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

**ANNEX 2**

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the Annual Action Plan 2021 in favour of the Republic of South Africa

**Action Document for Civil Society – Capacity Enhancement, Dialogue and Recovery (CEDAR)**

**ANNUAL PLAN**

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

**1. SYNOPSIS**

**1.1. Action Summary Table**

<b>1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act</b>	Civil Society - Capacity Enhancement, Dialogue and Recovery (CEDAR) CRIS number: NDICI AFRICA 2021/043-165 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
<b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>	Not a TEI in itself but will contribute to at least two identified TEIs for South Africa, namely #TeamEurope4SouthAfrica: “Jobs for the future South Africa” and #TeamEurope4SouthAfrica: “A Just and Green Recovery”
<b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>	The action shall be carried out predominantly in South Africa. CSOs from outside SA, primarily from within the SADC region, will be invited to take part in experience-sharing, promotion of networks, alliances, and capacity development for regional engagement etc.
<b>4. Programming document</b>	Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2021 - 2027
<b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results</b>	Priority 1 (results 2.1, 2.2 & 2.3) Priority 2 (results 1.3, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2 & 3.3) Priority 3 (result 3.2)
<b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	(1) Sustainable, resilient, transformative and inclusive growth (DAC 410, 430) (2) Reducing inequalities (DAC 110, 151) (3) Partnerships (DAC 151, 160)
<b>7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	Main SDG: 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: MIP Priority 1: (SDG 5, 8, 12, 13) MIP Priority 2: (SDG 4, 5, 10) MIP Priority 3: Partnerships (SDG 5, 17)
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	151: Foster policy and capacity development: Government & Civil Society-general 15150 – Democratic participation and civil society (30%) 15170 – Women’s rights organisations and movements, and government institutions (30%) 16020 – Employment creation (20%)

	41081– Environmental education/training (20%)			
<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel @</b>	20000 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society 23000 Developing country-based NGO			
<b>9. Targets</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
<b>10. Markers (from DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective @</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women’s and girl’s empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>11. Internal markers and Tags:</b>	<b>Policy objectives</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Digitalisation @ Tags: digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship job creation digital skills/literacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

	digital services		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity @ Tags: transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### BUDGET INFORMATION

<b>12. Amounts concerned</b>	<p>Budget line(s) (article, item): BGUE-B2021-14.020122-C1-INTPA</p> <p>Total estimated cost: EUR 7 000 000</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 7 000 000</p> <p>Indicatively an amount of minimum EUR 500 000 each will contribute to the Team Europe Initiatives, 'Jobs for the future South Africa' and 'A just and green recovery for South Africa'.</p> <p>The commitment of the EU's contribution to the Team Europe Initiatives foreseen under this annual 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.</p> <p>Member States and EDFI contributions to these Team Europe Initiatives cannot be quantified at this stage.</p>
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### MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

<b>13. Type of financing<sup>1</sup></b>	<p><b>Direct management</b> through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grants</li> <li>- Procurement</li> <li>- Prizes</li> </ul>
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#### 1.2. Summary of the Action

The Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) puts Civil Society (CS) at the centre of the collaboration with South Africa. This Action will support the EU Roadmap (RM) for engagement with CS (CS RM), the EU Human Rights and Democracy Strategy for South Africa (HRDCS) and the Gender Action Plan (GAP) III Country Level Implementation Plan (CLIP), and facilitate and support CS engagement and participation in programmes in all three MIP priority areas, in line with the human rights based approach (HRBA)<sup>2</sup> and gender mainstreaming commitments. By doing so, the Action will contribute to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, strengthen active citizenship, and promote sustainable and inclusive development.

While South African CS is historically diverse and strong, the sector faces challenges, particularly its ability to engage in policymaking, often limited by internal capacity constraints and the ability to network. This Action will help address these constraints by capacitating Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), facilitating dialogue with the European

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

<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/swd-2021-human-right-based-approach\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/swd-2021-human-right-based-approach_en.pdf)

Union Delegation, European Union (EU) Member States and the Government of South Africa, and enabling CS to play a greater role in policy development and dialogue focusing on EU-South Africa priorities.

The Technical Assistance (TA) facility will allow a flexible response to the needs and demands of CS and assist with the operationalisation of the EU commitments to promote an enabling environment, foster policy inclusion/dialogue, participation and develop CSOs' capacity across all its dimensions. The Facility will provide technical skills training and capacity development activities for CS, including activities related to governance, gender mainstreaming and applying the HRBA, fundraising, networking, advocacy and Information and Communications Technology (ICT), and will help operationalise policy dialogues between CSOs, the EU, Member States and the Government of South Africa. Specific emphasis will be put on developing women and youth organisations' capacities and on ensuring that the diversity of CSOs is represented, especially those representing individuals living in vulnerable situations, in the policy dialogues processes undertaken by the EU.

The grants component will enable the EU to support the implementation of catalytic and innovative activities undertaken by CSOs within the MIP priorities, such as (un-)employment, in particular youth and women employability and entrepreneurship skills, climate change awareness and response capacity, management of biodiversity assets, citizen participation in planning and monitoring of service provision, gender equality and human rights, and digital innovation and transformation. While some thematic areas have already been identified, the allocation will also enable the EU Delegation to pilot activities and respond to other needs in the coming years.

## 2. RATIONALE

### 2.1. Context

The EU enjoys good political relations with South Africa, the only African country that has a 'strategic partnership' with the EU. South Africa is the economic powerhouse of the Southern Africa region and plays an important role at regional and continental levels (member of G20; Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS)). In June 2016, the EU and South Africa signed the Southern African Economic Partnership Agreement (SADC EPA), the implementation of which foresees a role for Civil Society, and the EU remains South Africa's largest trade and investment partner, accounting for 22% of total trade in 2020. South Africa is a key ally for EU strategic political, economic and security interests in Africa and on global issues.

South Africa is known for its largely peaceful transition to democracy in 1994, but faces complex political, economic and social challenges, further aggravated by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite President Ramaphosa's rhetoric on reforms and strong commitment towards fighting corruption, implementation is slow. South Africa has experienced a protracted economic downturn, depicted by structurally weak growth, bailouts for large loss-making state-owned enterprises, rising fiscal deficits and debt. This, along with corruption and mismanagement, hampers South Africa's ability to reduce high unemployment, and address poverty and inequality. South Africa local government elections are scheduled for October 2021 and general elections in 2024, however local elections may be postponed to early 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

South Africa's Covid-19 response package (ca. 10% of gross domestic product (GDP)) stands out in the region, but has caused further deterioration of its macro-fiscal position. GDP declined by – 7.2% in 2020 (the largest contraction in nearly 90 years) with an estimated pick-up at 3.1% in 2021. The budget deficit is expected to widen to more than 12% of GDP in 2020/2021 and the Government of South Africa predicts that public debt will peak at 89% by 2025/26. Already high pre-pandemic unemployment reached 32.6% (the expanded unemployment rate stands at 42.3% and 74, 7% for 15 to 24 years old). The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated South Africa's triple challenge of poverty, (one of the highest, persistent inequality rates in the world), and unemployment, especially of youth (the expanded unemployment rate among youth stands at 74.7 per cent) and women. The 2021 unrest in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal provinces, which can in part be linked to the high youth unemployment, has further exacerbated a rather dire economic situation, with an estimated impact of billions in damages and loss to the economy, also impacting negatively on investor confidence and jobs.

Growth projections are far from rates expected in other emerging economies. Despite cautious signs of recovery, South Africa growth remains constrained by its fiscal position, the lingering impact of the health crisis, slow rollout of Covid vaccines, and unstable electricity production. Impetus has recently been seen towards long-awaited reforms

in energy (path for companies to generate power to avert blackouts), transport sectors (partial restructuring of South Africa Airlines and the Transnet) and climate action. Growth prospects are highly dependent on the President's ability to demonstrate results and unite a fragmented African National Congress (ANC).

South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 remains the blueprint for the country's development. The South Africa 2021-2027 MIP (EUR 212 000 000) focuses on three main Priority Areas (PA), closely related to key priorities of NDP 2030, notably (1) *Sustainable, resilient, transformative and inclusive growth*; (2) *Reducing inequalities*; (3) *Partnerships*.

The MIP puts CS at the centre of the collaboration with South Africa. In order to do this, the proposed Action will support the CS RM, the GAP III CLIP implementation, and facilitate and support CS engagement in programmes in all three priority areas of the MIP. While South African CS is historically diverse and strong, the sector faces challenges, particularly its ability to engage in policymaking, often limited by internal capacity constraints, and the ability to network. This Action will help address these by capacitating CSOs, facilitating dialogue with EU and EU Member States and the Government of South Africa, and enabling CS to play a greater role in policy development and dialogue focusing on EU-South Africa priorities, including the EPA implementation. The Action will enable a flexible response to the needs and demands of CS and assist the operationalisation of the EU commitments to promote an enabling environment, foster policy dialogue and develop CSOs' capacity across all its dimensions. Furthermore, the Action will also enable the EU to support the implementation of catalytic and innovative activities undertaken by CSOs within the MIP priorities.

In line with the Agenda for Change and the 2012 Communication and Council conclusions on the 'Roots of Democracy'<sup>3</sup>, we seek to strengthen CSOs' technical skills and capacities to play their role as development actors towards the MIP's priorities, specifically digital, gender equality, climate change, and socio-economic development. Within each priority area, specific aspects will be addressed, such as sector-specific capacity building, the promotion of evidence-based policy dialogue between CS and South African authorities and support to innovations. The action will notably contribute to Priority 1 (results 2.1 and 2.3), and Priority 2 (results 1.3, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3). Priority 3 (result 3.2) will be addressed by supporting learning and sharing experiences between SA CS and CS in the region.

This action builds on the principles and objectives of the 2012 Communication and subsequent Council Conclusions, the CS RM the GAP III CLIP (Both CS RM and GAP III CLIP are available as drafts at the time of submission of this AAP 2021). The action contributes to the 2030 Agenda, and the progressive achievement of several SDGs, most importantly SDG 16.

The centrality of genuine partnerships with CS for EU's programming and dialogue cannot be overstated. This Action will allow the EU to remain one of the leading development partners engaging with CS in South Africa and to move from a donor-recipient relationship to a genuine partnership. While past engagement with CS has often taken place on an *ad hoc* basis, this Action will form the foundation for more structured engagement with, and support to, CSOs throughout the MIP implementation. It will provide opportunities to reach CSOs with which the EU does not yet have strong relations, including grassroots organisations and emerging youth and women organisations, including through a proposed 'Sounding Board', a platform through which the EU will engage regularly with CS, including women and youth-led organisations and movements. It will also strengthen coordination and complementarity with the few EU MS who provide grants to South African CS.

The South African Constitution and several policies and laws promote the participation of communities and citizens in policies, programmes, projects, and any decisions that might affect them either positively or negatively. The vital contribution of CSOs is recognised in the National Development Plan: Vision 2030. While, in theory, the role of CS is acknowledged, CS is often not facilitated to play that role. The programme will contribute to strengthening the participation of CS in policies, programmes and projects.

The Action is horizontal by nature and will contribute to both Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs): Projects supported under the Action will directly contribute to the TEI 'A Just and Green Recovery', such as in the areas of climate action and biodiversity. The Action will also support CSO projects on skilling, life-long learning and empowering youth and women, hence contributing to the TEI 'Jobs for the future South Africa'.

<sup>3</sup> COM(2012) 492 of 12.09.2012.

## 2.2. Problem Analysis

Policy formulation, implementation and monitoring is not the sole prerogative of governments. To ensure a developmental approach which balances the needs of its citizens, combined with the policy priorities of the country, all sectors of society must be afforded an opportunity to participate. To achieve this, developmental actors – such as CS - need to have the capacity to identify and participate meaningfully in the opportunities offered. South African CS has fulfilled, and continues to fulfil, an essential role in the social and political transformation of the country. It has not only contributed to democratic reform in the past, but continues to contribute to development by fulfilling various critical roles in relation to service delivery, as well as demanding accountability and meaningful and tangible implementation of Constitutional responsibilities and developmental objectives.

South Africa CS is diverse, with many acting as service providers, and others as watchdog and advocacy institutions. The types of organisations also range from high-level policy think tanks, to grassroots and community-based organisations, human rights organisations, as well as social movements. The range of thematic areas is extremely diverse, and covers governance, service delivery, human rights and socio-economic matters including health and education, skills and employment creation, children, youth and women's advancement, Gender-based Violence (GBV), climate and environmental aspects, disabilities - to name but a few. Although some South African CSOs remain strong and vibrant, generally CS's ability to engage in policy making processes, influence and monitor policy implementation, is limited by internal capacity constraints and limited capacities to network. Furthermore, CSOs are often dependent on donor funding, which limits their willingness to collaborate with each other in order to gain more influence. This contributes to a perceived lack of legitimacy and may weaken the link with their constituencies.

CSOs need to strengthen their technical skills to improve their work and develop new sources of domestic resources to support their activities. Further, they also need to enhance networking and alliance building, including with unions, to strengthen their participation in the drafting and monitoring of socio-economic development policies. They also need to build their capacities to address high levels of inequalities by pioneering innovations to climate change, employment and other inequality challenges in South Africa.

The Covid-19 outbreak has had a significant impact on the country, adding additional pressure on already overburdened social service delivery systems, and exacerbating the vulnerabilities of affected populations. Emergency measures and restriction on gatherings have limited the possibility for CSOs to take part in policy-making processes and monitoring of implementation. Going forward, online working will be extremely important and CSOs will need the technical capacity to take advantage of the numerous possibilities offered by the digital transformation, while also safeguarding data and raising capacity to fight mis- and disinformation.

The EU will prioritise developing CS actors' capacity to participate in policy dialogues on shared EU-South Africa priorities. Attention will be given to the capacity development of the full spectrum of CS actors, with a specific focus on youth and women-led organisations, network organisations and the media, as well as to bridge the divide between local and provincial and national and regional level CS engagement. The EU will also identify pathways to increase its engagement with emerging youth and social movements and grassroots and women organisations which are particularly active in the area of green deals and inequalities/social justice and addressing unemployment in South Africa. Special attention will be given to strengthening capacities to apply the HRBA and gender mainstreaming.

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

The Action will target the entire breadth of South African-based and regional (SADC) CSOs, such as associations, non-governmental institutions, the media, labour, business and faith-based organisations, women organisations, foundations and research institutions, trade unions, cooperatives, professional and business associations, and community-based organisations, in particular those representing the rights of discriminated groups and individuals living in vulnerable situations. CSOs comprising both urban and rural organisations, as well as formal and informal organisations, will be considered for participation. Special attention will be paid to identifying and supporting new youth and women networks that have emerged.

While the Action predominantly targets South African CSOs, regional (mostly SADC) and in some cases European Civil Society may be invited to participate, such as for sharing lessons learnt and promoting activities and capacity building of CS in developing countries and dialogues with the EU.

To ensure support to grassroots organisations, financial support to third parties will be encouraged.

Local authorities (LA) in partner countries, defined as ‘decentralised bodies in the partner countries, such as regions, departments, provinces and municipalities’ are not the main target group of the project, but may also benefit from its activities, specifically as some of the projects to be supported through grant funding may encourage collaboration between CS and LAs.

Other stakeholders include Government departments involved in policy dialogues, legislatures, agencies or private sector companies, EU institutions and Member States, and like-minded development partners and private foundations / philanthropies based in South Africa. In keeping with the role of the EU Delegation as a convenor for dialogue with EU Member States in-country, EU Member States will have a particular role in participating in, supporting and benefitting from enhanced dialogue with CS and improved coordination between the EUD and Member States.

### 2.3. Additional Areas of Assessment [For Budget Support Actions only]

N.A.

## 3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

### 3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this Action is that a peaceful and inclusive society for sustainable development is promoted, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (SDG 16).

The Specific Objective of this Action is that active citizenship is strengthened and a more sustainable and inclusive development promoted. The Action will provide support to the EU to implement its CS RM and GAP III CLIP, to support long term capability development of CS to achieve results, to work in networks and better influence policies; and to contribute to a conducive environment that enables CSOs to be development actors. It will provide resources to support CSOs’ innovations within the MIP priorities and cross-cutting priorities. The Outputs to be delivered are:

- Increased technical, networking and advocacy capacities of CSOs.
- Enhanced CSO participation in policy development and dialogue with the Government of South Africa, EU and MS.
- Increased CSO contribution to the implementation of the MIP priorities (specifically reducing inequalities; achieving growth, transition to a green and resilient economy and strengthening partnerships).

In line with the Agenda for Change and the 2012 Communication and Council conclusions on the ‘Roots of Democracy’, the Action recognises the critical role of CSOs to achieve development outcomes, and it seeks to strengthen CSOs’ technical skills and capacities to play their role as development actors towards the MIP's priorities, specifically digital, gender equality, climate change, and socio-economic development. Within each priority area, specific aspects will be addressed, such as sector-specific capacity building, the promotion of evidence-based policy dialogue between CS and South African authorities and support to innovations. The Action will notably contribute to Priority 1 (results 2.1 and 2.3), and Priority 2 (results 1.3, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3). Priority 3 (result 3.2) will be addressed by supporting learning and sharing experiences between SA CS and CS in the region. Activities funded under this Action will be complementary to the ones funded under the thematic allocation.

### 3.2. Indicative Activities

Foreseen activities:

Output 1: Increased technical, networking and advocacy capacities of CSOs [including women and youth organisations]

1. Capacity building activities (including mentoring, training, coaching, mobilisation of short term expertise, peer learning, exchanges, study visits, community of practices and *ad hoc* grants) to increase CSOs' technical skills in governance, financial and project management, fundraising, philanthropy and social entrepreneurship, collaborative thinking, media relations and public outreach, monitoring and evaluation, advocacy, gender and SDG mainstreaming, applying the human rights based approach (HRBA), development of new approaches and methods of working and/or engaging with constituencies and stakeholders, or other innovative solutions to address the challenges CSOs are facing.
2. Digital training for CSOs, including on digital and social media, digital security, and organisation of hackathons and civic digital fellowships to support innovation and technological solutions for community and country needs.
3. Targeted trainings for women and young CS leaders through ad hoc exchange programmes, career-shadowing, coaching and networking, intervening in regional dialogue.
4. Studies, research, mapping, evaluations (CS actors' needs and capacities, enabling environment, impact assessments, strengthen research and data gathering, monitoring reports within MIP priorities).

Output 2: Enhanced CSO participation in policy development and dialogue with the Government of South Africa, EU and MS

1. Support to multi-stakeholder dialogues and structured dialogues between the EU, CSOs, State authorities and, when relevant, private sector actors in the areas of the MIP priorities, specifically digital, gender equality, human rights, climate change, biodiversity and socio-economic development (mobilisation of short-term expert and logistics costs) and in implementation of relevant bilateral projects and programmes.
2. Support to the establishment of a CSO sounding board – a group of 10-15 organisations which will engage on a regular basis with the EU to contribute to monitoring the CS RM, GAP III CLIP, the EU Human Rights and Democracy Strategy for South Africa (HRDCS) and MIP implementation.
3. Support to CS-led monitoring and advocacy activities regarding the MIP priority areas, including support to networking and evidence-based research.
4. Support to coordination between EUD, MS and likeminded development partners supporting CS.
5. Support to the preparation for and facilitation of CS participation in sector policy dialogues between the EU and SA Gov.

Output 3: Increased CSO contribution to the implementation of the MIP priorities [specifically reducing inequalities; achieving growth, transition to a green and resilient economy and strengthening partnerships]

1. Facilitation of information to CSOs, such as internet platforms, online resource centres or online trainings to support EU grantees with on-demand advice on grant management, reporting, access to information, financial support to third parties.
2. Launching of Calls for Proposals and/or awarding direct grants to eligible CSOs to address specific topics under the MIP's priority areas. The priorities of the Call for Proposals will be determined in dialogue with CS and other stakeholders and in complementarity with other MIP actions and thematic programmes.

### 3.3. Mainstreaming

## **Environmental Protection & Climate Change**

### **Outcomes of the SEA screening**

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that no further action was required at this stage. A SEA for Priority Area 1 of the 2021-2027 MIP for South Africa is underway. The conclusions of the SEA will be incorporated into the different actions under this action, as and when relevant.

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

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

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

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

As per OECD DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as Rio Marker 1 for climate change mitigation and climate change mitigation. Environment and climate change will be mainstreamed as cross-cutting issues through the action. Additionally, under the grant component, specific resources will be made available for CSOs to play an active role in the response to climate change. Subject to identification of actions for AAP 2022 and complementarity with the latter, resources may also be made available for the sustainable management of biodiversity assets in South Africa. If necessary SEA or CRA will be carried out for specific calls for proposals, grant contracts or procurement contracts.

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

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that the action, in addition to other objectives, will have a positive impact on advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through the capacity building of women's organisations and their participation in policy dialogues. Women's organisations will be represented on the Sounding Board. Furthermore, women's organisations will be encouraged to pioneer innovations on climate change, employment and other inequality challenges.

The action will contribute towards the gender equality strategy (A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025)<sup>4</sup> and the Gender Action Plan (GAP) III<sup>5</sup> priorities, while CSOs applying for grants will be required to mainstream gender as per GAP III priorities.

Gender balance will be sought on all the managing bodies and activities of the action and importance will be given during all stages of contracting and implementation. Equal participation of women and men will be secured in the design of activities and access to the opportunities they offer. Promotion of gender equality and equal opportunities will be considered when preparing guidelines for applicants for the calls for proposals and tender dossier for service contracts. All activities will be designed and implemented so as to provide disaggregated data by sex when relevant. In line with the EEAS #NoWomenNoPanel, the action will ensure gender balance in panels and public events.

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### **Human Rights**

Human rights is a central feature of this action, as it aims to enable and support civic participation, guaranteed by the South African Constitution. In addition, the action will also support rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, including socio-economic rights, right to water, clean environment etc. The action will also utilise in all its elements the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) and all its principles. CSOs applying for grants will be required to reflect the EU's HRBA, in particular focusing on the aspects of participation as a right and the basis for active citizenship, non-discrimination and equal access; accountability and access to the rule of law and transparency and access to information, in line with the EU's updated HRBA toolbox.<sup>6</sup>

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### **Disability**

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that the action is cognisant of the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the foreseen capacity building activities, policy dialogues and the sounding board, but this is not the principal objective of the action.

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### **Democracy**

One of the central features of democracy is civic participation. This aspect will be advanced through this action, by means of building the capacity of CS and enabling enhanced participation in public policy formulation and implementation. This enables better oversight and accountability by elected officials, and strengthens democracy.

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

The action could help support peace and stability in communities which have been recently affected by the July 2021 unrest. It may also involve exchanges with regional CSOs, including with SADC countries experiencing conflict such as Eswatini and Mozambique, and long term political upheaval and conflict such as Zimbabwe. Through experience sharing, CSOs in the region may capacitate each other to better deal with conflict and contribute to peace and improving resilience.

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### **Disaster Risk Reduction**

Not applicable

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<sup>4</sup> COM(2020)152 of 5.03.2020.

<sup>5</sup> JOIN(2020)17 of 25.11.2020.

<sup>6</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/swd-2021-human-right-based-approach\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/swd-2021-human-right-based-approach_en.pdf)

**Other considerations if relevant**

Youth will be a priority of the action, and youth representatives/groups will be part of the CSO Sounding Board. This will provide the opportunity for youth groups to provide input on EU-funded activities and will also assist guiding the interventions of the action, including policy dialogue. Youth and women groups will also be prioritised for capacity building activities.

The grants awarded under the Grant component will include a focus on youth and women’s organisations.

The interventions will mainstream gender, climate change and environmental issues, and grants to be funded from the action will directly contribute to MIP targets for these areas, as detailed above.

### 3.4. Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
External environment	Risk 1 The authorities do not see the benefit of involving CSOs in the policy dialogue	Medium	High	The action will offer different types of platforms for policy dialogue, complementary to the other programmes implemented under the MIP. Communication activities to highlight the added value of inclusive policy dialogues will also be envisaged. These will target both Government and civil society.
Communication and information	Risk 2 Lack of interest of CSOs to be part of the Sounding Board and activities	Medium	Medium	
People and the organisation	Risk 3 Limited utilisation / uptake of capacity building & training activities	Low	Medium	

**Risks**

The Covid-19 context has limited face to face activities. However, CSOs also face further constraints in relation to online activities, due to limited access to digital resources (tools, data and connectivity) and recurrences of electricity disruptions, which may impact on the participation of some organisations. To mitigate these risks, the EUD will ensure that the Contractor for the Technical Assistance (TA) Facility has sufficient skills and experience in facilitating participatory online processes, dialogues and trainings and will explore the possibility of low bandwidth training platforms.

**Lessons learnt:**

The proposed action is informed by the EU's long time engagement with CSOs in South Africa, including past Calls for Proposals and a past capacity building facility that has demonstrated the need for expanding capacity development to all types of CSOs (not only recipients of EU financial support).

CSOs recognise the EU as an important interlocutor, in addition to the EU providing resources to CS. The EU has established strong relations with the CSOs over a period of more than 25 years and is regarded as a valuable partner. The opportunities – funding, capacity building and platforms for engagement, as well as regular consultation and interaction with CSOs – are valued by the organisations.

The CSO Roadmap recommends strengthening CSOs’ capacities in relation to the public policy cycle including in the economic space, including labour, cooperatives or employers’ federations. The TA Facility will put an emphasis on engaging with various types of CSOs. The RM also recommends strengthening the sector’s capacity to mobilise private and domestic resources, and addressing the digital gap within the sector. In the design of this action, recommendations of the 2017 EU-funded South Africa Mapping study of CSOs in the human rights and social justice sectors have been considered, including to support networking and alliance building at various levels (local, provincial, national and international).

### 3.5. The Intervention Logic

The action recognises the central role of civil society in democratic governance and the building of just, equitable and inclusive societies. While South African civil society has played an essential role in the struggle against Apartheid, its ability to influence policy processes meaningfully is hampered by capacity challenges. Findings from the CS RM indicate that a combination of low technical capacity, lack of appropriate advocacy tools, fragmentation in the sector, and limited understanding of the role of CSOs as development actors undermine CS' participation in the policy cycle.

To overcome this, the proposed TA facility will provide long term capacity-building activities for CS. These will range from institutional capacities building to support to networking and advocacy. Attention will be given to the capacity development of the full spectrum of CS actors, with a specific focus on youth and women-led organisations, network organisations and the media as well as on bridging the divide between local and provincial and national-level CS engagement. The facility will also support CS to take advantage of the digital transformation and technology innovations to promote civic space. The establishment of a CSO Sounding Board provides a structured space for CSOs to engage with the EU and influence its programmes and policy development. Through logistical provisions, the facility will support attendance and participation of CSOs in policy dialogues organised by the EU Delegation, Member States and the Government of South Africa. If the Government of South Africa remains willing to engage with CSOs and if CSOs make use of the opportunities provided by the action/facility, the activities proposed will increase CSOs' capacities and enhance their participation in policymaking, with a particular focus on dialogue on sectors covered by the South Africa-EU Partnership and the MIP priorities.

Under the grant component, resources will be made available to CSOs to implement innovative and catalytic projects within the MIP priorities, such as (un-)employment, in particular youth and women employability and entrepreneurship skills, climate change awareness and response capacity, management of biodiversity assets, citizen participation in planning and monitoring of service provision, gender equality and human rights, and digital innovation and transformation. The EU Delegation will directly manage the grant component through one or more calls for proposals. Financial support to third parties will be used to increase support to emerging youth and social movements and grassroots CSOs, which are particularly active in the area of green deals and inequalities/social justice and gender equality in South Africa. Case studies from these grants will also be used as evidence basis and feed into the policy dialogues processes. Grant beneficiaries will also participate in policy dialogues in the MIP priority areas.

### 3.6. Logical Framework Matrix

At action level, the indicative logframe should have a maximum of 10 expected results (Impact/Outcome(s)/Output(s)).

It constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.

The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
<b>Impact</b>	A peaceful and inclusive society for sustainable development is promoted, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels [SDG 16]	1: Country score in Participation, Rights and Inclusion (IIAG report) 2: Country Score according to Global Peace Index 3: Country score according to the CIVICUS Monitor Tracking Civic Space	1: 67.2 ( 2019) 2: 2.344 ( 2020) 3: Narrowed ( 2019)	Improvement for all these indicators	1: Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) <sup>7</sup> 2: Global Peace Index <sup>8</sup> 3: CIVICUS <sup>9</sup>	<i>Not applicable</i>
<b>Outcome</b>	Active citizenship strengthened and a more sustainable and inclusive development promoted	1. Civil Participation and women civil society participation Index 2. Perception of CSOs of the invited spaces for CSOs for local/national/sectoral development plan/strategy policy discussions/laws/sub-laws. 3. Extent to which SA Authorities acknowledge the role of CSOs in development. 4. Extent to which women, men, girls and boys and their civil society organisations and activists are able to influence strategies on climate mitigation, adaptation, disaster risk reduction and sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity, on local, national and regional levels, disaggregated at least by sex (GAP Indicator )	1: 071 and 0.68 ( 2020) 2. TBD 3. TBD 4. TBD	1 Increase TBC 2 TBD 3 TBD 4 TBD	1. VDem <sup>10</sup> 2. Online survey to CSOs 3. SA Government statements, SA GoV Annual reports 4. TBD	Enabling environment will remain in place so CS can participate Government will remain willing to engage/increase its engagement with CSO
<b>Output 1</b>	Increased technical, networking and advocacy capacities of CSOs.	1.2 # of organisations (disaggregated by sectors) showing an increase in capacity score in at least one area of support.	1.1 0	1.1 TBD	1.1 Pre/post training evaluation, Project reports	CSO will make use of the opportunities to strengthen their capacities

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- 7 <https://iiag.online/about.html>.  
8 <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/GPI-2021-web-1.pdf>.  
9 <https://monitor.civicus.org/>.  
10 <https://www.v-dem.net/en/analysis/CountryGraph/>.

		<p>1.2 Evidence (nature and scope) of regular networking for experience sharing and networking among CSOs</p> <p>1.3 Number of CS positions, projects and other initiatives tackling the needs of discriminated groups and individuals living in vulnerable situations, through networks and coalitions supported by the EU</p>	<p>1.2 TBD</p> <p>1.3 : 0</p>	<p>1.2 TBD</p> <p>1.3 TBD</p>	<p>and OCAT to be undertaken within the programme</p> <p>1.2 Project Reports and CS Mapping and research report to be undertaken as part of the programme</p> <p>1.3 Project report</p>	<p>Traveling and in person trainings will be allowed.</p>
<b>Output 2</b>	<p>Enhanced CSO participation in policy development and dialogue with the Government of South Africa, EU and MS</p>	<p>2.1 Number of women and youth attending/nominated to the sounding board or any other EU related policy dialogues platform</p> <p>2.2 Number of CSOs (disaggregated by sectors) participating in dialogue processes related to the EU-SA strategic partnership, including in the follow-up (e.g. through the steering committees), monitoring and/or evaluation of EU programmes and projects</p> <p>2.3 Number of government policies (disaggregated by sectors) developed or revised with civil society organisation participation through EU support (EU RF 24)</p>	<p>2.1: 0</p> <p>2.2 0</p> <p>2.3 0</p>	<p>2.1 TBC (at least 50 % women and 30 % youth)</p> <p>2.2 A minimum of 1 CSO participating in at least 70 % of the dialogues</p> <p>2.3 TBD</p>	<p>2.1 Terms of Reference (ToR) Sounding Board, Nomination letters, Minutes of meetings, policy dialogue reports</p> <p>2.2 Project reports, Programme Steering Committee (PSC) minutes, Policy Dialogue reports, External Aid Management Reports (EAMR) t</p>	<p>Social, political and economic context will not deteriorate and civil society organisations will want to increase their participation in policy dialogue and will make use of their skills. Government will make use of the dialogue opportunities with CSOs</p>

					2.3 Projects Reports, Parliament Committee reports	
<b>Output 3</b>	Increased CSO contribution to the implementation of the MIP priorities [specifically reducing inequalities; achieving growth, transition to a green and resilient economy and strengthening partnerships]	3.1 Number of grassroots civil society organisations benefitting from direct EU support <sup>11</sup> (per type of organisation) [MIP]  3.2 Number of initiatives implemented with EU support to improve women and youth' ability to benefit from employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, including social entrepreneurship [GAP] (MIP Indicator)  3.3. Number of climate change adaptation and response capacity initiatives and/or tools implemented with EU support	3.1 0 3.2 0 3.3 0	3.1 100 3.2 5 3.3 3	3.1 Grant contracts  3.2 Projects reports  3.3 Project reports	CSOs will not be over-mobilised with humanitarian and emergency response to COVID related impact or civil unrest. There is sufficient interest by CSO to response to the Call for proposals. There is sufficient number of quality proposals aligned with EU award and selection criteria, including the capacity to manage EU funding requirements.

<sup>11</sup> MIP Indicators and EU RF Indicator 25

## 4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1. Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country.

### 4.2. Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 72 months from the date of entry into force of the financing agreement.

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

### 4.3. Implementation of the Budget Support Component [For Budget Support only]

N.A.

### 4.4. Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures<sup>12</sup>.

#### 4.4.1. Direct Management (Grants)

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

The action will include a substantial grant component to eligible CSOs to address specific topics under the MIP's priority areas, such as unemployment, in particular youth and women employability and entrepreneurship skills, climate change awareness and response capacity, management of biodiversity assets, citizen participation in planning and monitoring of service provision, gender equality and human rights, and digital skills, innovation and transformation. The EUD will directly manage the grant component through (a) Call(s) for Proposals. Direct awards may also be used in specific circumstances.

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

Grants will contribute to specific objective 3: Increased CSO contribution to the implementation of the MIP priorities.

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

In order to be eligible for a grant, the lead applicant must:

- Indicate the relevant criteria with due regard for the objectives and priorities of this call for proposals, complying with the principles of transparency and non-discrimination.
- be a legal person, or an entity without legal personality, or a natural person, and
- be non-profit-making and be a specific type of organisation such as: non-governmental organisation, be public sector operator, local authority, international (inter-governmental) organisation as defined by Article 156 of the EU Financial Regulation
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), not acting as an intermediary
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), not acting as an intermediary.
- be established in eligible countries as stipulated in Art 28 Regulation (eu) 2021/947

<sup>12</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu). Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

#### 4.4.2. Direct Management (Prize(s))

**a) Purpose of the prize:**

To recognize and reward innovation (such as digital solutions) or achievements (such as awareness campaigns, communication outputs/products, champions) by people, groups or organisations in fostering participatory democracy and sustainable development.

**b) The type of participants targeted:**

Legal entities, natural persons or groupings without legal personality, local authorities, public bodies, international organisations, NGOs, unions, economic actors, such as SMEs or chambers of commerce, profit or non-profit organisations or think tanks.

**c) Specific reference to prizes with a unit value of EUR 1 million or more: none**

#### 4.4.3. Direct Management (Procurement)

An international tender will result in the procurement of services for a Technical Assistance facility. The services of this facility will enable progress towards **outputs 1 and 2** as per section 3. The Facility will provide technical skills training and capacity development activities for CS, including activities related to ICT, and will help operationalise structured dialogue, policy dialogue etc. The facility will also assist the EU in the design and evaluation of the Call(s) for proposals in adherence to PRAG rules.

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

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

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).

#### 4.6. Indicative Budget

<b>Indicative Budget components<sup>13</sup></b>	<b>EU contribution (amount in EUR)</b>	<b>Third-party contribution, in currency identified</b> [(If not relevant please delete this column)]
<b>Implementation modalities</b> – cf. section 4.4		
<b>Output 1 composed of</b>	<b>2 345 000</b>	N.A.
Prize (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.2	45 000	
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.3	2 300 000	
<b>Output 2 composed of</b>	<b>880 000</b>	N.A.
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.3	880 000	
<b>Output 3 composed of</b>	<b>3 625 000</b>	N.A.
Indirect management with		
<b>Grants</b> – total envelope under section 4.4.1	3 625 000	N.A.
<b>Budgetary guarantee – amount of annual provisioning</b>	N.A.	N.A.
<b>Evaluation</b> – cf. section 5.2	50 000	N.A.
<b>Audit</b> – cf. section 5.3	50 000	
<b>Contingencies</b>	50 000	N.A.
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7 000 000</b>	725 000
<i>Grants – total envelope under section 4.4.1</i>	<i>3 625 000</i>	<i>N.A.</i>

#### 4.7. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The Action is managed by the EU Delegation under direct management. No activities will be implemented by, and no funds will be transferred to the Partner country. A Financing Agreement will be signed.

An Advisory Committee will be established to oversee the implementation of the Facility. The Advisory Committee will include the EUD, National Treasury and (one or more) representative(s) of EU MS, Development Partners, and Private Foundations involved in the support of the sector, and, if feasible, representatives of Framework Partnership Agreements based in South Africa. The EU will chair the Advisory Committee meetings while the organisation and logistics will be covered by the contractors. The Facility will be established by means of a procurement process with key and non-key experts. They/the contractor will be responsible for the operationalisation and management of the Facility and the secretariat of the Advisory committee in close collaboration with the EUD.

The EUD will launch (a) Call(s) for Proposals and the grants will be managed by the Delegation. Direct awards may be envisaged in specific cases.

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.

<sup>13</sup> N.B: The final text on audit/verification depends on the outcome of ongoing discussions on pooling of funding in (one or a limited number of) Decision(s) and the subsequent financial management, i.e. for the conclusion of audit contracts and payments.

## 5. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

### 5.1. Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partners' responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partners shall establish permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring systems 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).

Indicators shall be disaggregated by sex, age and disability at a minimum. All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is taking into account the human rights based approach and gender equality.

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:

Monitoring and reporting will be the responsibility of the grantees under the Grants component of the Action. In addition to annual reporting requirements, grantees will be expected to undertake/contract mid-term and/or final evaluations. The grants will also be monitored and visited by Delegation/Commission staff and Results Oriented Monitoring (ROMs) and other evaluation and monitoring processes may also take place. The Delegation will also provide opportunities for grantees to interact, share experiences and collaborate, with support from the Facility.

The Facility will be required to report on their logframe matrix and implement a monitoring plan to ensure planned activities are on track in relation to all areas of implementation, including capacity building/training, policy dialogue, and progress towards an enabling environment. The Facility will also be required to provide inputs to monitor the implementation of the CS RM and the GAP III CLIP and deliver six-monthly reports to the Delegation. Reports on activities will also be shared and discussed with the Advisory committee.

The contractors/implementing partners will be required to establish baselines and targets at the start of the project, to measure achievement on the indicators and targets. If necessary, the contractors/implementing partners will also undertake data collection and survey.

### 5.2. Evaluation

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

Mid-term (if required) : It will be carried out for learning purposes, in particular with respect to the further launching of Calls for Proposals and adjusting, if necessary, the focus of the activities undertaken by the Facility.

Final evaluation: It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision). It will assess progress towards objectives and results of the Action, taking into account in particular innovative projects implemented by CSOs and assess the participation of youth and women's organisations in the implementation of the Action.

All evaluations shall assess to what extent the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach as well as how it contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment. Expertise on human rights and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 1 month 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 shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination<sup>14</sup>. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on

<sup>14</sup> See best [practice of evaluation dissemination](#).

the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.  
Evaluation services may be contracted under a framework contract.

### 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. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

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.

## APPENDIX 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

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

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

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

The level of the Primary Intervention is defined in the related Action Document and it is revisable; it can be a(n) (group of) action(s) or a (group of) contract(s).

Tick in the left side column one of the three possible options for the level of definition of the Primary Intervention(s) identified in this action.

In the case of ‘Group of actions’ level, add references to the present action and other action concerning the same Primary Intervention.

In the case of ‘Contract level’, add the reference to the corresponding budgetary items in point 4.6, Indicative Budget.

<b>Option 1: Action level</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
<b>Option 2: Group of actions level</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSYS#):
<b>Option 3: Contract level</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 3	
	(...)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of contracts 1	