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ANNEX 4

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan for the thematic programme on Global Challenges (Prosperity) for 2023-2025

Action Document for Technical assistance facilities to support sustainable Critical Raw Materials (CRM) value chains, Global Gateway Business Advisory Group (GG BAG) and private sector engagement and accountability

MULTIANNUAL PLAN

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

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Technical assistance facilities to support sustainable Critical Raw Materials (CRM) value chains, Global Gateway Business Advisory Group (GG BAG) and private sector engagement and accountability OPSYS number: ACT-61696 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative (TEI)	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	This action shall be carried out worldwide.
4. Programming document	Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027 for Global Challenges ¹
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Prosperity specific objective 1: investment climate, private sector, decent work, employment and trade (result areas 1, 2 and 3);
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Priority Area 3: Prosperity
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) Other significant SDGs: SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 16 (Peace and Security), SDG 17 (Partnerships for SDGs)
8 a) DAC code(s)	32200 Mineral Resources & Mining – 30% 25010 Business Policy and Administration – 40%

¹ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-01/mip-2021-c2021-9157-global-challenges-annex_en.pdf [Accessed on 12/09/2023]

	33110 Trade Policy and Administrative Management – 30%				
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	13000 – Third Country Government (Delegated co-operation)				
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance				
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective	
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective	
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
		Digitalisation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services		YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Connectivity @		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
energy		YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>		

	transport	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	/
	health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	education and research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget lines (article, item): 14 02 02 42 Prosperity – Global Challenges Total estimated cost for 2023: EUR 10 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution for 2023: EUR 10 000 000 The contribution is for an amount of EUR 10 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2023.			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management through: - Procurement Indirect Management with entities to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.2.			

1.2 Summary of the Action

The action is aligned with the priorities of the current Commission in the framework of the Global Gateway (GG), by promoting critical raw materials (CRM) value chains development and strategic partnerships, by further engaging with the private sector under the GG governance and facilitating selected priority investment projects, and by supporting Green deal objectives and the improvement of friendly investment and trade environments in our partner countries.

The proposed Action intends to contribute to the prosperity objectives 1 - investment climate, private sector, decent work, employment and trade (result areas 1, 2 and 3)-, through the provision of specialised technical assistance.

It should as well contribute to Green Deal objectives, by approaching the CRM value chains entirely and in particular also on their recycling and reuse, as well as by supporting partner countries' private sector to implement new Green Deal related regulations.

The **overall objective** of this Action is to help implement Global Gateway (GG) identified priority investments and support the sustainability of value chains, transparency and accountability and the adoption of Green Deal regulations by the private sector. The **specific objectives** of this Action are: (1) to implement the GG Business Advisory Group (GG BAG) and help implement selected priority GG investment projects; (2) to support the development of sustainable raw materials value chains between the EU and partner countries with the involvement of all stakeholders (Member States, private sector actors, Export Credit Agencies, Development Financial Institutions), in a Team Europe approach and and relying on the full GG toolbox and (3) to support Commission services and EU delegations capacities in relation to private sector, trade, and employment matters, including the adaptation to new regulations, the reporting on Aid for trade or any other relevant related policy where Commission services and EU Delegations may need support with.

Three facilities are covered by this Action:

- (1) A new technical assistance facility named 'Business Advisory Group (BAG) support facility' of EUR 2 million. It will support the work of the Global Gateway Business Advisory Group (GG BAG), support where relevant economic intelligence tools, and help facilitate GG selected priority investments, including

by pulling together private sector actors;

- (2) A new technical assistance facility named ‘Critical Raw Materials value chains facility’ (CRM Facility) of EUR 6 million to support the sustainable development of raw materials value chains and increase the EU’s presence, capacities and positioning in this area, from an all-encompassing perspective of the raw materials value chains, including the recycling and reuse of CRM.
- (3) A top up to the existing Trade and Private Sector Development and Engagement (TPSDE) of EUR 2 million. The TPSDE will continue working with the same operational mode (technical assistance support) and areas, including the current work on disseminating the impact on the private sector of the Green Deal regulations.

Finally, the action will contribute to the realisation of the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) 2021-2025 III², in its two aspects. Firstly, in the EU institutional and strategic objectives and indicators and secondly, in the objectives and indicators for the thematic area of engagement, in particular ‘Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation, digitalisation, climate change and environment’ and ‘Promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women’.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

On 1 December 2021, the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy presented the Joint Communication on Global Gateway³. Delivered in a Team Europe approach, Global Gateway intends to boost smart, clean and secure links in the digital, climate, energy and transport sectors, and to strengthen education, research and health systems across the world. To support the full mobilisation of the private sector and maximise the impact and effectiveness of Global Gateway investments, an informal Commission expert group called the Global Gateway Business Advisory Group (BAG) is being set up. Through this expert group, the Global Gateway strategy will benefit from the business perspective for its planning and implementation.

The Global Gateway Business Advisory Group (GG BAG) is to be launched within 2023. In particular, the President of the Commission will exchange with relevant CEOs and private sector representatives to discuss on strategic priorities. Its establishment and running needs to be ensured and therefore support will be required, that the BAG support facility should be able to cover. This is aligned with the priority of implementing the GG strategy and in particular the consultation and involvement of the private sector in a structured manner, and the facilitation of identified priority investments, their implementation and sustainability.

The Global Gateway is also fully aligned with the UN’s Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the Paris Agreement⁴ and the promotion of equality between women and men.

The Action will also support the implementation of the raw materials value chains policy priorities of the Commission. In the *Action Plan for Critical Raw Materials*⁵, the EU commits to developing bilateral strategic partnerships and mobilising associated funding to secure a diversified and sustainable supply of Critical Raw Materials (CRM), in combination with the Circular Economy Action Plan. With the Versailles Declaration, the European Council recognizes critical raw materials as an instrumental sector for addressing EU’s strategic dependencies and points at strategic partnerships as one of the actions to secure EU supply and reducing dependencies. Finally, as announced in President Von der Leyen’s State of the Union speech on 14 September 2022, the European Commission has proposed a European CRM Act⁶. The proposal for a Regulation will strengthen all stages of the European critical raw materials value chain, diversify the EU’s imports to reduce strategic dependencies, improve EU capacity to monitor and mitigate risks of disruptions to the supply of critical raw

² JOIN(2020) 17

³ JOIN(2021) 30

⁴ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/stronger-europe-world/global-gateway_en
[Accessed on 12/09/2023]

⁵ COM(2020) 474

⁶ COM(2023) 160

materials, and improve circularity and sustainability. The accompanying communication outlines how the EU intends to strengthen its global engagement to develop and diversify investment, production, and trade with reliable partners. The EU will pursue these objectives in cooperation with third countries through mutually beneficial partnerships, with a view to promoting their own economic development in a sustainable manner while also creating secure, resilient, affordable and sufficiently diversified value chains for the EU.

Supporting the development of raw materials value chains is also in line with the need of accelerating the twin transitions (green and digital) of our economies and industries and our commitment with partner countries in this sense and in upgrading their local value addition and creation of green and decent jobs. National strategies and action plans should provide priority treatment to sectors in which women are highly represented and prioritize capacity-building with the aim of integrating women in value chains⁷. The CRM facility will also include knowledge development around CRM to support EU delegations.

Thirdly, with the top up of the TPSDE Facility, this Action will continue increasing the capacity of Commission services and EU delegations in the areas of private sector, trade and employment, and investment climate improvement, as horizontal priorities for the implementation of the GG and the EU Green Deal. Among other things, the TPSDE facility is assessing and disseminating the information on the impacts of the Green Deal regulations on the private sector of third countries, which is an important element to enable the green and circular transition and to increase partnerships with the private sector and with third countries.

The facilities will contribute to attaining the SDGs, increasing our partnerships with the private sector and enabling sustainable investments and actions towards sustainable growth and decent job creation. Sustainable private sector investments play an essential role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in supporting jobs and growth creation in EU partner countries. The Joint Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment on the Occasion of the WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires in December 2017, acknowledged that international trade and investment are engines of economic growth, and that improving women's access to opportunities and removing barriers to their participation in national and international economies contributes to sustainable economic development.

This intervention is therefore relevant for the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG 1 (No poverty) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). Other significant SDG(s) to which this intervention contributes are: SDG 5 (Gender equality), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 12 (Sustainable production and consumption), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

2.2 Problem Analysis

Given the current policy priority of **implementing Global Gateway** related actions and the engagement with the private sector to this end, these facilities aim at covering some of the needs identified in terms of supporting a structured consultation mechanism with businesses on Global Gateway priorities (the GG BAG), developing raw materials value chains strategy and capacity and strategic partnerships to support the twin transitions (as part of GG priorities), and to continue increasing Commission services and EU delegations capacities on private sector development and trade related matter with the TPSDE facility (and in particular on the implications of the green deal regulations on businesses and the implications of EUs transition to a Circular Economy).

Two of these facilities (CRM Facility and TPSDE) also address the challenge of **improving employment conditions for women**. Women make up an important part of the work force, as the global labour force participation rate for women is 52.9%, in Sub-Saharan Africa, it even amounts to 60.9%⁸. Women are also overrepresented in informal employment⁹. In all countries for which there are data, more men than women own a business¹⁰. This requires a more systematic data collection and monitoring of basic indicators on female

⁷ The engine of trade in Africa. UN Women. Canada. UNDP.2022.

⁸ The World Bank. Gender data portal. <https://genderdata.worldbank.org/regions/sub-saharan-africa>

⁹ Putting gender equality at the center of social protection strategies in Sub-saharan Africa: How far have we come? UN Women

¹⁰ The World Bank. Gender data portal. <https://genderdata.worldbank.org/indicators/ic-wef-llco-zs>

employment, the share of women-led businesses in the targeted value chains and their participation in capacity building and other support programmes¹¹.

It is as well worth mentioning that this Action includes a **broad variety of stakeholders** at different levels and in different areas. In what relates to the GG BAG support facility and the CRM facility, the main stakeholders will be private sector representatives and CEOs involved in the GG BAG, several Commission services including at President level and the EEAS, the EU delegations, public and private actors working in the area of raw materials value chains (such as EU companies, development agencies, financial institutions, governments, NGOs, multi-stakeholder partnerships, international organisations, export credit agencies, etc.). It is important to include female traders, women entrepreneurs, female exporters, women's associations.

In what relates to the TPSDE facility, the EU delegations and the relevant Commission services are the main stakeholders and beneficiaries. Besides these, the TPSDE facility works with a broad variety of stakeholders involved in trade, regional integration and private sector development and engagement actions. These may include MSMEs, trade associations, chambers of commerce, cooperatives, local and international CSOs, social partners, international organisations, international financial institutions and state agencies and ministries, as well as funding or implementing partners like EU Member States, EU delegations and international and in-country development partners.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **overall objective** of this Action is to help implement Global Gateway identified investments and support the sustainability of value chains, transparency and accountability.

The **specific objectives** of this Action are:

- (1) to implement the GG Business Advisory Group (GG BAG) and help implement selected priority GG investment projects;
- (2) to support the development of sustainable raw materials value chains between the EU and partner countries with the involvement of all stakeholders (Member States, private sector actors, Export Credit Agencies, Development Financial Institutions), in a Team Europe approach and relying on the full GG toolbox;
- (3) to support Commission services and EU delegations capacities in relation to private sector, trade, and employment matters, including the adaptation to new regulations, the reporting on Aid for trade or any other relevant related policy where Commission services and EU Delegations may need support with.

Underpinning all actions will be the promotion of gender equality (in accordance with the Gender Action Plan), inclusion and a human rights-based approach, as well as investment in women and youth. These issues will either be addressed through targeted actions or mainstreamed as crosscutting issues throughout all the priority areas¹².

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

In what relates to SO1:

Output1: The GG BAG and economic intelligence tools have been set up and contribute to the implementation of GG priorities, conducted in a gender-responsive and inclusive manner

Output 2: Commission services and EU Delegations have built more capacity to engage with the private sector to implement GG and EU Green Deal priorities

Output 3: Four GG investment priority projects have been facilitated

In what relates to SO2:

¹¹ EU-Africa: Global Gateway investment package-regional value chains. GG. Africa EU. TeamEurope. 2022.

¹² European Commission. Aid, development cooperation, Fundamental rights. https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/countries/sub-saharan-africa_en [Accessed on 12/09/2023]

Output 4: Strategic development, data intelligence and knowledge management / capacity building;

Output 5: Technical assistance to support the organisation of EU business missions and match-making activities covering the whole raw materials value chains, including ensuring EU participation in major international mining events;

Output 6: Technical assistance to identify and build integrated Global Gateway sustainable raw materials value chains with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders and a strong focus on local value creation;

In what relates to SO3:

Output 7: The improved knowledge of the stakeholders on the new policies and enhanced capacities to programme, design and implement trade, private sector and employment interventions

Output 8: The technical knowledge and thematic capacity on trade, private sector and employment of the EU personnel are improved

3.2 Indicative Activities

Output 1: The GG BAG and economic intelligence tools have been set up and contribute to the implementation of GG priorities, conducted in a gender-responsive and inclusive manner.

- Support the organization of GG BAG meetings, prepare them, liaise with relevant stakeholders, ensure contributions of the private sector are effective
- Provide economic intelligence media tools that enables EU Commission services and EU delegations to better understand, identify and foresee GG related strategic and sustainable investments with partner countries / dialogues with partner countries.
- Promote the EU presence at relevant economic fora and enhance the engagement with the private sector under the Global Gateway strategy.

Output 2: Commission services and EU Delegations have built more capacity to engage with the private sector to implement GG priorities

- Provide support to Commission services and EU Delegations with short term assignments to help engage with the private sector and/or facilitate GG related investments (including translation of EU Green Deal objectives, mappings, studies, trainings or short-term missions).

Output 3: Four GG investment priority projects have been facilitated

- Investment projects facilitation activities to ‘implement’ the GG selected investment projects and support EU delegations, and linking to existing EU Tools (guarantees, blending, etc.). This will include to:
 - o Pro-actively promote a Team Europe approach to operationalize the identified strategic investments.
 - o Provide the required due diligence and environmental assessments of the investment opportunities received to assess whether it could be relevant or not to provide EU support or facilitation.

Output 4: Strategic development, data intelligence and knowledge management / capacity building

Building knowledge and capacities towards the identification and assessment of opportunities for strategic partnerships and strategic investments in sustainable raw materials value chains, with a strong focus on local value creation:

- Development of local intelligence and local business networks

- Studies to identify potential or assess alternative investment opportunities in actual or potential strategic partnership countries including knowledge management of existing studies and the use of generative AI
- Design short training modules on each CRM and each step of the value chain, including available technology, EU expertise and EU private sector positioning, challenges and opportunities
- Delivery of training to Commission Services and EU Delegations and other interested services in order to efficiently implement the strategic partnerships on raw materials value chains and related programmes

Output 5: Technical assistance to support the organisation of EU business missions and match-making activities covering the whole raw materials value chains, including ensuring EU participation in major international mining events

- Investment facilitation to support the implementation of the strategic partnerships and strategic investments in raw materials value chains
- Organisation of EU Business Missions covering each step of the value chain to all countries covered by an actual or potential strategic partnership, in cooperation with key networks when relevant (EEN, ECCP, Industrial Alliances)
- Reinforce Business-to-Business ties between EU, local and international companies (as appropriate) all along the value chains including design and identification of potential off-take agreements
- Ensure EU participation and EU visibility in sectoral conferences and events (including the logistical aspects required where relevant) with international, regional or national scope as relevant

Output 6: Technical assistance to identify and build integrated Global Gateway sustainable raw materials value chains with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders and a strong focus on local value creation

- Identify and advise on raw materials value chains investment opportunities that can be jointly developed with the EU private sector (particularly in countries covered by a strategic partnership)
- Provide due diligence on investment opportunities and facilitate investment in the sector in cooperation with the private sector, financial institutions, Export Credit Agencies, including potentially through the use of generative AI tools
- Studies required to feed into the negotiations/roadmap and development of knowledge leading to set up GG projects, including support for project design

Output 7: The improved knowledge of the stakeholders on the new policies and enhanced capacities to programme, design and implement trade, private sector and employment interventions

- Technical advice and support to analyse, design and implement EU interventions on trade, private sector and employment related matters.
- Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capacity development of operations managers involved in trade, private sector and employment programmes and provision of relevant services.
- Support policy dialogues and to answer specific queries from EU delegations on a wide range of topics.

Output 8: The technical knowledge and thematic capacity on trade, private sector and employment of the

EU personnel are improved

- Capitalise the knowledge acquired from trade, private sector and employment programmes¹³ by compiling the most relevant information in the TPSDE sharepoint.
- Management and facilitation of knowledge sharing networks on trade, private sector and employment targeted at mixed audiences (SB4A Network, Capacity4development).
- Develop and update of guidance material (guidelines, thematic reviews, concept notes), and where relevant the implementation of studies on subjects agreed with the European Commission.
- Develop/contribute to trainings/seminars/workshops in Brussels and possible regional seminars in partner countries (with possible synergies with other European Commission-related seminars such as Green and Circular Economy, Digitalisation, Social Economy, Agribusinesses, Energy, women's economic empowerment, economic growth and decent work, Rights-based approach, etc.).
- Contribute to the joined up approach by gathering EU and EU Member States knowledge and experiences (case studies, guidance, etc.) and support peer learning and coordination.
- Organisation and facilitation of meetings/workshops/events in Brussels, and on the ground. This includes the organisation of an Annual TPSDE Facility event.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change:

The main objective of this action is to implement GG priorities and to develop further sustainability of selected value chains. In this regard, this action will **mitigate environmental impact of said value chain and will foster a sustainable approach for the planet**. The TPSD is supporting private sector adaptation to green deal regulations, while the newly set-up CRM Facility should support sustainable mining practices and contribute to achieving the Green Deal through access to CRM. While mining has a significant environmental impact, the CRM facility aims to foster and identify sustainable investments in the mining sector that follow high environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards. The facility will also support rigorous due diligence on selected CRM operations to ensure adherence to all relevant current and upcoming EU regulations such as the EU Conflict Minerals Regulation¹⁴, the EU Battery Regulation¹⁵ and the proposal for a Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive¹⁶ and support sustainable mining practices. The action could draw on novel generative AI tools, as various private sector actors already do for their due diligence processes. Ensuring a diversified access to sustainably extracted and produced CRM will, through their high importance and usage for renewable energies (in wind turbines, solar panels etc.), contribute to significantly reduce the carbon footprint of the EU and thus contribute to achieving the green transition.

As indicated as well in Annex 3 to this Action and as follows, further analysis of key environmental and climate related aspects will be addressed during the design of the actions.

Outcomes of the SEA screening: The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that an SEA is not required but that key environmental and climate-related aspects will be addressed during design of the action.

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening: The EIA (Environment Impact

¹³ In particular from phase 1 of the TPSD Facility, from the Tradecom II programme, from the Competitive Industries and Innovation Programme (CIIP) with the World Bank, the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), the Aid for Trade annual reports and any other information considered relevant from EU related interventions.

¹⁴ Regulation (EU) 2017/821

¹⁵ COM(2020) 798 final

¹⁶ COM(2022) 71 final

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 at no or low risk (no need for further assessment).

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls: In line with the Private sector Commission Communication and with the Gender Action Plan III (GAP III), the TPSDE incorporates specific work on **Women Economic Empowerment**. It will also prioritise youth and persons living in vulnerable situations¹⁷ environmentally sustainable, climate-resilient, low-emission development and the **transition to a green and circular economy** and to a new digital world – taking into account of the specific characteristics of the national or regional context. Internal collaboration between European Commission’s services will be promoted to this end.

Therefore this action is considered **labeled as a G1**. The development of the program includes objectives that will have a positive impact by increasing gender equality by promoting equal opportunities in the economic, labor, commercial and new green technologies fields.

Human Rights: This action having for objective the sustainable implementation of the GG, it will address human rights under principles 1 of the GG strategy ‘Democratic values and High standards’ as well as foster sustainable activities for the people. This action is also aligned with the EU’s Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024. The action will apply a human rights-based approach by ensuring respect of all human rights, participation, non-discrimination, accountability, and transparency in all phases. In line with the human rights-based approach methodology, the proposed action will abide by the ‘do no harm principle’ to avoid unintended negative impact in terms of human rights.

In addition, any action targeting ‘conflict minerals’ directly concerns human rights issues including child/labour and forced labour situations, since conflicts related to minerals are notorious in terms of human rights abuses. ILO Convention No. 182 describes the worst forms of child labour as labour that is ‘likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children’. The Convention prohibits children under 18 engaging in this category of harmful work. During the implementation of the action, attention will also be given to internationally recognised guidelines and principles, including the UN Global Compact, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Tripartite Declaration of Principles Concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, the ISO 26000 Guidance Standard on Social Responsibility and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

In this sense, the **nexus of business and human rights** is pertinent in respect to human rights frameworks and ensuring effective and inclusive participation.

Disability: As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. While disability has not been targeted as an objective, the action will promote an inclusive approach towards people with disabilities in compliance with the mandate of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of persons with Disabilities in Africa which in its article 5 recognizes that every person with a disability shall be entitled to the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms recognised and guaranteed in this Protocol.

Reduction of inequalities: As per the Inequality Marker, the Action is labelled I-1. The Action has the potential to contribute to inequality reduction by promoting inclusive policy processes, decent jobs and sustainable development. An inclusive sustainability of value chains can enable resource abundant countries to utilise their natural resources to promote development, retain long-term ownership over them and address issues such as conflict metals and exploitation. Sustainable value chains can also improve the working conditions and can benefit health and quality of life for workers and users in a range of practical sustainable value chains applications in sectors and SDGs including, among others, waste management, water and sanitation, clean energy, food production and urban development.

¹⁷ COM(2014)263: §2.1 Principles for strengthening the role of the private sector in EU development cooperation.

Democracy: This action having for objective the sustainable implementation of the GG, it will address human rights under principles 1 of the GG strategy “Democratic values and High standards” as well as foster sustainable practices for the people.

Disaster Risk Reduction: This action does not target disaster risk reduction.

Other considerations if relevant: In order to achieve the objectives of this Action, relevant cross-cutting issues will be addressed within the implementation of the Facilities. Trade and private sector development are interdisciplinary fields and given the links to human development, women and youth empowerment, democracy and inclusive sustainable and equitable economic growth, cross-cutting issues such as good governance, human rights, employment and social affairs, environment and gender equality will be integrated into the activities of the Facility.

Mainstreaming of **digitalisation for development** is also particularly relevant to private sector and trade and to the new priorities of the EU for international partnerships. In particular, support to digital financial inclusion and specially of women as well as discussions on digital connectivity from an inclusion perspective will be addressed.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
3 – People and the Organisation	EU delegations are not interested in receiving support for investment facilitation	Low	Low	The GGIP facility will inform and work together with the EU delegations and headquarters to identify the best way to support Commission Services and delegations to facilitate GG priority investment projects
2- Planning, Processes and Systems	The GG investment projects identified are not concrete enough to start working on investment facilitation	Medium	Medium	The GGIP facility will adapt the work based on most concrete investment projects as well as will facilitate the definition of those which are not well defined
3 – People and the Organisation	There is not enough joint work with EU Delegations and therefore demand to work on raw materials value chains	Low	Low	The CRM facility will do information sessions and bilateral work with EU delegations, supporting as well in particular those who have raw materials value chains in their portfolio as one of their priorities
1 -External Environment	Private sector engagement is not embedded in	Medium	Medium	The TPSDE Facility will work in close collaboration with other the European Commission. The European Commission

	projects/programmes with potential for PSD/PSE mainstreaming at sector and value chains levels			in the thematic reviews of Action Documents, and in its coordination should ensure mainstreaming of private sector engagement internally, with relevant Commission services
3 – People and the Organisation	There is limited interest in the support offered by the TPSD Facility II	Low	Low	The TPSDE Facility together with the European Commission will continue showcasing the work of the Facility in trainings, meetings and events to increase their participation
2 – Planning, Processes and Systems	EU TPSDE interventions remain scattered with little coherence at the EU level	Medium	Medium	A close coordination with EU Member States as far as possible through the existing coordination at centralised and country levels.

Lessons Learnt:

The current TPSDE Facility contract is being implemented since 2021 and has demonstrated to be a key programme to support EU Delegations and Commission HQs to understand the new regulations (Green Deal related regulations) and adapt our cooperation, narrative and tools to address the challenges these new regulations will impose in partner countries, mostly in the private sector. This has translated into new or better formulated actions by Headquarters and EU delegations.

In relation to the two new facilities, it has been acknowledged the need of further engaging with the private sector in a structured manner. This requires a support programme to this end, as well as specific capacity building in this sense within the EU delegations and Commission services. The increase in internal capacity is key in order to be able to deploy GG related policy priorities. This includes the development of raw material value chains partnerships, given the fact that this value chain is of key importance to achieve the green and digital transition and knowledge within EU delegations and Commission services is limited. In order to also mitigate the associated ESG risks of CRM value chains, it is important to engage with various stakeholders both up- and downstream the value chain, comprising private sector, government and civil society actors.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The overall objective of this Action is to help implement Global Gateway identified investments and support the sustainability of value chains, transparency and accountability.

The specific objectives of this Action are:

- (1) to implement the GG Business Advisory Group (GG BAG) and help implement selected priority GG investment projects;
- (2) To develop sustainable raw materials value chains between the EU and partner countries with the involvement of all stakeholders (Member States, private sector actors, Export Credit Agencies, Development Financial Institutions), in a Team Europe approach and relying on the full GG toolbox;
- (3) To support Commission services and EU delegations capacities in relation to private sector, trade, and employment matters, including the adaptation to new regulations, the reporting on Aid for trade or any other relevant related policy where Commission services and EU Delegations may need support with.

The two new facilities ‘BAG support facility’ and ‘Critical Raw Materials value chains facility’ (CRM Facility) will support the implementation of the Global Gateway Business Advisory Group (GG BAG) and the development of raw materials value chains partnerships

The BAG support facility entails the running of the meetings, consultation with the private sector and feeding into the GG Board-. It also includes to help Commission services and EU delegations facilitate selected priority sustainable GG investments.

It will also provide specific economic intelligence tools that Commission services and EU delegations will be able to use to better assess and identify possible sustainable investments in GG related sectors/industries.

The ‘Critical Raw Materials value chains facility’ (CRM Facility) will support more in particular, and as part of a GG priority, the development of sustainable raw materials value chains, and will help Commission services and EU delegations increase their capacities in this area.

This Action includes as well a top up to the TPSDE facility that is already successfully running. The top up will enable the TPSDE to continue supporting Commission services and EU delegations with technical assistance support (short term assignments and learning activities namely) to increase their capacities and understanding on private sector, trade and employment related matters.

The TPSDE will continue, among other things, assessing and disseminating the impacts of the Green Deal regulatory measures and due diligence on the private sector, as well as helping implement business environment reforms with partner countries. The top up of the TPSDE will cover a period of 2 years by a team of long and short-term experts.

The Action will ensure complementarity with other facilities and programmes at geographical and thematic levels.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

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

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To help implement Global Gateway identified investments and support the sustainability of value chains, transparency and accountability.	TBD by latest end 2024	TBD by latest end 2024	TBD by latest end 2024	TBD by latest end 2024	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	To implement the GG Business Advisory Group (GG BAG) and help implement selected priority GG investment projects;	<p>Number of GG BAG meetings taking place at plenary and high level</p> <p>Relevance and strategic inputs of the meetings and the GG BAG structure</p> <p>Extent to which gender equality aspects are considered in the GG BAG meetings</p>	<p>One meeting (2023)</p> <p>Feedback from first high level meeting of GG BAG (2023): Level of relevance and strategic inputs to be assessed</p>	<p>Two meetings per year</p> <p>High relevance and strategic input as feedback from plenary and high level meetings of GG BAG</p>	Project reporting	TBD by latest end 2024
Outcome 2	To support the development of sustainable raw materials value chains between the EU and partner countries with the involvement of all stakeholders (Member States, private sector actors, Export Credit Agencies, Development Financial Institutions), in a Team Europe approach and relying on the full GG toolbox	<p>Number of raw materials partnerships – Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreed with partner countries</p> <p>Number of raw materials partnerships - Roadmaps agreed with partner countries</p> <p>Extent to which the partner country's gender equality aspects of the labour market policy is monitored and evaluated (GAP III indicator).</p>	<p>Three MoUs agreed (2023)</p> <p>Two Roadmaps agreed (2023)</p> <p>One Roadmap under implementation (2023)</p>	<p>Six MoUs agreed (2026)</p> <p>Six Roadmaps agreed (2026)</p> <p>Three Roadmaps under implementation (2026)</p>	<p>Meeting reports</p> <p>Facility reports</p>	Raw materials partnerships continue to be policy priority

Outcome 3	To support Commission services and EU delegations capacities in relation to private sector, trade, and employment matters, including the adaptation to new regulations, the reporting on Aid for trade or any other relevant related policy where Commission services and EU Delegations may need support with	Number of EU delegations facilitating public-private dialogue processes	Number of EU delegations already facilitating PPD processes	50 EU delegations facilitating PPD processes	15 EU delegations with Roadmaps to further engage with the private sector	EUR 1000 payments for EU funded Business Environment related actions at global level in 2024	- TPSDE Facility II six monthly reports - European Commission's analysis based on DAC codes	EU personnel has the availability to participate in learning activities and in the short-term missions
		Number of EU delegations with roadmaps to further engage with the private sector	Amount in EUR of EU funded Business Environment related actions as per DAC codes analysis	5 EU delegations plan or implement Women Economic Empowerment interventions as a result of the TPSDE Facility support				
		Amount of EU interventions committed in Business environment improvement related actions	Number of EU delegations planning or implementing Women Economic Empowerment interventions as a result of the TPSDE Facility intervention	Number of EU delegations planning or implementing Women Economic Empowerment interventions as a result of the TPSDE Facility support, as per TPSDE Facility six monthly reports				

Output 1 relating to Outcome 1	Output1: The GG BAG and economic intelligence tools have been set up and contribute to the implementation of GG priorities	<p>Economic intelligence tools are set up and provide relevant inputs for GG implementation</p> <p>Number and details of EU and its MS's bilateral and regional dialogues that include WPS-related priorities and commitments (GAP III indicator)</p>	Economic intelligence tools are set up (zero in 2023)	Economic intelligence tool are set up and contribute effectively (qualitative feedback and number of tools set up as of 2024)	TBD by latest end 2024	TBD by latest end 2024
Output 2 relating to Outcome 1	Output 2: Commission services and EU Delegations have built more capacity to engage with the private sector to implement GG priorities	<p>Short term missions of technical assistance provided to EU delegations/Commission services to further engage with the private sector (mappings of private sector investments or help facilitate engagement)</p> <p>Number of relevant actors (private sector companies, ministries, etc.) influenced to adopt processes to improve women's economic empowerment / to remove barriers to market access for women in a given sector (FPI RF) (GAP III indicator).</p>	0 short term missions in 2023	12 short term missions at least as of 2024	TBD by latest end 2024	TBD by latest end 2024
Output 3 relating to Outcome 1	Output 3: Selected priority investment projects according to GG priorities have been facilitated	<p>Facilitation of specific GG priority investment projects</p> <p>Number of practices aimed at removing barriers preventing women from market access, investment and business development (FPI RF). (GAP III indicator).</p>	0 selected GG priority selected investment project facilitated	4 selected GG priority selected investment project facilitated (by 2026)	TBD by latest end 2024	TBD by latest end 2024

Output 4 relating to Outcome 2	Output 4: Strategic development, data intelligence and knowledge management / capacity building;	Number of studies on investment opportunities Number of short training modules on CRM produced Number of staff trained Expert capacity and capability are available and accessible in EU institutions/services and the EU Member States, to conduct gender analysis and to support the systematic integration of a gender perspective. (GAP III indicator)	Two studies produced (2023) Zero staff trained (2023) Zero training modules produced (2023)	5 studies produced 30 Staff trained 10 training modules produced	TBD by latest end 2024	TBD by latest end 2024
Output 5 relating to Outcome 2	Output 5: Technical assistance to support the organisation of EU business missions and match-making activities covering the whole raw materials value chains, including ensuring EU participation in major international mining events	Number of EU business missions supported Number of international fora with EU presence	Zero Business Missions supported (2023) Presence of EU in international fora: one in 2023	2 business missions per year supported Presence of EU in international fora: 3 per year	Business Mission Reports Event Reports	TBD by latest end 2024

Output 6 relating to Outcome 2	<p>Output 6: Technical assistance to identify and build integrated sustainable raw materials value chains with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders and a strong focus on local value creation in the framework of Global Gateway</p>	<p>Number of investment opportunities identified</p> <p>Due diligence provided on investment opportunities</p> <p>Number of studies produced supporting the Roadmap and development of Global Gateway projects</p>	<p>Zero investment opportunities identified (2023)</p> <p>Zero due diligence provided (2023)</p> <p>Zero studies produced (2023)</p>	<p>12 investment opportunities identified</p> <p>12 due diligence provided</p> <p>3 studies produced</p>	<p>TBD by latest end 2024</p>	<p>TBD by latest end 2024</p>
Output 7 relating to Outcome 3	<p>Output 7: The improved knowledge of the stakeholders on the new policies and enhanced capacities to programme, design and implement TPSDE interventions</p>	<p>Number of short term missions to support EU delegations in TPSDE related matters</p>	<p>12 short term missions per year</p>	<p>12 missions per year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission reports • Feedback on missions from EU delegations <p>TPSDE Facility II six monthly reports</p>	<p>TBD by latest end 2024</p>
Output 8 relating to Outcome 3	<p>Output 8: The technical knowledge and thematic capacity on TPSDE of the EU personnel are improved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of EU personnel trained on on TPSDE related issues (disaggregated by sex) • Status of the TPSDE sharepoint • Number of participants to the TPSDE Facility Annual event <p>Status of Knowledge products made available</p>	<p>Number of EU personnel trained before the project</p>	<p>400 people trained per year</p> <p>1 event per year</p> <p>5 Infopoint sessions per year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TPSDE Facility II six monthly reports <p>TPSDE sharepoint Analytics</p>	<p>TBD by latest end 2024</p>

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

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

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 96 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

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

4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures¹⁸.

4.3.1. Direct Management (Procurement)

Part of the action related to Output 7 and 8 corresponding to Objective 3 may be implemented through procurement.

4.3.2. Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

Part of the action related to Outputs 1, 2 and 3 (Specific Objective 1) and Outputs 4, 5 and 6 (Specific Objective 2) may be implemented in indirect management with an entity which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

For Specific Objective 1:

- (1) Expertise in private sector engagement with the EU private sector,
- (2) Capacity of managing high level and strategic matters with diplomacy and professionalism;
- (3) Capacity of mobilising EU private sector where relevant to facilitate priority selected investment projects;
- (4) Organisational and management capacity to run the GG BAG as such and this particular contract.

This modality entails the implementation of the GG Business Advisory Group (GG BAG) and helping to implement selected priority GG investment projects in line with Specific Objective 1 of this action.

For Specific Objective 2:

- (1) Demonstrated experience in the raw materials sector both in the EU and in third countries;
- (2) Demonstrated networking and outreach capacities with the EU private sector, Member States Governments, civil society institutions and the financial sector;
- (3) Demonstrated experience in knowledge management,
- (4) Experience in due diligence with a focus on environmental, social and governance standards.

The implementation entails the development of sustainable raw materials value chains between the EU and partner countries with the involvement of all stakeholders (Member States, private sector actors, Export Credit

¹⁸ 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.

Agencies, Development Financial Institutions), in a Team Europe approach and relying on the full GG toolbox in line with Specific Objective 2 of this action.

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

If the planned implementation modality under indirect management cannot be implemented due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, part of the action related to Outputs 1, 2 and 3 (Specific Objective 1) may be implemented in direct management through procurement. The part of the action related to Outputs 4, 5 and 6 (Specific Objective 2) may be implemented in direct management through grants.

Direct Management (Procurement) - Objective 1 (Outputs 1, 2 and 3)

The purpose of the procurement is to implement the GG Business Advisory Group (GG BAG) and help implement selected priority GG investment projects.

Direct Management (Grant) – Specific objective 2 (Outputs 4, 5 and 6)

(a) Purpose of the grant

The purpose of the grant is to contribute to the development of sustainable raw materials value chains between the EU and partner countries with the involvement of all stakeholders (Member States, private sector actors, Export Credit Agencies, Development Financial Institutions), in a Team Europe approach and relying on the full GG toolbox.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

Potential applicants are legal entities, natural persons or groupings without legal personality; local authorities, public bodies, international organisations, NGOs, economic operators.

(c) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to any eligible type of applicant selected using the following criteria: Demonstrated experience in the raw materials sector both in the EU and in third countries, demonstrated networking and outreach capacities with key European stakeholders, in particular the European private sector but also governments, civil society institutions and the financial sector, demonstrated experience in knowledge management, experience in business match-making activities, experience in due diligence with a focus on environmental, social and governance standards.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposal is justified as laid down in Art. 195 f) of the Financial Regulation because the activities falling under Specific Objective 2 require an in-depth technical knowledge of the raw materials sector. In order to adequately fulfill in particular the investment facilitation, the business match-making activities and project due diligence activities covered under Outputs 4, 5 and 6, the selected entity needs to also have a large network of key (European) stakeholders. This network needs to include key actors from the private sector, government entities, civil society and the financial sector, covering different value chain activities and several critical and strategic raw materials as laid down in the Critical Raw Materials Act.

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.

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 2023 (amount in EUR)
Specific Objective 1 and 2 – GG BAG support facility, CRM Facility	
Indirect Management with an entrusted entity – cf. section 4.3.2	8 000 000
Specific Objective 3 – TPSD II top up	
Direct management (Procurement) – cf. section 4.3.1	2 000 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	may be covered by another Decision
Totals	10 000 000

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

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

Each facility has its own management governance, having a strong focus on project management, to ensure there is coordination of the different actions and complementarity to other facilities. The new facilities will ensure that the team has enough capacity to manage the programme and have the relevant expertise. The TPSDE has already a very well established team and governance with the European Commission and relevant stakeholders.

The European Commission will ensure that reporting is done adequately with the relevant project manager.

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

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

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

At the level of each project, the responsibility for data collection and monitoring will lie with the implementing partners, contractors or grant beneficiaries in the framework of their contractual responsibility. Project-specific logframes will be defined in the respective contracts/agreements and during the inception phases, in a way that will allow as much as possible for aggregation of results of the Action globally. At regional level, Technical Assistance recruited under the regional component, acting as secretariat of the Regional Steering Committee, will ensure the coordination and consolidation of data collected at the level of corridors and the aggregation and analysis of results, inter alia for strategic communication purpose.

All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is considering the principle of gender equality, human rights-based approach, and rights of persons with disabilities including inclusion and diversity Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by sex.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a final evaluation may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants.

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that the action proposes an innovative structure, combining two priorities and with a strong corridor approach prioritised under a consolidated single action.

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

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

The evaluation will 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.

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.

In line with the 2022 '[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)', it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU Member States.

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

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	GG BAG support facility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	Critical Raw Materials value chains Facility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 3	TPSDE II top up