intellectuals in science and technology inside and outside the country, coordinating and guiding the operations of member associations".

<sup>17</sup> People's Aid Coordinating Committee (PACCOM) is a specialized and functional body of the Viet Nam Union of Friendship Organisations (VUFO). PACCOM is responsible for relations with INGOs and for mobilizing aid. It works closely with INGOs both at the central level and in all 63 provinces and centrally administered cities to facilitate foreign NGOs' activities in Viet Nam.

Other stakeholders, including members of the **Team Europe**, non-EU development partners (i.e. UK, Norway, Canada, Australia) and UN agencies, will be engaged as contributors and facilitators of the change process. In particular, EUMS will take part in the structured dialogues and debates, supported by the Action, and in the participatory field trips, organized to monitor the implementation of policies or under women-led Green initiatives - to highlight EU solidarity in promoting the role of NSAs in development and governance process of Viet Nam. The impact of this Action is expected to contribute to both Team Europe Initiatives (TEI) 1&2.

- TEI-1 focuses on “Climate-resilient, low-carbon circular economy”. The Action will assist in monitoring the implementation of CC adaptation policies, such as the one on disaster risk reduction, and promoting CC mitigation via low-carbon and circular innovations. The EU will engage with TEI-1 partners of BE, BG, DE, DK, FI, FR, HU, IE, IT, NL, SE in implementing this Action.
- TEI-2 focuses on “Decent employment and inclusive entrepreneurship”. The Action will contribute to inclusive and responsible business by ensuring equal participation of girls and women and helping private sectors promote corporate social responsibility. The EU will engage with TEI-2 partners of BE, BG, DE, DK, ES, FR, HU, IE, IT, NL, SE in implementing this Action.

## 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

### 3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

**Overall Objective (Impact):** Women in all their diversity influence decision-making processes on climate change and environmental conservation policies and actions in Viet Nam.

**Specific Objectives (Outcomes):**

1. Increase participation of women and girls in all their diversity, NSAs and members of mass organisations, in decision-making processes at national and provincial levels on climate change adaptation and mitigation and on environmental issues.
2. Improve access to decent jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities in the green economy and the circular economy for women and girls in all their diversity.

**Outputs** to be delivered by this Action are:

For outcome 1:

- Output 1.1. Increased capacities of women and young people of selected organisations in gender-responsive national and international climate change, environmental protection and disaster risk reduction frameworks and their monitoring
- Output 1.2. Increased awareness of non-state and state actors on gender-sensitive climate change, environmental protection and risk reduction participatory and structured dialogues
- Output 1.3. Strengthened mechanisms for participatory and structured dialogues on policy and regulatory frameworks linked to climate change, environmental protection and risk reduction actions
- Output 1.4. Increased awareness on climate change opportunities linked to sustainable agriculture and/or other sectors of the economy (i.e. energy, manufacturing) having climate-related actions through capacity building activities

For outcome 2:

- Output 2.1. Strengthened technical and operational capacities of gender-responsive and environmental-sensitive NSAs to implement initiatives in the field of climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction, environmental protection, sustainable agriculture, sustainable forestry, responsible consumption and production practices, and gender equality
- Output 2.2. Increased public and private sector financing mechanisms for MSMEs, owned or managed by women, including women’s informal businesses-gender bonds

### 3.2 Indicative Activities

**Outcome 1.**

Output 1.1.

- Activity 1.1.1. Conduct participatory assessment of policy landscape, relating to EU Green Deal and EU GAP III
- Activity 1.1.2. Organize joint monitoring missions on the implementation of VPA, NDCs, National Adaptation Plan, National CC Strategy to 2050 or of the National Gender Equality Strategy
- Activity 1.1.3. Conduct participatory review of the proposal for the revised Gender Equality Law or the proposal for Circulars or Decrees guiding the implementation of the revised Environmental Law and the revised Law on Natural Disaster Prevention and Control, etc. (after these proposals being published on the official websites for public consultation)
- Activity 1.1.4. Propose an integration process of gender and climate issues at community level (e.g., in local development plans).

#### Output 1.2.

- Activity 1.2.1. Convene structured dialogues on the implementation of VPA, NDCs, CC adaptation and mitigation strategies or of the National Gender Equality Strategy
- Activity 1.2.2. Convene structured dialogues or debates on the proposed revision of Gender Equality Law or the proposal for Circulars or Decrees guiding the implementation of the revised Environmental Law and the revised Law on Natural Disaster Prevention and Control, etc.
- Activity 1.2.3. Undertake information sessions to raise the awareness of state and non-state actors on Viet Nam's NDCs, the Plan for Implementation of the Paris Agreement (PIPA), SDGs, Forest Law, Green Growth Action Plan, SCP Action Plan, Gender Equality Law, etc.
- Activity 1.2.4. Organize study tours and joint field trips in Viet Nam's provinces; in ASEAN's member states; and in European countries so that state and non-state actors can cross-share knowledge and experiences with each other and with their peers in ASEAN and in Europe on gender-responsive climate change adaptation and mitigation, environmental protection and disaster risk reduction participatory and structured dialogues

#### Output 1.3.

- Activity 1.3.1. Convene information campaigns to advocate for the recognition of the role of NSAs in ensuring social accountability of public policies
- Activity 1.3.2. Organise conferences to disseminate experiences in "whole-of-society" monitoring and structured dialogue mechanism with mass organisations and with other important stakeholders such as National Assembly's Committees, line Ministries, relevant NSAs (especially academia, social enterprises and associations), umbrella organisations such as VUSTA, PACCOM, and VCCI, with the EU and its Member States and other actors as relevant employing a Team Europe approach, non-EU development partners and UN agencies
- Activity 1.3.3. Promote the role of NSAs and of women in tackling climate change and environmental issues, by developing capacity of dedicated NSAs and climate/gender champions.

#### Output 1.4.

- Activity 1.4.1. Awareness raising activities in local language to be conducted at community level and divided per province to raise the knowledge on sustainable agriculture in terms of i) increase agricultural productivity and incomes; and ii) increase the ability/capacity and knowledge to adapt and build resilience of people and agri-food systems to climate change and/or other sectors of the economy having climate actions (i.e energy)
- Activity 1.4.2. Information gathering and dissemination on potential financing mechanisms supporting women engaged in climate-smart livelihood practices.

### Outcome 2.

#### Output 2.1.

- Activity 2.1.1. Undertake gender-responsive monitoring of FLEGT-VPA's implementation
- Activity 2.1.2. Implement women-led and/or youth-led low-emission or organic business models in the agriculture sector (e.g. restructuring crops and livestock production, and developing irrigation technology)
- Activity 2.1.3. Carry out gender-sensitive biodiversity protection actions
- Activity 2.1.4. Implement women-led and/or youth-led innovations to address the security needs of women and girls in disaster preparedness

#### Output 2.2.

- Activity 2.2.1. Conduct information campaigns to advocate financing institutions and/or investment funds to favour gender-responsive, low-emission, resilient and environment-sensitive lending schemes for MSMEs
- Activity 2.2.2. Conduct advocacy sessions to (i) persuade business communities to practice CSR by financing gender-responsive, low-emission, resilient and environment-sensitive NSAs' initiatives and/or (ii) promote preferential policies and other incentive policies to create favourable conditions for enterprises to invest capital on climate change adaptation activities, as indicated in the NDCs
- Activity 2.2.3. Design and support the launch of financing mechanisms (e.g. gender bonds, concessional loans, risk guarantees and grants) that reduce the need for collateral for women, whose activities are affected by climate change

The Action will adapt to the best level of intervention: national and/or provincial.

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

### 3.3 Mainstreaming

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

The action aims to strengthen institutional capacity and structured dialogue on the implementation of Viet Nam's international commitments on climate adaptation and mitigation, environmental protection and gender equality by supporting NSA initiatives that can spearhead changes on gender-responsive green transition, climate action and environmental protection.

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

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category B (not requiring an EIA, but for which environment aspects will be addressed during design). The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment). Environment impact and Climate risk will be carefully considered by the tenderers under the Technical Assistance service (component 1) and by applicants under the Grant component (component 2).

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

The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is not at risk nor entails climatic risk (no need for further assessment).

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

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G2. This implies that the Action has gender equality and women empowerment as its principal objective.

#### **Human Rights**

Gender equality is one of the key human rights. The Action will support for the adherence and implementation of CEDAW, Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; UNSC Resolutions 1325 and 1889 on WPS in Viet Nam. The Action will synchronize with the EU Strategy for human rights in Viet Nam, the GAPIII Country Level Implementation Plan (CLIP) and seek to complement the two other Actions under AAP2022 on the (a) rights to justice and (b) labour rights.

#### **Disability**

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that the Action will not aim to address disability, while people with disabilities can be the beneficiaries of the NSAs initiatives, financed under this Action.

**Democracy**

By strengthening the implementation of Decision 217 on social monitoring and debating, the Action indeed opens an opportunity to deepen social accountability of public policies in Viet Nam and thus contributes to improved democracy. It is important to stress also that the National Assembly of Viet Nam, for the first time, has started in June 2022 to discuss openly on a **draft Law on implementing grassroots democracy**. The Action will certainly align to the key principles of this Law, publicly announced by the Minister of MoHA as “people know (transparency), people discuss (participation), people do (engagement), people monitor (evaluation), people supervise (accountability) and people benefit (democracy)”. The Law is indicatively scheduled for official endorsement in October 2022, entering into effect since 2023.

**Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience**

Viet Nam Women’s Union is keen on promoting “peace culture” in the society to mitigate any potential conflicts. In addition to that, they wish to address non-traditional security issues, such as cyber security in the form of fake news, cyber frauds and malicious information on social networks, under the larger topic of integrating WPS agenda. Last but not least, the Action will contribute to improving climate and disaster resilience in Viet Nam.

**Disaster Risk Reduction**

The Action will support disaster risk reduction and management, aiming to achieve Specific Objective 1.1 of the MIP on resilience to climate related hazards and natural disasters.

**Other considerations if relevant**

The Action will consider digital transformation as one of the key drivers for change of consumption and production patterns, as well as business practices - towards greener, more sustainable and climate-neutral direction.

**3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt**

Category	Risks	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating measures
Legality & regularity aspects	Government may employ more restrictions officially or unofficially to limit the operations of the NSAs.	M	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Carefully designing the activities for specific objectives and the guidelines for grant projects to build reciprocal trust of the government and the NSAs</li> <li>- Positioning the EU and its Member States working together in a Team Europe approach as the strategic partner of Viet Nam for Green Transition and Gender Equality, while promoting NSAs as the integral bodies of social accountability mechanism</li> </ul>
Planning, process and system	Different interpretation of legislations, regulating the ODA / non-ODA projects, may delay the approval process or make trouble to the implementation of NSAs initiatives.	M	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Building partnership with central and provincial authorities, aiming for common understanding and interpretation of legislations</li> <li>- Insisting in having a reference letter, which demonstrates an in-principle agreement of relevant authorities, submitted as part of the full proposal of NSA initiative</li> </ul>
Communication and Information	Uneven understanding across the government system on the importance and the timeframe of Viet Nam’s international commitment can hinder the engagement of	M	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aligning the Action to existing institutional mechanism and on-going legislative discussion (and later the Law) on implementing grassroots democracy</li> <li>- Linking Viet Nam’s international commitments with national and local legislations and/or policies to incentivise</li> </ul>

	relevant stakeholders in the policy monitoring and structured dialogue.			stakeholders to play active role in policy monitoring and structured dialogue.
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### **Lessons Learnt:**

In the absence of independent press / freedom of expression; shrinking of civic space; and the decisiveness of the single Party in Viet Nam to re-affirm its legitimacy, the conventional intervention logic of (i) building the capacity of line Ministries; and (ii) supporting NGOs to carry out activities on the ground seems to be not conducive to meaningful and sustainable changes. The missing link here is a complementary entry point, via which changes should be able to touch the heart of the (single) ruling Party and hopefully become Party's own initiatives. There are relevant lessons, which suggest an intervention logic of having more engagement with the authorities while supporting Non State Actors and private sector. Among the key mass organisations existing in Viet Nam, the Women's Union is considered legitimate to represent the rights and interests of women and girls and has with its specific mandate in mobilizing all social entities, to promote the role of the NSAs in Green, Just and Sustainable development. Moreover, the Viet Nam Women's Union has been proactively seeking for strengthened cooperation with the EU and several MS. Therefore, they can become the entry point, given its mandates in (a) dealing with issues of social interests and (b) keeping political Party well informed of the needs to change, in cooperation with other socio-political organisations; the Executive Agencies; and the Legislative Agencies.

For outcome 2, the action will build upon the lessons learned in grant schemes such as SWITCH-Asia and other thematic and bilateral programs building capacities and providing financial support to NSAs working on green transition and gender equality. The action will consider and capitalise the previous experiences, aimed at strengthening the livelihoods and enhancing the self-reliance of small-scale and marginalized women farmers and informal sector workers through a bottom-up, demand-driven community approach informed by knowledge of their financial needs. NSAs' initiatives at provincial level will assist in building the partnership between the relevant Team Europe actors and provincial governments in Viet Nam.

### 3.5 The Intervention Logic



If the **participation** of women and girls, members of NSAs and mass organisations, in national and provincial decision-making on climate change and environment issues is **increased**, and if women's and girls' **access to decent jobs** and entrepreneurship opportunities in the green economy and the circular economy is **improved**, then women and girls will **influence decision-making** processes on climate change and environmental conservation policies and actions in Viet Nam.

If **capacities of women and young people** of selected organisations in gender-responsive national and international climate change, environmental protection and disaster risk reduction frameworks and their monitoring is **increased**, and if **awareness of non-state and state actors** on gender-sensitive climate change, environmental protection and risk reduction participatory and structured dialogues is **increased**, if **mechanisms for participatory and structured dialogues** on policy and regulatory frameworks linked to climate change, environmental protection and risk reduction actions are **strengthened**, and if **awareness on climate change** opportunities linked to sustainable agriculture and/or other **sectors of the economy** (i.e. energy, manufacturing) is **increased**, then **participation of women and girls**, members of NSAs and mass organisations, **in decision-making processes** at national and provincial level on climate change adaptation and mitigation and on environment issues is **increased**.

Outputs 1.1-1.2-1.3, will contribute to improving an institutional mechanism, in coordination with Viet Nam Women's Union, complemented by other key stakeholders, for assessing, monitoring, and dialoguing on the policy instruments that aim to materialize international commitments made by Viet Nam, relating to environmental protection and gender equality.

If technical and operational **capacities** of gender-responsive and environmental-sensitive **NSAs** to implement initiatives for climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction, environmental protection, sustainable agriculture, sustainable forestry, responsible consumption and production practices, and gender equality is **strengthened**, and if **public and private sector financing mechanisms for MSMEs**, owned or managed by women, including women's informal businesses-gender bonds is **increased**, then **access to decent jobs** and entrepreneurship opportunities in the green economy and the circular economy for women and girls is **improved**. Outputs 2.1-2.2 will convince governmental stakeholders at all levels that NSAs, financed with EU's grants or sub-grants, and are constructive contributors with added values to Viet Nam's political regime.

The **assumption is** that the Party and the Government continue committing to institutional reforms (in view of the Decision 217 and its revised version, if any; the draft Law on implementing grassroots democracy; and the draft Law on associations), lessons learnt; experiences and recommendations from component 1 and component 2 will make the implementation and monitoring of Viet Nam's policies more frequent; transparent and effective. Consequently, the outcomes of this Action will lead to improved performance of international commitments of Viet Nam, relating to EU Green Deal; MEAs; and EU GAP III. Once the Action proves to be a success, its intervention logic and modality could be multiplied to cover other international commitments, such as the ones relating to decent employment and labour rights or the rights to justice and rule of law.

As discussed under 2.2, the problem encountered by the NSAs is two-fold: (a) the legal status of the NSAs and (b) the lack of Government's trust on them. As (a) and (b) are inter-linked, the main Intervention Logic behind this Action is to facilitate a **reciprocal trust-building process** between the NSAs and the Government. At political level, the Action also contributes to improving **trust-based partnership** between the EU and its Member States acting in a Team Europe approach and the ruling Party of Viet Nam. Such logic justifies the engagement of Viet Nam Women's Union (with its nation-wide network) as the main counterpart, but should be complemented by engaging also with other key stakeholders. They will coordinate and facilitate for **improved social accountability of public policies** at different levels in Viet Nam, building and enlarging the existing institutional mechanism defined by Decision 217 and seeking for engagement with both central government and local authorities.

The Action will pursue a **step-wise approach** to (a) win trust of the Government on NSAs and vice-versa and (b) gradually advocate for institutions that enable NSAs to operate as recognized development actors. Eventually, enabling institutions may end up with a need to legalize NSAs/CSOs status - for example, with the Law on Associations (still pending for the last 5 years). Viet Nam plans to ratify ILO Convention 87 on **Freedom of Association** in 2023. If things go as planned, there will be an opportunity to advocate the Government to resume its

consideration on the Law on Associations as from 2024. It is important that the outcomes and lessons learnt from this Action, no matter which terminologies it may use (CSOs or NSAs), would be conducive to a better legal framework for them.

As for **outcome 1**, the first step will be to make sure that different stakeholders (the Government the NSAs and the actors involved working together in a Team Europe approach) are on the same page, starting with participatory assessment (to see where do we stand) and using methodology agreed to by all stakeholders. The assessment will tell stakeholders (a) how properly international commitments are translated into national/local policy instruments and (b) how well these policy instruments are actually implemented on the ground. Secondly, common understanding by stakeholders about current situation will inform (a) the monitoring and structured dialogue on the implementation of existing policies and (b) the structured debate on the new or revised policies. Through structured dialogue and debate, the Government is expected to better understand the role of the NSAs and refrain from sceptical stereotypes vis-à-vis NSAs (i.e. perceiving NSAs as the potential risk to political regime). And the NSAs are expected to better understand the Government's reasons for its sceptical attitude. The third step will be to facilitate the partnership, built between the Government (central and local), the NSAs and the EU and its Member States acting in a Team Europe approach, as the result of capacity building, lessons sharing, experience disseminating and networking.

As the entire change process towards improved democratic governance aligns to Viet Nam's political context, **the Action will contribute to positioning the EU and its Member States acting in a Team Europe approach as the trust-worthy political partner of Viet Nam.**

For **outcome 2**, the intention is to support NSAs working on green transition and gender equality by providing them with financial resources they need to implement their initiatives.

### 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 (a): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (a): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	Women in all their diversity influence decision-making processes on climate change and environmental conservation policies and actions in Viet Nam.	Number of Inclusive Green Economy (IGE) and climate change policy instruments adopted and/or implemented, disaggregated by category of document (OPSYS core indicator)  % of women entrepreneurs in the green economy or circular economy (OPSYS Core and GAP III)	<i>Projects to carry out baseline collection exercise / baseline study during inception phase</i>	<i>Projects to define targets during inception phase</i>	Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	Increased participation of women and girls in all their diversity, members of NSAs and mass organisations, in decision-making processes at national and provincial levels on climate change adaptation and mitigation and on environment issues	1. Number of women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, activists and environmental rights defenders acting as agents of change on fighting climate change and pursuing environmental justice, at local, national and regional level, disaggregated at least by sex (KEY INDICATOR) (OPSYS core indicator)  2. Proportion of women in national parliamentary committees dealing with climate action and environment justice (Other non-key indicator) (Percentage)	TBD	TBD	Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention	Mass organisations and relevant State agencies commit to improving social accountability of public policies.
Outcome 2	Improved access to decent jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities in the green economy and the circular economy for women and girls in all their diversity	1 GERF 2.13 Number of (b) green jobs supported/sustained by the EU disaggregated by sex  2. GERF 2.17 Number of beneficiaries with access to financial services with EU support: (a) firms (by sex, age and sector)  3. GERF 2.6 Number of Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) applying Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) practices with EU support	1. 0 (2022)  2. 0 (2022)  3. 0 (2022)	TBDTBD	Baseline and endline studies conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention	Mass organisations and relevant NSAs commit to women economic empowerment.

<b>Output 1.1</b>	Increased capacities of women and young people of selected organisations in gender-responsive national and international climate change, environmental protection and disaster risk reduction frameworks and their monitoring	Number of policy makers and other stakeholders trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills on Inclusive Green Economy (IGE) and climate change issues, disaggregated by sex and sector (OPSYS core indicator)	0 (2022)	TBD	"Internal Monitoring Systems of the Implementing Partners: based on knowledge-based pre, post test"	Selected organisations are aware of the urgent needs for capacity building so as to implement the PM's announcement on "net-Zero by 2050"
<b>Output 1.2</b>	Increased awareness of non-state and state actors on gender-sensitive climate change, environmental protection and risk reduction participatory and structured dialogues	Number of institutions', organisations' and company representatives engaged in institutional coordination mechanisms on Inclusive Green Economy (IGE) established with support of the EU-funded intervention, disaggregated by sex and sector (OPSYS core indicator)	0 (2022)	TBD	"Internal Monitoring Systems of the Implementing Partners: based on knowledge-based pre, post test"	State and non-State actors remain committed to implement Decision 217 in practice.
<b>Output 1.3</b>	Strengthened mechanisms for participatory and structured dialogues on policy and regulatory frameworks linked to climate change, environmental protection and risk reduction actions	<p>1. Number of guidelines or guidance notes available, with support of the EU-funded intervention, for inclusive and structured dialogues / policy debates in view of gender-responsive CC mitigation and adaptation, environmental protection and disaster risk reduction</p> <p>2. Number of persons attending dialogue mechanisms on Inclusive Green Economy (IGE) with support of the EU-funded intervention, disaggregated by sex and sector (OPSYS indicator)</p>	<p>1. 0 (2022)</p> <p>2. 0 (2022)</p>	TBD	"Internal Monitoring Systems of the Implementing Partners: based on knowledge-based pre, post test"	State and non-State actors agree to translate Decision 217 into guidelines at different levels.
<b>Output 1.4</b>	Increased awareness on climate change opportunities linked to sustainable agriculture and/or other sectors of the economy (i.e. energy, manufacturing) having climate-related actions through capacity building activities	<p>1. Number of awareness activities on disaggregated by sex and sector on regular and updated information on market trends and prices, improved seed varieties, the proper use of fertilizers pesticides.</p> <p>2. Number of ad hoc training for women on the value chain system and the benefits for women and community market</p>			"Internal Monitoring Systems of the Implementing Partners: based on knowledge-based pre, post test"	State and non-State actors are eager to learn more about climate change opportunities and to put such knowledge in practice

		oriented activity to support climate-resilient livelihoods, energy security, energy access for everyone. renewable energy solutions to accelerate the “Just Energy Transition” and food sovereignty				
		3. Number of local development plan integrating gender and climate issues at community level				
<b>Output 2.1</b>	Strengthened technical and operational capacities of gender-responsive and environmental-sensitive NSAs to implement initiatives in the field of climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction, environmental protection, sustainable agriculture, sustainable forestry, responsible consumption and production practices, and gender equality	Number of initiatives supported by the EU that are nature-based or mitigation innovations, women-led / youth-led low-emission business models, taking Sendai framework implementation forward or taking the Gender Equality Strategy forward (by type of initiative)	0 (2022)	TBD	"Internal Monitoring Systems of the Implementing Partners: based on knowledge-based pre, post test "	NSAs are able to secure support of authorities for the implementation of their initiatives.
<b>Output 2.2</b>	Increased public and private sector financing mechanisms for MSMEs, owned or managed by women, including women's informal businesses-gender bonds	Number of gender-responsive and environment-sensitive financing mechanisms become available, with support by the EU-funded intervention, for NSAs and MSMEs (by type of mechanism)	0 (2022)	TBD	"Internal Monitoring Systems of the Implementing Partners: based on knowledge-based pre, post test "	Donors, government and investors stay committed to gender equality and environmental protection.

## 4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this Action, it is not envisaged to conclude a Financing Agreement (FA) with Viet Nam.

### 4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is **72 months** from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision. To deliver the expected results the action will require long implementation period. In addition, the different implementing modalities proposed will imply lengthy administrative procedures to get the required approvals from the administration. 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<sup>18</sup>.

#### 4.3.1 Direct Management (Grants)

##### **Grants: (direct management)**

##### **(a) Purpose of the grant(s)**

Outcome 2 of the Action will be achieved mainly through Grants. A call for proposals under a suspensive clause prior to the adoption of this decision will be indicatively launched in November 2022, subject to a prior approval given by the Director. This is justified because it will take time for the selected non-State-actors (NSAs) to secure authorization from the government and, subsequently, launch the Call for Sub-grants Proposals. Then, it will take time for smaller grassroots-based NSAs to have their sub-grants projects approved by local government. In other words, launching the Call after the Financing Decision is adopted will risk serious delays to the implementation of the grants and sub-grants initiatives.

##### **(b) Type of applicants targeted**

The Action intends to target non-State-actor (NSA), such as international NGO; local NGO; business and professional association; SMEs association; cooperative; social enterprise; youth and women movement; trade and/or labour union; university and research institute; academia and community based organisation (CBO), etc.

#### 4.3.2 Direct Management (Procurement)

Outcome 1 of this Action will be achieved with the support of a Technical Assistance (TA) team. TA team will support for the attainment of output 2.2 too. A call for tenders under a suspensive clause prior to the adoption of this decision will be indicatively launched in November 2022, subject to a prior approval given by the Director. This is justified because the TA team under a service contract will need be present in Viet Nam as soon as possible to assist to mainstream EU agenda on greening and gender equality in its strategy, work programme and implementation. Launching the call for tenders after the Financing Decision is adopted will cause the loss of opportunity to advocate for sustainable institutional capacity building.

### 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.

<sup>18</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu). Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.



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

#### 4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
<b>Implementation modalities</b> – cf. section 4.3	
<b>Specific objective 01 / Component 01</b>	
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.2	5 000 000
<b>Specific objective 02 / Component 02</b>	
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	10 000 000
<b>Evaluation</b> – cf. section 5.2	<b>0</b>
<b>Audit</b> – cf. section 5.3	may be covered by another Decision
<b>Contingencies</b>	N.A.
<b>Totals</b>	15 000 000

#### 4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

A **Green Partnership Coordination Mechanism (GPCM)** will be established with responsibility for (a) guiding the implementation of activities for outcome 1 of the Action and (b) linking outcome 1 and outcome 2 of the Action. It will meet yearly and ad hoc, as required. Upon the agreement by key stakeholders, the GPCM shall be made up of:

1. Co-chairs:
  - Ambassador/Head of EU Delegation to Viet Nam (or a Deputy HoD / Chargé d'Affaires)
  - President of the Viet Nam Women's Union (or a Vice-President, acting on behalf of the President)
2. Members:
  - Representatives of National Assembly's Legislation Committee; Social Affairs Committee and the Committee for Science, Technology and Environment
  - Representatives from NSAs engaged in gender and green/clima sectors
  - Representatives of EU Delegation to Viet Nam
  - Representatives from EU Member States
  - Representatives of Social Associations, i.e. the Fatherland Front; Youth Union; Farmer Union; VCCI; VUSTA; PACCOM; etc.
3. Observers:
 

On case-by-case basis, the co-Chairs may invite other observers to attend the meeting.

  - Representatives of Party's Economic Committee and External Relations Committee
  - Representatives of MoFA, MoLISA, MoNRE, MoIT, MARD, MPI, MoF, MoHA, MPS and MoD
  - Chairs or Vice-Chairs of Provincial People's Committees
  - Representative of the TA Team
  - Representatives from non-EU donors (i.e. UK; Norway; Canada; Australia) and UN agencies (i.e. UNEP; UNDP; UNWomen; UNFPA; UNIDO)

The International Cooperation Department (ICD) of Viet Nam Women's Union, with support of EU TA team, will act as the Secretariat of the GPCM. Viet Nam Women's Union are not going to receive funding from the EU. So, it is up to the ICD to establish its own management mechanism, as per the ODA regulations of Viet Nam applicable at the start of the Action.

The operational linkage between NSAs initiatives for outcome 2 and activities for outcome 1 is clear. However, the overall coordination of the Action could be secured only when the identified stakeholders are convinced of and supportive to the **complementarity** of the 2 outcomes. Proposed strategies are as follows.

- NSAs, applying for EU grants, will be requested to discuss their initiatives with provincial Women's Unions from the outset, defining the role of provincial Women's Unions with special focus on helping the dialogues with provincial authorities.
- Representatives of the GPCM will be invited to join relevant activities, implemented under NSAs initiatives at provincial level. This will be synchronized with the monitoring and debating activities, coordinated by the VWU.
- The TA team will be requested to take into consideration the interface between the 2 components, while formulating the draft work plans, to ensure optimal synchrony.

This Action will promote a Team Europe approach in dealing with dual principal objectives of Green Transition and Gender Equality in Viet Nam. As already mentioned, the program has a long-term vision of supportive institutional environment for NSAs, using the leverage of Viet Nam's international commitments and establishing a structured dialogue to promote NSAs' role and trigger the government's acknowledgement on such role. Like-minded donors and UN agencies, who sign up for Green Transition and Gender Equality, will be invited to join all structured dialogues/debates, participatory missions and public diplomacy events and be welcomed to express their support to NSAs. NSAs' proposals, seeking for EU's grants, will take into account existing and relevant projects, financed by EUMS; UN agencies and other donors. Beyond the scope of this program, the EUD and EUMS consider having more regular dialogue with the NSAs, in particular those engaged in green and gender related initiatives.

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 (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

The baseline and endline studies conducted and budgeted within the EU contracts under this AD to inform the indicators in the Logframes (at AD and Contract levels), particularly the impact and outcome level indicators, will use the same data collection methodology. The baseline and endline studies can be conducted as part of the gender country profile and/ or gender sector analysis, or be based on existing official reports and published data.

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:

Under the direct management mode, the Contractor of the Service Contract is in charge of drafting quarterly reports, given appropriate time to comment on drafts. Monitoring shall be based on the indicators defined in the logical framework of this project under Component 1 and in the service contract. The recipients of grants under section 4.3.1 will be responsible for monitoring and reporting, in line with the logical framework of this project and their own action description, as annexed to their contract. A specific budget will be earmarked under each grant budget for the purpose of monitoring.

### 5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, mid-term and final evaluations will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

Mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to the steering of the project and the identification of lessons learnt. The final evaluation will be carried out for

accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that the project is supporting several key ongoing reforms in Viet Nam.

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 partner country and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

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

### 5.3 Audit and Verifications

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

## 6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

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

It will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

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

In Viet Nam, the EU Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy Action Plan will provide guidelines on communication priorities.

## Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention<sup>19</sup> (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

Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	Technical Assistance contract
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	NSAs grants contract
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 3	NSAs grants contract
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 4	NSAs grants contract
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 5	NSAs grants contract

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<sup>19</sup> [Ares\(2021\)4450449](#) - For the purpose of consistency between terms in OPSYS, DG INTPA, DG NEAR and FPI have harmonised 5 key terms, including 'action' and 'Intervention' where an 'action' is the content (or part of the content) of a Commission Financing Decision and 'Intervention' is a coherent set of activities and results which constitutes an effective level for the operational follow-up by the EC of its operations on the ground. See more on the [concept of intervention](#).