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

**ANNEX X**

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan for the thematic programme on human rights and democracy for 2022-2024

**Action Document for National Human Rights Institutions 2022-2025**

**MULTIANNUAL PLAN**

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and action plans in the sense of Article 23(2) of Regulation 2021/947.

## 1 SYNOPSIS

### 1.1 Action Summary Table

<b>1. Title</b> <b>CRIS/OPSYS</b> <b>business reference</b> <b>Basic Act</b>	National Human Rights Institutions 2022-2025 CRIS reference: 043-841 OPSYS reference: ACT-60824 / JAD.971953 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument ( <u>Global Europe</u> )
<b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>	No
<b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>	Global
<b>4. Programming document</b>	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for the Thematic Programme on Human Rights and Democracy 2021-2027
<b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results</b>	Priority 3: Promoting a global system for human rights and democracy Specific Objective: To enhance strategic partnership with and improve effectiveness of key international, regional and national actors to advance the realization of all human rights for all. Expected Result: Strengthened capacities of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and broadened engagement platforms between NHRIs, civil society organizations, national authorities and regional and international human rights bodies.
<b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	150 - Government & Civil Society - general
<b>7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	Due to its human-rights focus, the action contributes to the implementation of the 2030 agenda as a whole. However, it makes a direct contribution to one main goal and two secondary goals. As a main goal, the direct contribution is to SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development; provide access to justice for all; and build effective,

	accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. As secondary goals, the direct contributions are: - SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; - SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries; - SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.			
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	15160 – Human rights			
<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel @</b>	50000 Other – National Human Rights Institutions and their formal global and regional networks			
<b>9. Targets</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

	job creation digital skills/literacy digital services		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity @ Tags: transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BUDGET INFORMATION</b>				
<b>12. Amounts concerned</b>	Budget line 14.02 02 11  Total estimated cost: EUR 5 260 000  The EU contribution is for an amount of EUR 5 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2022  Contribution from third parties: EUR 260 000 (GANHRI)			
<b>MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>				
<b>13. Type of financing</b>	<b>Direct management</b> through: - Grants (direct award)			

## 1.2 Summary of the Action

Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI Regulation<sup>1</sup>) states that the protection of human rights defenders including in the most difficult circumstances and urgent situations as a specific objective of the Instrument in Article 3((2)). In line with the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders (HRDs)<sup>2</sup>, practical support to HRDs includes “encouraging and supporting the establishment, and work, of national bodies for the promotion and protection of human rights, established in accordance with the Paris Principles, including, National Human Rights Institutions”.

The establishment and functioning of independent and effective National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) is essential for the implementation of human rights, democratic and rule of law standards at the national level. NHRIs are crucial actors in the broader human rights architecture. They are uniquely placed to hold governments to account and to monitor, promote and protect human rights. Support to NHRIs and their networks at global and

<sup>1</sup> REGULATION (EU) 2021/947 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 9 June 2021

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eu\\_guidelines\\_hrd\\_en.pdf](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eu_guidelines_hrd_en.pdf)

regional levels have long been a priority of the EU external action in the field of human rights.

Building on past achievements and lessons learned of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)<sup>3</sup>, the Action will pursue and reinforce its support to NHRI networks at global level (the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)) and at regional level (Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF), the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI), the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) and the Network of the National Human Rights Institutions of the Americas (RINDHCA)). The action will continue working along strategic axes: i) capacity-building and peer-to-peer exchanges; ii) support to NHRIs' work as HRDs and their engagement to protect HRDs and civic space; iii) support to NHRIs accreditation process and engagement with international and regional human rights bodies; iii) reinforcement of global and regional networks capacity; and iv) enhance NHRIs effectiveness on key thematic areas, including human rights based approach to SDGs and the environment as well as torture prevention.

Since 2015, the EU supports global and regional networks of NHRIs to reinforce their action and structure, as well as to build capacity of NHRIs at national level, through the implementation of the programme NHRI.EU phases 1 and 2.

The action will contribute to the following specific objective and result of the human rights and democracy thematic programme multi-annual indicative programme: to enhance strategic partnership with and improve effectiveness of key international, regional and national actors to advance the realization of all human rights for all (specific objective), and to strengthened capacities of NHRIs and broadened engagement platforms between NHRIs, civil society organizations, national authorities and regional and international human rights bodies (expected result).

The EU support will contribute to the whole SDG framework and in particular SDGs 16, 5, 10 and 17.

## 2 RATIONALE

### 2.1 Context

#### **General Context**

Protecting and promoting human rights and democracy, founding values of the European Union, is a key priority of EU's external action and a pre-condition for sustainable development and for building more inclusive, open and resilient societies.

Articles 2, 3 and 21 of the Treaty of the European Union (TEU) constitute the legal basis for the EU's human rights policy in external actions. In particular, Article 21 of the TEU states that 'the Union's action on the international scene shall be guided by the principles which have inspired its own creation, (...) democracy, the rule of law, the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms...'. The EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy for the period 2020-2024, adopted by the Council<sup>4</sup>, is the compass for the EU's external action in this field. The Action Plan identifies priorities and key actions for the next five years, to ensure that the EU plays a greater role in promoting and defending human rights and democracy throughout its external action.

2020 was the first year since 2001 in which the majority of the world's countries were autocracies. The downward trend follows a similar pattern in many countries – repression of civil society, media and human rights defenders; undermining of the rule of law and separation of powers; and hollowing out of democratic institutions and elections. The average citizen's experience of democracy is back to levels of the 1990s<sup>5</sup>.

Human rights defenders, including journalists are increasingly persecuted, defamed, harassed, arbitrarily arrested

<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EU) No 235/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for democracy and human rights worldwide

<sup>4</sup> <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-12848-2020-INIT/en/pdf>

<sup>5</sup> VDEM 2021 Annual report

and imprisoned, tortured, and even killed. As human rights defenders have become more effective in challenging injustice, oppression and brutality, so has the repression against them. A pervasive climate of impunity has often led to a vicious cycle of abuse. The effectiveness of accountability mechanisms has faltered, and the international accountability framework continually challenged on its credibility and effectiveness. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated risks and threats to human rights defenders, as well as restrictions on their work.

In the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), the EU has recognised that practical support to HRDs includes "encouraging and supporting the establishment, and work, of national bodies for the promotion and protection of human rights, established in accordance with the Paris Principles, including, National Human Rights Institutions, Ombudsman's Offices and Human Rights Commissions"<sup>6</sup>.

This Action is aligned with the Agenda for Change<sup>7</sup>, the New European Consensus on Development<sup>8</sup>, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Gender Action Plan III<sup>9</sup>, the EU Action plan for human rights and democracy 2020-2024<sup>10</sup>, and the European Commission's Joint Communication on strengthening the EU's contribution to rules-based multilateralism<sup>11</sup>. NDICI-Global Europe Regulation<sup>12</sup> mentions it in its Annex III as an area of intervention for the Thematic Programme on Human Rights and Democracy. The Action contributes to achieve the objectives of the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders (2004, revised in 2008).

### **Specific Context**

NHRIs have increasingly been recognised by the EU as a key actor for support and engagement within the area of human rights and democracy. In article 2.1(a)(ii) of the EIDHR Regulation 2014-20, the scope of EU assistance is aimed at 'supporting National Human Rights Institutions'. The Multiannual Indicative Programme (2018-20) for the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, Objective 1, acknowledges that independent NHRIs upholding the Paris principles are not only key actors in defending the legal and operating space of human rights defenders and civil society in third countries, but that they can be considered human rights defenders themselves. This is fully in line with the UN's recognition of NHRIs as human rights defenders in 2013<sup>13</sup>. In addition, the Objective 5 of the said Multiannual Indicative Programme also recognises NHRIs as key national human rights bodies, contributing to mechanisms at regional and international levels. The EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024 includes support to independent national human rights institutions and commissions, ombudspersons and equality bodies, in line with the Paris and Venice principles, and engage with them in the context of human rights dialogues. The EU Action Plan also foresees support and peer learning for regional human rights institutions, including human rights courts and independent networks of human rights institutions.

Independent NHRIs are crucial actors in the broader human rights architecture and in enabling rights-based development processes, and uniquely placed to hold governments to account and to monitor, promote and protect human rights. NHRIs have an important bridge building role between governments, HRDs, civil society and the

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<sup>6</sup> EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), 2008.

<sup>7</sup> COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change {SEC(2011) 1172 final} {SEC(2011) 1173 final}

<sup>8</sup> JOINT STATEMENT of 26/6/2017 BY THE COUNCIL AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION THE NEW EUROPEAN CONSENSUS ON DEVELOPMENT 'OUR WORLD, OUR DIGNITY, OUR FUTURE'

<sup>9</sup> JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL EU GENDER ACTION PLAN (GAP) III – AN AMBITIOUS AGENDA FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN EU EXTERNAL ACTION {WD(2020) 284 final}

<sup>10</sup> JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024 JOIN(2020) 5 final of 25.3.2020

<sup>11</sup> JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL on strengthening the EU's contribution to rules-based multilateralism JOIN(2021) 3 final 17.2.2021

<sup>12</sup> REGULATION (EU) 2021/947 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe

<sup>13</sup> In 2013, NHRIs were recognized by the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders as human rights defenders (A/HRC/22/47).

private sector on the one hand, and between national, regional and international human rights mechanisms on the other. GANHRI and the four regional NHRI networks play an indispensable role in coordination and cooperation among NHRIs at regional and international levels.

Under previous phases of the NHRI.EU programme, global and regional networks of NHRIs enabled an increasing number of their members to be effective and compliant with the Paris Principles. NHRIs and their networks increased their participation in the work of international and regional human rights mechanisms. Another important direction of work supported by the EU was to enhance the effectiveness of NHRIs as HRDs in their core mandate areas and on the basis of the 2018 Marrakech Declaration. The NHRI.EU programme enabled NHRIs and their networks to increase their key role in SDG national implementation and review along a human rights-based approach. Finally, EU support allowed international and regional NHRI networks to reinforce their capacity to assist NHRIs, especially in the framework of the accreditation process.

## 2.2 Problem Analysis

The proposed action is designed to respond to the alarming and deteriorating situation of shrinking legal, administrative, financial, operational and physical space for civil society and human rights defenders, including NHRIs, around the world. Globally, human rights violations are on the rise, with indications of unprecedented crackdown on independent civic and democratic space. NHRIs and their networks are equally affected by this situation:

- NHRI staff e.g. in the Americas and Asia have been attacked, threatened and intimidated, such as the assassination of an Ombudsman in Mexico in November 2017. Several staff members of the Afghan NHRI were killed recently. Further guidance, peer-to-peer support and strategies to respond to the challenges faced by individual NHRIs under threat are needed.
- Many NHRIs face challenges of legal, political and financial nature in fulfilling their core mandates in line with the Paris principles. For instance, attempts to pass new laws limiting their scope or mandate, threats or outright efforts by authorities to politically influence or sack NHRI leadership, and/or cuts on financial and human resources challenge the operational capacity of NHRIs to fulfil their mandate. This was further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Further principled and financial support to NHRIs in the GANHRI-managed peer-to-peer accreditation process and in core identified mandate areas, such as human rights education, communication and awareness raising, complaints-handling, documentation, monitoring and reporting, has thus been identified. Additionally, support to NHRIs mandate and action in the field of torture prevention, given that many of them are designated as National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), has also been assessed as crucially relevant.
- NHRIs are faced by new serious and trans-boundary challenges to human rights to which they cannot act alone or in isolation, e.g. in situations of regional instability, violent conflicts or violent acts, migration and displacement, environmental concerns and impact of transnational business practice. Addressing these complex matters needs joined-up responses and coordinated means.

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

NHRIs are crucial actors in the broader human rights architecture and in enabling rights-based development processes. They are peer reviewed in line with the officially recognised 1993 United Nations Paris principles<sup>14</sup> defining the level of independence of any given institution (A-status independent and compliant with the Paris principles and B-nearly independent/compliant).<sup>15</sup> As institutions of accountability, they can play an important role in the implementation of the SDGs and in tracking progress with regards to specific indicators and ensuring that particular groups of rights-holders are not left behind. They also have an important bridge building role between governments, civil society and private sector on the one hand, and between national, regional and

<sup>14</sup> Adopted by General Assembly resolution 48/134 of 20 December 1993.

<sup>15</sup> Since 1993, the number of NHRIs has increased from a few to over 100 institutions worldwide. Currently there are 78 A status NHRIs, 33 B status and in total more than 120 NHRIs members of GANHRI. Chart of the Status of National Human Rights Institutions accredited by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, as of 26 May 2017.

international human rights mechanisms on the other. In this respect, GANHRI and its global secretariat, and the four regional NHRI secretariats or networks –APF, ENNHRI, NANHRI and RINDHCA – play an indispensable role in coordination and cooperation among NHRIs at regional and international levels.

Key stakeholders beyond NHRIs and their networks include the UN (in particular the OHCHR and UNDP, given that they are cooperating with GANHRI in the framework of the Tripartite Partnership to support NHRIs), regional inter-governmental institutions (e.g. OSCE, Council of Europe, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights), as well as EU member states and other like-minded countries supporting NHRIs. National authorities are main duty-bearers for the establishment of independent NHRIs, and as such remain essential actors to address. EU Delegations are significantly involved in interacting with and providing support to NHRIs on the ground, increasingly under geographic programmes and the thematic programme. This project will help meeting the demand for EU support to NHRIs, and ensure proper support for and coordination with other EU-funded projects.

The beneficiaries are individual NHRIs, as well as civil society and human rights defenders operating in difficult context. The actions shall be gender sensitive and take into consideration specific needs of women and vulnerable groups in society. The final beneficiaries are all individuals of countries with NHRIs who will benefit from increased protection and observance of human rights in national laws, public policies and in the conduct of the state, of local authorities and businesses.

### 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

#### 3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to enhance the role and capacity of NHRIs as well as of their global and regional networks in promoting and protecting human rights of all individuals.

The Specific(s) Objective(s) (Outcomes) of this action are to

1. Reinforce NHRIs' effectiveness in promoting and protecting human rights defenders and civic space, as well as supporting NHRIs under threat in line with the 2018 Marrakech Declaration and follow-up frameworks.
2. Support the establishment, reinforcement and accreditation of NHRIs to be compliant with the Paris Principles and continue strengthening the capacity of global and regional networks to support their member NHRIs.
3. Enhance NHRIs' effectiveness in key identified thematic areas and in the implementation of their core mandate areas of human rights work.

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

- 1.1 Improved capacity of and tools for NHRIs to monitor, document, report, promote and protect civic space and HRDs.
- 1.2 Enhanced ability and advocacy action of global and regional networks as well as NHRIs to support other NHRIs facing threats, attacks and reprisals.
- 2.1 Strengthened accreditation process, bodies (e.g. Sub-Committee on Accreditation) and guidance tools, as well as increased capacity of NHRIs to engage with international and regional bodies and mechanisms.
- 2.2 Strengthened organisational and institutional capacities, as well as governance of global and regional NHRI networks, including their secretariats.
- 3.1 Enhanced knowledge, skills, exchanges and capacity of NHRIs in identified thematic areas (e.g. environment and human rights, torture prevention, visits of detention facilities, rights of the child, human rights-based approach to national review and implementation of SDGs among others).
- 3.2 Improved skills, knowledge, capacity and practice of NHRIs in core identified mandate areas of human rights education, communication and awareness raising, complaints-handling, documentation, monitoring and reporting, in compliance with the Paris Principles.



## 3.2 Indicative Activities

The NHRI.EU phase 3 activities will be implemented by GANHRI and the four regional networks (APF, ENNHRI, NANHRI and RINDHCA).

### Activities related to Output 1.1

- Disseminate and raise awareness on global and regional action plans for NHRIs on HRDs and civic space developed on the basis of the 2018 Marrakesh Declaration.
- Develop (notably online) capacity building tools and programmes to implement the action plans, including on: (1) NHRIs' engagement with HRDs at risk (focus on women HRDs, environmental, land and indigenous peoples' rights HRDs), (2) advocacy for national legislation and policy frameworks that protect HRDs, (3) monitoring, documenting and reporting on HRDs and civic space, (4) protection of HRDs at risk and provision of urgent assistance (e.g. demarches, etc.).
- Organise peer-to-peer learning and exchanges on support to HRDs and enabling environment for civil society.
- Support the strengthening of complaints handling mechanisms, rapid reaction capacities (including visits to detained HRDs at risk) and response for cases of NHRIs under threat.

### Activities related to Output 1.2:

- Develop guidelines and policies on NHRIs under threat.
- Prepare and share submissions and reports on threats and attacks against HRDs, including NHRIs at risk with relevant UN and regional bodies and mechanisms.
- Facilitate contacts between affected NHRIs and relevant international and relevant actors, including EU Institutions/Delegations and programmes to support HRDs at risk and therefore NHRIs which can be considered as such.
- Contribute to the development of protection mechanisms and tools on the protection of NHRIs at risk together with stakeholders engaged to support NHRIs (e.g. OHCHR, UNDP, EU, Council of Europe, OSCE, etc.) and build bridges with other groups such as civil society, international NGOs, etc.
- Capacity development for NHRIs on the ground to reinforce protection strategies and security protocols – including digital security measures.

### Activities related to Output 2.1:

- Organise awareness raising activities on the Paris Principles and the accreditation process.
- Advocate for the establishment of NHRIs in countries where there are none.
- Develop guidance tools, peer-to-peer exchanges and training for NHRIs, and especially new ones, on the Paris Principle and the accreditation process.
- Tailored support and accompaniment to NHRIs undergoing accreditation process.
- Provide support and resources to the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) to handle accreditation and re-accreditation applications.
- Provide expertise to follow-up on SCA recommendations.
- Support NHRIs to engage with international and regional bodies and mechanisms, e.g. participation in UPR processes, UN Treaty Bodies reviews, relevant sessions at the UN and with regional human rights organisations.

### Activities related to Output 2.2:

- Develop policies, procedures and tools to improve organisational and financial management and governance of global and regional networks.
- Establish protocols and guidelines for an effective articulation between GANHRI and the regional networks.
- Continue reinforcing RINDHCA secretariat which was recently established in Panama.

### Activities related to Output 3.1:

- Develop work plans and capacity development activities for NHRIs in the field of human rights, environment and climate change, notably in cooperation with the NHRI Caucus on human rights and climate change.
- Develop capacity development programmes and activities on key role and mandate of NHRIs as National Preventive Mechanisms, including exchanges on good practices and lessons learnt together with relevant UN and regional instances as well as civil society actors.



- Explore re-granting initiatives in order to enhance NHRI capacity at national level to conduct pilot initiatives.
- Capacity development and exchanges on NHRI role in national SDG review and implementation processes in line with a human rights-based approach.

Activities related to Output 3.2:

- Continue developing (online) capacity building tools, programmes and activities for NHRIs in core identified mandate areas of human rights education, communication and awareness raising, complaints-handling, documentation, monitoring and reporting, in compliance with the Paris Principles. Specific attention should be dedicated to reinforcing NHRIs' capacity to work with local authorities (e.g. ensuring dialogue and efforts for the implementation of recommendations).
- Sub-granting to NHRIs on the implementation of targeted follow-up activities on the basis of skills and knowledge acquired through capacity-building activities.
- Coordinate closely with EU Delegations on the ground to improve synergies of EU assistance to NHRIs, and to advise on how the Action can assist in meeting demands for EU support to NHRIs.
- Engage with other relevant actors supporting NHRIs, such as the UN, regional structures and donor community to increase NHRI action compliance with the Paris Principles.

### 3.3 Mainstreaming

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

The Action includes objectives, outputs and activities relevant to environmental protection and climate change, and their nexus with human rights. Under specific objective 1 NHRIs will reinforce their effectiveness to promote and protect human rights defenders, notably those working on environmental issues, land rights and indigenous peoples' rights. Indeed, this group is prominently targeted by threats and attacks worldwide. In the framework of specific objective 3, NHRIs will have the opportunity to develop their work and capacity in the field of human rights, environment and climate change, notably in cooperation with the NHRI Caucus on human rights and climate change.

#### **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 NHRIs will place special emphasis on addressing the situation and protection needs of women human rights defenders, and HRDs working to advance women's rights and gender equality. Gender sensitive approach could also be implemented through capacity-building activities that will take place in the framework of this Action.

#### **Human Rights**

The Action will take account of the rights of children, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, persons belonging to minorities and persons affected by caste-based discrimination, as well as the links between the environment and human rights, in line with the human rights-based approach. This will be done by contributing to the defence of the rights of those who are most at risk, vulnerable and marginalised by supporting the work of HRDs and providing assistance to the most affected ones, such as members of minority communities, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, women, children and others affected by discrimination. In the framework of their core identified human rights mandate and their role in following the implementation of SDGs in line with the human rights-based approach, NHRIs aim to make sure that no one is left behind.

**.Conflict Sensitivity and Resilience** Activities will be conflict-sensitive and will incorporate a do no harm approach. Interventions will be designed to avoid contributing to established patterns of discrimination or creating additional inequalities or discriminations. In order to do this the project will undertake ongoing risk assessments for the interventions planned, and decipher the best means forward to mitigate risks given the specific contexts. The projects assessments of risk will be always be linked to the principle of "do no harm". As per the Kyiv declaration, the project will empower NHRIs in this role, including in conflict and post-conflict situations.

### 3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
External environment	Shrinking civic space and attacks on human rights actors, including political pressure, cut in resources and threats undermine NHRIs as independent actors. This situation was exacerbated by restrictions resulting from COVID-19 pandemic. This can affect the implementation of project activities locally and at level of networks.	<b>H</b>	<b>M</b>	EU political and financial support can contribute to decrease threats, attacks and pressure on NHRIs, and to strengthen independence of NHRIs by supporting their mandate and action in accordance with the Paris Principles. The Action specifically proposes activities to support HRDs and civic space, including NHRIs under threat, thanks to stronger cooperation between NHRI networks and international and regional bodies and mechanisms. On-line activities are available and digital security will be reinforced.
People and the organisation	GANHRI is a relatively new structure and developed its operational capacity under the two previous phases of NHRI.EU. Regional networks have different levels of development and operate in diverse contexts (in particular RINDHCA). This could affect the implementation of activities within agreed timeframes.	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	In the framework of the Action, it is proposed to engage resources to reinforce the capacity of the networks and their secretariats, as well as their close coordination.

People and the organisation	Lack of NHRIs independence, weak commitment to implement core human rights mandate in line with Paris Principles, self-censorship in repressive contexts, lack of trust from independent civil society actors and HRDs in NHRIs, could affect the Action and represent reputational risk for the EU.	<b>M</b>	<b>L</b>	Risk will be mitigated thanks to accompaniment and support provided by networks, the accreditation process, peer-to-peer exchanges, engagement with civil society, awareness raising and advocacy towards authorities.
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#### **Lessons Learnt:**

In order to complement the previous ad hoc and country-specific approach to NHRIs, the EIDHR Annual Action Programme (AAP) 2014, included a targeted programme to strengthen the capacity development of NHRIs and their institutional cooperation at regional and international levels. The three year project ‘Capacity building of NHRIs – NHRI.EU’ with an EU contribution of 5 million EUR, has been running between 2015-2018 with DIHR as the main implementing partner on behalf of GANHRI and the four official NHRI regional networks (APF, ENNHRI, NANHRI and RINDHCA), participating as co-beneficiaries.

With a thematic focus on improved NHRI capacity in responding to their core mandates and dealing with business and human rights, economic social and cultural rights, and human rights education in particular, the ‘NHRI.EU’ project was the first EU project of its kind to support the NHRI infrastructure in a comprehensive manner at global and regional levels. The project has created a forum for GANHRI and the four regional networks, where issues of management, cross-regional relevance and common learnings are systematically addressed. A number of thematic e-learning courses, face to face workshops and re-granting opportunities have been developed for NHRIs, while the networks and GANHRI head office have been strengthened in knowledge management and communication.

While the issue of sustainability of donor support is necessary to address in the long-term perspective, it has become clear that further and continued capacity building support, adapting to changing circumstances of restricted democratic and civic space, is needed. In this respect, the external EIDHR Mid-Term Review 2017 acknowledged that while “EIDHR support has significantly contributed to the ability of civil society and NHRIs to advocate / lobby for reforms”, NHRIs were affected by deteriorations to their operating environment: “Pressure on independent national human rights institutions (NHRIs) also limited their ability to operate according to their core mandates”. Continued support to NHRIs can hence be considered strategic, as support to NHRIs will help them to “be better equipped to create positive impact at home”.

The final evaluation on NHRI.EU phase 1 conducted in 2018 assessed that the project has proven to be highly relevant to individual NHRIs in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas, especially in their core mandate functions of human rights education, human rights monitoring and reporting, as well as the thematic areas of human rights and business, and economic, social and cultural rights. The learning processes and re-granting initiatives positively contributed to institutional development and change. The evaluation also found that the project highly contributed to further consolidate and professionalise the global and regional networks, including through an individualised approach paying attention to situation and needs of each network and secretariat. The evaluation recommended more systematic tracking and assessment in particular at the level of individual NHRIs performance, engage in deeper

needs assessment and capacity development for each secretariat, follow on the integration of learning processes at the level of each NHRI, increase accountability for NHRI leaderships, consider stronger focus on capacity development and NHRIs core functions as well as strategic priorities, address gender as a topic, ensure transfer of knowledge, experience and project ownership to GANHRI, ensure greater articulation and coordination at global, regional and national level with respect to support provided to NHRIs under this project and by other actors.

NHRI.EU phase 2 “Capacity Development of NHRIs” was implemented from 2019 until Q1/Q2 2022 with the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) as lead applicant. With a budget of €3.750.000, the project aimed to enhance NHRIs effectiveness as HRDs in accordance with the Paris Principles and in core identified mandate areas. The project also has the objective to contribute to a human rights-based approach of the follow-up and review of SDGs at national level. Finally, it focuses on support to networks and their member NHRIs in the accreditation process. NHRI.EU phase 2 managed to implement and adapt activities despite challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, e.g. work on global and regional action plans on HRDs, capacity-building activities, establishment of RINDHCA secretariat, handover from DIHR to GANHRI, etc. The final evaluation on the NHRI.EU phase 2 project will be finalised in the first half of 2022 and will serve as a useful basis for the next phase.

In this regard, it will be important to reinforce the project’s interaction with EU Delegations on the ground who are also cooperating and supporting NHRIs, so that they can understand better how they can use the NHRI.EU project in the future.

### 3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that:

The Action intends to increase the effectiveness of NHRIs as HRDs in core identified mandate areas (education, communication and awareness-raising, complaints handling, documentation/monitoring, reporting) via peer-to-peer exchanges and capacity-building. The Action will also support NHRIs and their work as HRDs, as well as enhance their engagement to protect HRDs and civic space when they are at risk, with specific focus on women HRDs. This will be done through the implementation of global and regional action plans on HRDs produced by global and regional networks of NHRIs. Support to NHRIs accreditation process, reinforcement of networks capacities and support to NHRI participation in the implementation and review of SDGs at the national level, will also feature prominently in the Action. Other key thematic areas of focus will include human rights and the environment as well as torture prevention. The Action will also aim to enhance work and expertise of NHRIs on new topics. The action will meet the increased demand for support from the EU to NHRIs. It will also help building and complement other EU-funded actions in support to NHRIs.

It is assumed that NHRIs are still committed to engage in human rights work in spite of growing pressure, harassment and threats that they face worldwide in the framework of the crackdown on human rights defenders and civic space. NHRIs need for support and accompaniment will increase. It is also assumed that GANHRI and regional networks are able and interested to implement NHRI.EU project and that NHRIs have the interest and capacity to cooperate and continue engaging with international partners. Another assumption is that the EU continues to keep a strong level of political and financial commitment to NHRIs.

If these assumptions hold true, NHRIs’ effectiveness in promoting and protecting human rights defenders and civic space will be reinforced. NHRIs under threat will be provided with stronger support and solidarity. The establishment, reinforcement and accreditation of NHRIs to be compliant with the Paris Principles in the implementation of their core mandate areas of human rights work will be supported. NHRIs’ effectiveness in key identified thematic areas will be enhanced and the capacity of global and regional networks to support their member NHRIs will be further strengthened.

NHRIs will in turn be enabled and empowered to promote and protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law, provide assistance to victims of human rights violations as well as members of vulnerable groups, and hold state and non-state duty-bearers to account for alleged abuse and improve human rights legal and policy protection frameworks.

### 3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

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

Results	Results chain (a): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (a): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To enhance the role and capacity of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) as well as of their global and regional networks in promoting and protecting human rights of all individuals.	1 Number of NHRIs, which are effective and compliant with the Paris Principles.  2 Number of NHRIs reported to UPR 4 <sup>th</sup> Cycle (2022-27)	1 A-Status NHRIs: 86  2 Number of NHRIs reported to UPR 3 <sup>rd</sup> Cycle (2017-21)	1 A-Status NHRIs: 90  2 15% increase	1 GANHRI Chart of A-status  2 UPR reporting cycle documents	Not applicable

<p><b>Outcome 1</b></p>	<p>1 Reinforced NHRIs' effectiveness in promoting and protecting human rights defenders and civic space, as well as in supporting NHRIs under threat in line with the 2018 Marrakech Declaration and follow-up frameworks.</p>	<p>1.1 Level of implementation of global and regional action plans on HRDs and civic space</p> <p>1.2 Number of NHRIs working on the protection of HRDs and civic space</p>	<p>1.1 New indicator</p> <p>1.2 New indicator</p>	<p>1.1 Depending on first assessment</p> <p>1.2 Depending on first assessment</p>	<p>1.1 GANHRI and regional networks information and reports</p> <p>1.2 NHRIs reports and feedback</p>	<p>Participating NHRIs have necessary and sufficient competencies, resources, technical capacities and commitment to fully engage with the project activities. GANHRI and regional networks have necessary resources to maintain their engagement and support. Civil society and HRDs are part of the process.</p>
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<p><b>Outcome 2</b></p>	<p>2 Supported establishment, reinforcement and accreditation of NHRIs to be compliant with the Paris Principles and strengthened capacity of global and regional networks to support their member NHRIs</p>	<p>2.1 Number of NHRIs supported in the framework of the accreditation process</p> <p>2.2 Number of interventions by GANHRI and regional networks in support of NHRIs</p>	<p>2.1 New indicator</p> <p>2.2 New indicator</p>	<p>2.1 Depending on first assessment</p> <p>2.2 Depending on first assessment</p>	<p>2.1 Reports from GANHRI and regional networks</p> <p>2.2 GANHRI and regional networks activity reports</p>	<p>Participating NHRIs have necessary and sufficient competencies, resources, capacities and commitment to fully engage in project activities. Support and accompaniment from global and regional networks is available.</p>
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<p><b>Outcome 3</b></p>	<p>3 Enhance NHRIs' effectiveness in key identified thematic areas and in the implementation of their core mandate areas of human rights work.</p>	<p>3.1 Number of NHRIs increasing engagement in key identified thematic areas</p> <p>3.2 Level of knowledge and skills of NHRIs in their core mandate areas of human rights work</p>	<p>3.1 New indicator</p> <p>3.2 New indicator</p>	<p>3.1 Depending on first assessment</p> <p>3.2 Depending on first assessment</p>	<p>3.1 Reports and feedback from NHRIs</p> <p>3.2 NHRI impact assessment survey &amp; learning measurement</p>	<p>Learning, capacity-building and knowledge sharing platforms are available to support NHRIs engagement. Participating NHRIs have sufficient and necessary resources, commitment and interest to engage in project activities. Global and regional networks operate in favourable environment and have necessary resources to support NHRIs.</p>
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<b>Output 1</b> <b>related to Outcome 1</b>	1.1 Improved capacity of and tools for NHRIs to monitor, document, report, promote and protect civic space and HRDs	1.1.1 Number of NHRIs reporting on the situation of civic space and of HRDs  1.1.2 Number of NHRIs providing support to HRDs at risk (demarches, advocacy, reporting, etc.)	1.1.1 65 NHRIs  1.1.2 New indicator	1.1.1 15% increase  1.1.2 Depending on first assessment	1.1.1 NHRIs reports and submissions  1.1.2 NHRIs reports and feedback	NHRIs have necessary and sufficient commitment, resources and capacity to engage on protection of HRDs and civic space. Support from NHRI networks is available. Good level of cooperation with civil society.
<b>Output 2</b> <b>related to Outcome 1</b>	1.2 Enhanced ability and advocacy action of global and regional networks as well as NHRIs to support NHRIs facing threats, attacks and reprisals	1.2.1 Number of guidelines and policies developed to assist NHRIs under threat  1.2.2 Number of NHRIs at threats supported by global and regional networks	1.2.1 New indicator  1.2.2 New indicator	1.2.1 Depending on first assessment  1.2.2 Depending on first assessment	1.2.1 GANHRI and regional networks reports  1.2.2 Submissions to international and regional bodies, public advocacy statements	Global and regional networks have the capacity and resources to support NHRIs under threat.

<b>Output 1</b> <b>related to Outcome 2</b>	2.1 Strengthened accreditation process, bodies (e.g. Sub-Committee on Accreditation) and guidance tools, as well as increased capacity of NHRIs to engage with international and regional bodies and mechanisms	2.1.1 Number of accreditation coordinated activities by GANHRI and regional networks  2.1.2 Number of NHRIs engaging with UN and regional human rights bodies and mechanisms (e.g. participation in meetings and review processes)	2.1.1 New indicator  2.1.2 New indicator	2.1.1 Depending on first assessment  2.1.2 Depending on first assessment	2.1.1 GANHRI and regional networks reports, project reports  2.1.2 Project and NHRIs reports	GANHRI and regional networks have the capacity and resources to support and accompany NHRIs through the accreditation process. NHRIs have the interest and commitment to be accredited.
<b>Output 2</b> <b>related to Outcome 2</b>	2.2 Strengthened organisational and institutional capacities, as well as governance of global and regional NHRI networks, including their secretariats	2.2.1 Extent to which GANHRI and regional networks developed their institutional and management capacity  2.2.2 Level of coordination between GANHRI and the regional networks	2.2.1 New indicator  2.2.2 New indicator	2.2.1 Depending on first assessment  2.2.2 Depending on first assessment	2.2.1 GANHRI and regional networks strategic documents and reports, project reports  2.2.2 Project reports, GANHRI and regional networks reports	GANHRI and regional networks are committed and interested to work together and reinforce themselves through cooperation.

<b>Output 1</b>  <b>Related to Outcome 3</b>	3.1 Enhanced knowledge, skills, exchanges and capacity of NHRIs in identified thematic areas (environment and human rights, torture prevention, human rights-based approach to national review and implementation of SDGs)	3.1.1 Number of capacity-building and peer-to-peer activities organised to support NHRIs engagement in identified thematic areas and other innovative human rights  3.1.2 Number of NHRIs undertaking actions in identified thematic areas (environment and human rights, torture prevention, human rights-based approach to national review and implementation of SDGs)	3.1.1 New indicator  3.1.2 New indicator	3.1.1 Depending on first assessment  3.1.2 Depending on first assessment	3.1.1 Project reports, training assessment documents  3.1.2 NHRIs and project reports	NHRIs are interested and committed to engage and reinforce their action on human rights and the environment, torture prevention, SDGs implementation.
<b>Output 2</b>  <b>Related to Outcome 3</b>	3.2 Improved skills, knowledge, capacity and practice of NHRIs in core identified mandate areas of human rights education, communication and awareness raising, complaints-handling, documentation, monitoring and reporting, in compliance with the Paris Principles	3.2.1 Number of NHRIs using capacity-building courses and tools, including online platforms  3.2.2 Number of NHRIs implementing actions further to capacity-building initiatives provided, including engaging in dialogue and advocacy with local authorities	3.2.1 New indicator  3.2.2 New indicator	3.2.1 Depending on first assessment  3.2.2 Depending on first assessment	3.2.1 Training reports and assessment survey, project reports  3.2.2 Project and NHRIs reports	NHRIs have necessary competencies, resources, capacity and commitment to carry out their core human rights mandate. Support from global and regional networks is available.

## 4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not 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 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

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

### 4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures<sup>16</sup>.

#### 4.3.1 Direct Management (Grants)

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

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

The objective of the grant is to enhance the role and capacity of NHRIs as well as of their global and regional networks in promoting and protecting human rights of all individuals **(b) Type of applicants targeted**

The grant will be implemented by GANHRI (lead applicant) and the regional networks – APF, ENNHRI, NANHRI and RINDHCA (co-applicants). They are currently implementing the EU-funded Action NHRI.EU phase 2 (2019-2021) as co-applicants. GANHRI significantly built its operational and financial management capacity with the help of Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) during previous phases, so that it is able to take over the role of lead applicant considering that it is the global network of NHRIs.

##### **(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 GANHRI and the regional NHRI networks. The recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified in line with circumstances listed in Article 195 of the Financial Regulation. Indeed, as foreseen in Article 195(c), the beneficiary is in a legal or factual monopoly situation. GANHRI is the only global network of National Human Rights Institutions, formally recognised by the United Nations. The four regional networks (APF, ENNHRI, NANHRI and RINDHCA) are the regional entities that gather NHRIs, institutionally linked to GANHRI (ref. GANHRI Statutes, art. 31 et al.-Section 7). They are the only NHRIs networks officially recognised by the United Nations.<sup>17</sup>

##### **(d) Exception to the non-retroactivity of costs**

The Commission authorises that the costs incurred may be recognised as eligible as of 1 April 2022 prior to the adoption of this Financing decision because it is of utmost importance to ensure continuation of activities between phase 2 and phase 3 the NHRI.EU process. Indeed, the current project will end on 31 March 2022. It

<sup>16</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.

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/countries/nhri/global-alliance-national-human-rights-institutions-ganhri>

is crucial for GANHRI and the regional networks to continue operating and assisting NHRIs in need of support, including those who face risks and threats notably when they work in crisis and/or conflict situations.

#### 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.

#### 4.5 Indicative Budget

<b>Indicative Budget components</b>	<b>EU contribution (amount in EUR)</b>	<b>Third-party contribution, in currency identified</b>
<b>Direct grant to GANHRI and regional networks</b>	5 000 000 EUR	260 000 EUR
<b>Evaluation</b> – cf. section 5.2 <b>Audit</b> – cf. section 5.3	will be covered by another Decision	will be covered by another Decision
<b>Totals</b>	5 000 000 EUR	260 000 EUR

#### 4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

European Commission Headquarters will carry out the contracting and management of the grant resulting from this decision. GANHRI provides the overall strategic direction of the project and the governance structures existing under NHRI.EU phase 2 will be reinforced and streamlined under phase 3. GANHRI will be the lead applicant with ultimate financial responsibility of the project, and regional networks will be co-applicants.

The EU will be part of the Steering Committee (composed of GANHRI and four regional networks) of NHRI.EU programme and will interact on a regular basis with GANHRI and the regional networks with a view to ensure adequate implementation of the Action. The Steering Committee meets at least one a year, sets the strategic direction and oversees annual joint planning and programme of work related to the project. A Management Committee responsible for the management and administration of the project will meet on a quarterly basis. Coordinator and persons responsible for the day-to-day management of the project will be part of the Management Committee.

EU Delegations shall be informed of activities undertaken at country level.

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

## 5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

### 5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

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 and baseline data, using as reference the logframe matrix. Reporting will be done in accordance to the requirements set in the General Conditions. This monitoring and reporting shall be gender sensitive and take into consideration gender mainstreaming. This phase 3 will be built on phase 2, therefore most of the tools

developed in the second phase, will be used in the third. The performance monitoring will be realised by GANHRI and the four regional networks, who will regularly report to the GANHRI as main applicant.

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 lies with the NHRI.EU project partners.

## 5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, mid-term and final evaluations may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission and via implementing partners. Adequate expertise on gender equality as appropriate will be ensured in monitoring and evaluation teams.

Mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes and will feed in the preparation of the next components and follow-up phases of the action. It will take stock of the implementation of recommendations made in the framework of the external evaluation conducted in 2020-2021.

Final evaluations may be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that GANHRI is taking over the project implementation lead.

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

## 5.3 Audit and Verifications

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

# 6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

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

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

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



## Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention<sup>18</sup> (also generally called project/programme) is the operational entity associated to a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Interventions are the most effective (hence optimal) entities for the operational follow-up by the Commission of its external development operations. As such, Interventions constitute the base unit for managing operational implementations, assessing performance, monitoring, evaluation, internal and external communication, reporting and aggregation.

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

The present Action identifies as

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<sup>18</sup> [ARES \(2021\)4204912](#) - For the purpose of consistency between terms in OPSYS, DG INTPA, DG NEAR and FPI have harmonised 5 key terms, including 'action' and 'Intervention' where an 'action' is the content (or part of the content) of a Commission Financing Decision and 'Intervention' is a coherent set of activities and results which constitutes an effective level for the operational follow-up by the EC of its operations on the ground. See more on the [concept of intervention](#).

Group of actions level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	Actions reference 2019/406-440(CRIS)