



**EN**

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

**ANNEX IV**

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 Global actions on human dignity, non-discrimination and inclusion**

**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 (EU) 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>	<b>Global actions on human dignity, non-discrimination and inclusion</b> CRIS reference 2022: 043-634 OPSYS reference 2022: ACT-60706 / JAD.969545 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>	Link with the Multi-Annual Indicative Programming for the Thematic Programme on Human Rights and Democracy 2021-2027 Priority 1: Protecting and empowering individuals (Axis of action i. and ii.) Priority 4: Safeguarding fundamental freedoms Expected results: - Strengthened capacities of civil society, including advocacy and public awareness, to effectively operate for the worldwide abolition of the death penalty, the eradication of all forms of torture, cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment or punishment, the equal satisfaction of basic necessities, effectiveness of social dialogues and full respect for environmental standards. - Enhanced oversight and strengthened role of civil society in monitoring, preventing and responding to human rights violations and abuses. - Strengthened capacities of civil society, including advocacy and public awareness, to contribute to repealing discriminatory laws, policies, measures and practices.
<b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	151 – Government and Civil Society - general

<b>7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	Main SDG (1 only): 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 Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: - SDG 5 Gender Equality - SDG 10 Reduction of inequalities - SDG 17 Partnerships for the goals			
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	15160 – Human Rights 100 %			
<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel @</b>	Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society - 2000			
<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Tags: digital connectivity digital governance		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

	digital entrepreneurship		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	job creation		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital skills/literacy		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital services		<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 (article, item): 14.02 02 11 Total estimated cost: EUR 35 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 35 000 000 The contribution is for an amount of EUR 5 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2022, for an amount of EUR 20 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2023, and for an amount of EUR 10 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2024, subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.			
<b>MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>				
<b>13. Type of financing<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Direct management</b> through Grants			

## 1.2 Summary of the Action

Through strategic work in partnership with civil society organisations (CSOs), the Action aims at advancing human rights issues that require a global approach and/or are too sensitive to be managed through single-country projects. The Action will address in particular human dignity (fight against the death penalty, torture and ill-treatment), and discrimination on the basis of most sensitive issues such as gender identity, sexual orientation, sex characteristics, religion or belief.

While the country envelopes of the human rights instrument are allocated to implement those anti-discrimination commitments that may be faced by persons with disabilities, women, children and elderly, other types of discrimination are a challenge to address at national level due to the sensitivity they arouse from both population and governments, such as the protection of LGBTI persons, and the persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. Similarly, the issues of the abolition of the death penalty, and the prohibition of

torture and ill-treatment are also controversial and also need to be addressed at a global or regional level.

In line with the ‘do no harm’ principle, the Action will be implemented through a Global Call for Proposals from Headquarters and favour a global or regional approach to projects. The components on death penalty and torture may be implemented through Financial Framework Partnership Agreements.

The selected projects will focus on strengthening CSOs to enable them to have a greater voice and influence on the goals of the Action, namely:

- progressing towards the universal abolition of the death penalty
- striving for the eradication of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
- promoting equality, inclusion and respect for diversity

In line with the Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024, this programme will be part of the comprehensive response to tackle the challenges linked to LGBTI (EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020<sup>2</sup>), discrimination on the grounds of racial or ethnic origin (EU Anti-Racism Action Plan 2020-2025), and religion or belief (EU Guidelines on the promotion and protection of freedom of religion or belief, EU strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life), and contributing to the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP III) by paying attention to intersectionality – multiple discriminations – and countering of social norms and stereotypes. This Action is also aligned with the EU’s strong and principled position against the death penalty, which establishes global abolition of capital punishment as a key objective. The fight against torture and other ill-treatment, a priority of EU external action, is enshrined in the European Union Treaties and Charter of Fundamental Rights and the approach defined in the Guidelines on EU policy towards third countries on torture, and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (“EU Guidelines on Torture”).

This Action is **complementary** to and will be coordinated with:

- Action 6 (Fighting Impunity) of the 2022-2024 Human Rights and Democracy Thematic Programme, especially for the fight against impunity for the perpetrators of torture and ill-treatment
- actions under the Thematic Programme for Civil Society Organisations.

Link with SDGs - This Action is aligned with SDG 5, SDG 10 and SDG 16, and the European Consensus for Development<sup>3</sup>, ensuring that there is a special focus on groups that are living in vulnerable situations, and that no-one is left behind, wherever people live and regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, religion or beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, migration status or other factors. Goal 10.3 is particularly relevant to the Action which aims to ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.

## 2 RATIONALE

### 2.1 Context

#### **General context**

Protecting and empowering individuals is one of the cornerstones of the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law worldwide. It is also a key priority of EU’s external action and a pre-condition for sustainable development and for building more inclusive, open and resilient societies. Protecting individuals means ensuring the full enjoyment of all human rights, be they civil and political, economic, social and cultural rights by all, free from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse. Empowering individuals means enabling them, through the full enjoyment of all human rights, to reach their full potential, gain control over the factors and decisions that shape their lives and realise their legitimate aspirations.

The Action will address the universality of human rights and will focus in particular on key issues such as fighting

<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/lgbtiq\\_strategy\\_2020-2025\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/lgbtiq_strategy_2020-2025_en.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/24004/european-consensus-on-development-2-june-2017-clean\\_final.pdf](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/24004/european-consensus-on-development-2-june-2017-clean_final.pdf)

death penalty and torture and tackling specific levels of discrimination, namely discrimination based on the sexual orientation, gender identity, sex characteristics, and discrimination based on religion or belief.

The above topics were selected under this Action because of the sensitivity it generates in some partner countries. In some regions, it is risky to launch calls for proposals at local level, both for the sake of security of applicants and for the members of the EU Delegations who will manage the projects selected under the call.

## Specific context

Working towards the global **abolition of the death penalty** is at the heart of the EU's human rights priorities. The EU strongly opposes to the death penalty, which is a cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, violating the right to life and failing to deter crime more effectively than imprisonment. Execution is an irreversible punishment and miscarriages of justice, inevitable in any legal system, lead to the killing of innocent people by state authorities. The trend towards the worldwide abolition of the death penalty is evident. While in 1960, only 25 countries were abolitionist, today 115 countries are abolitionists in law and there are no executions over the last 10 years in 149 countries, and these numbers continues to grow.

However, progress towards abolition is not straightforward and certain regions of the world continue to use the death penalty in a substantial manner. Even in states that have abolished the death penalty in law, pro-death penalty movements continue to question abolition and setbacks are not to be excluded. At the most recent vote for a universal moratorium on executions in the United Nations General Assembly in December 2020, the abolitionist bloc remained stable with 123 states in favour of abolition, but 24 abstentions and 38 votes against the moratorium were registered. In this context, the fight for worldwide abolition remains one of the key priorities of the EU's Human Rights external policy.

In recent years, the global consensus on the absolute **prohibition of torture and ill-treatment** has become fragile, with some countries becoming openly unapologetic about abuses of human dignity and bodily integrity, especially using the pretext of the fight against terrorism and organised crime, among others. Restrictions imposed in response to the COVID pandemic have increased the isolation of prisoners and detainees and denied them access to their lawyers, their families and basic goods and food, and to adequate healthcare, while their crowded contexts exposed them disproportionately to the risk of viral infection. The COVID pandemic also severely hindered the monitoring of places of detention by National Prevention Mechanisms under OPCAT, international monitoring mechanisms such as the European Committee against Torture or by specialised Civil Society Organisations, thus increasing the under reporting of acts of torture or ill-treatment and leading to impunity. State violence outside of detention contexts, such as police brutality, has also become more visible, even in more advanced democracies. At the same time, UNCAT ratification is still slowly spreading and newer international movements to prevent and fight torture are gaining momentum, for instance the UN process towards 'Torture Free Trade' (Alliance for Torture-Free Trade) and the new Méndez Principles on non-coercive investigations. The EU is a potential global leader in these areas, backing policy and regulation with global investment in anti-torture work.

Levels of inequality, intolerance, prejudice and discrimination in both public and private spheres are on the rise. Arguments related to religious, historical or cultural background, national security or economic growth are increasingly advanced to justify human rights violations and discriminatory measures.

In various parts of the world, the situation of **LGBTI persons** remains highly precarious. Lives of LGBTI persons can be at risk, their existence denied and they routinely experience serious rights violations including hate crimes, discrimination and abuses without access to justice. In 2020, ILGA counted 70 countries where same-sex relationships are criminalised, with penalties ranging from incarceration to life sentence to the death penalty. The COVID-19 pandemic has deeply affected LGBTI people and their ability to organise. Civil society organisations have found themselves struggling to survive, human rights defenders faced isolation due to the mandatory border closures and lockdowns. Major events and Pride celebrations around the world have been suspended. Safe spaces were drastically reduced overnight, and consequently young people were forced to return to their homes that they left, facing the same hostility they had fled and putting them at risk.

According to the 2020 Report of the Special Rapporteur on **freedom of religion or belief**, the prevalence in the world of laws, policies and government actions that restrict the ability of rights holders to enjoy freedom of religion or belief has increased over the last decade. Human rights organisations report that violence, mass killings and

other atrocities are increasing in countries both affected and unaffected by war. As many as 21 countries criminalise apostasy, including 12 countries in which it is in principle punishable by death.

Even if laws do not explicitly discriminate, the absence of effective policies for reducing inequalities and combatting discrimination continue to undermine the equal enjoyment of human rights by individuals and groups on account of their religion or belief. These vulnerabilities have often evolved and persisted over long periods of time and may overlap with other forms of discrimination based on gender, ethnicity or geographic location. To a greater or lesser extent, discrimination affects the way people that identify with certain religions or beliefs are treated in all spheres of society such as politics, education, employment, social and medical services, housing, the penitentiary system, law enforcement and the administration of justice in general. Left unchecked, such disparities and inequalities will continue to undermine future progress towards achieving sustainable development and threaten to reverse gains made towards realising the SDGs.

### **Policy consistency of the Action with Commission's commitments**

In the EU Action Plan for Human Rights and Democracy, the abolition of death penalty features prominently under human rights priorities and more specifically under the line of action of “protecting people, eliminating inequalities, discrimination and exclusion”. The main objective remains to work towards the worldwide abolition of the death penalty. In countries where the death penalty still exists, the EU needs to insist on the respect of minimum standards and work towards a moratorium on executions as a first step towards abolition.

In addition to the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy, the ‘EU Guidelines on the death penalty’ as well as the ‘Guidelines on EU policy towards third countries on torture, and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment’, provide the general framework for support under the Human Rights and Democracy thematic programme in this area. The first mentioned guidelines stipulate that where the death penalty still exists, the EU will advocate the immediate establishment of a moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to abolition, while the second guidelines stipulate that action to fight torture should be holistic, covering the range of anti-torture work, and the EU Torture-Free Trade regulation and actions are to be advanced. The UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT), its Optional Protocol, as well as all the applicable international and regional instruments should be referred to as the wider normative framework of all actions supported, as EU policies have been consistent in their support to these instruments and protocols.

New Commission's engagements on Equality: The EU is committed to the principle of equality and non-discrimination and has renewed its policy framework on equality in this direction. The intersectional perspective has informed the EU's Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 and Gender Action Plan III for external relations 2021-2025 as well as the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024. The first ever LGBTI Equality Strategy 2020-2025 was adopted in November 2020, providing a new framework to advance towards more protection of LGBTI rights within the EU external actions. Moreover, in October 2021, the EU adopted the Strategy in combatting antisemitism and fostering Jewish life, which promotes the fight against religious and ethnic discrimination in political and human rights dialogues and in broader cooperation with partner countries outside the EU

## **2.2 Problem Analysis**

### ***[Death penalty]***

The right to life is absolute in international human rights law and the EU is strongly opposed to capital punishment for all cases and all circumstances. EU political commitment to both must go hand in hand with dedicated financial assistance to support civil society organisations able to address the breadth of the topics and reach from international to local level implementation.

The present programme accelerates progress towards the worldwide abolition of the death penalty. It shall support civil society actions that, consistent with the EU Guidelines on the Death Penalty, contribute to reforming criminal justice systems and repealing death penalty laws. To that end, civil society shall engage with all key actors, including political leaders, youth and less-conventional actors such as TV, cinema and sports stars. These actions shall also contribute to guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty by promoting full respect for international norms and standards such as acceding to adequate legal assistance at all stages of the

proceedings, affording all the judicial guarantees (i.e. the highest of evidentiary standards) as indispensable for a fair trial, seeking clemency by pardon or commutation of sentence and guaranteeing the right to appeal to a court of higher jurisdiction.

*[Torture and ill-treatment]*

At the heart of universal human rights are the right to life and the absolute prohibition of torture, as basic guarantees of human dignity. A torture free world for all requires a holistic approach, matching the EU's diplomacy and regulatory efforts with support to preventive mechanisms and effective justice systems, accountability for perpetrators, and redress for the victims.

The programme will give a boost towards a torture-free world. Civil society actions shall, in line with the revised Guidelines on EU Policy towards third countries on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, contribute to setting up a legal and regulatory framework that prohibits all harmful and unlawful conducts amounting to torture, ensuring its full and effective implementation and establishing monitoring and accountability mechanisms. Preventive and protective measures shall be an integral part of these actions ranging from training and education for all, including professionals, regular monitoring of places of detention – mitigation – to investigation, evidence collection and documentation of past cases, reporting, litigation, prosecution, conviction and sanctions for perpetrators – deterrence - and reparation, rehabilitation and compensation for victims.

*[Equality, inclusion and diversity]*

An inclusive society is a society for all, in which every individual, each with rights and responsibilities, has an active role to play. Inclusive societies are based on respect for all human rights and recognise the dignity, value and importance of each person, not only as an ethical norm and moral imperative, but also as a legal principle, a societal goal, and ultimately, practice. Inclusion does not mean a uniformity of people but a society, which has room for diversity. The EU is leading political actor for civic and political rights as well as non-discrimination at the global level and will show through this Action that it intends to continue its fight against hatred and discrimination.

The programme aims at creating, by adopting an intersectional approach, equal opportunities to flourish for those persons that are living in vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalised situations. It shall support civil society actions that contribute to unlocking the full potential of LGBTI persons and persons belonging to national, ethnic, or religious minorities.

Freedom of Religion or Belief (FORB) is an important pillar of a democratic society – and contributes to stability, peace and development and to building inclusive and resilient societies. At the same token, it is fundamental to support the underlying structures, the institutional framework enabling an environment conducive to FORB. The programme shall support civil society actions that, consistent with the EU Guidelines on the promotion and protection of FORB, contribute to countering misperceptions, falsehoods and misuse of religion, including by facilitating dialogue between different religious or belief communities and non-religious actors, against any allegation of sectarianism. These actions shall promote the right of all individuals to manifest, change or abandon their religion or belief, and prevent and combat any act of intolerance, discrimination and violence against individuals on the grounds of religion or belief. Projects to support education, intercultural understanding, conflict prevention, independent judiciary and a free and fair media environment will be part of the Action.

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

The direct beneficiaries of the grants resulting from the Action will be primarily **civil society organisations**<sup>4</sup> (CSOs), active in the fields of the human rights, gender equality and democratic governance, with no geographical requirements set a priori.

<sup>4</sup> The EU considers CSOs to include all non-State, not-for-profit structures, non-partisan and non –violent, through which people organise to pursue shared objectives and ideals, whether political, cultural, social or economic. Operating from the local to the national, regional and international levels, they comprise urban and rural, formal and informal organisations. The EU

Where relevant, local CSOs should be partners with international NGOs under the projects funded under this Action and partnerships between CSOs in partner countries will also be promoted. Close attention will be paid to grassroots organisations and their access to funding.

The **final beneficiaries**, main rights-holders, of the Action are the **citizens** and the **communities** living in the regions where the Global Calls projects are implemented. In particular, the persons that are living in the most vulnerable situations, the persons who face discrimination due to their sexual orientation, gender identity, sex characteristics, or religion and belief, and ethnic minorities will be part of the final beneficiaries.

## 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

### 3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **Overall Objective** (Impact) of this action is to uphold human rights as essential to human dignity and to promote equality, inclusion and respect for diversity in all spheres of life

The **Specific Objectives** (Outcomes) of this action are to:

[SO1] Progressing towards the universal abolition of the death penalty

[SO2] Striving for the eradication of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

[SO3] Making strides towards equality, inclusion and respect for those persons living in vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalised situations – LGBTI persons and persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities – in all spheres of public and private life

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

For SO1:

- Strengthened capacities of civil society, including advocacy and public awareness, to effectively operate for the worldwide abolition of the death penalty

For SO2:

- Strengthened capacities of civil society, including advocacy and public awareness, to effectively operate for the eradication of all forms of torture, cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment or punishment including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity
- Strengthened capacities of civil society to protect, defend and rehabilitate the victims of torture and ill-treatment

For SO3:

- Strengthened capacities of civil society, including advocacy and public awareness, to contribute to repealing discriminatory laws, policies, measures and practices against LGBTI persons, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and to contribute to policy-making in the area of non-discrimination
- Improved equality, inclusion, respect and engagement of LGBTI persons and persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in all spheres of public and private life

---

values CSOs' diversity and specificities; it engages with accountable and transparent CSOs which share its commitment to social progress and to the fundamental values of peace, freedom, equal rights and human dignity. (COM(2012) 492 final)



### 3.2 Indicative Activities

As the Action will be implemented through grants selected under Calls for Proposals, detailed activities will be listed in the guidelines, taking into account current policy and context developments.

While the specific activities are to be proposed by the CSOs when applying to the call for proposals, the following non-exhaustive list is suggested :

- Documenting and reporting on cases of human rights violations;
- Advocacy, lobbying and development of strategies by CSOs to push for legal reform, to influence policy-making and to support relevant multilateral processes;
- Facilitating policy dialogue processes and mediation activities;
- Awareness-raising and communication campaigns on human rights, gender equality, and democracy issues, as well as training and education of professionals (police, judiciaries, journalists);
- Innovation and reform of detention centre monitoring, and related mitigation activities;
- Promoting the signature, ratification and the effective implementation of the relevant international and regional human rights instruments;
- Monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of ratified international human rights instruments in-country;
- Capacity-building of CSOs and human rights defenders with special focus on women human rights defenders;
- Provision of psychosocial, medical, and legal assistance including in the area of sexual and gender-based violence;
- Ensuring access to remedy for victims, accountability and prosecution of perpetrators and related deterrence activities;
- Provision of basic services and facilitation of access to employment for persons in vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalised situations.
- Promoting inclusive and strategic partnerships, networking and cooperation with CSOs and other relevant stakeholders or among CSOs with particular focus on women's rights organisations;;
- Sub-granting to local registered and non-registered CSOs.

### 3.3 Mainstreaming

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

The Action is not environmentally or climatically sensitive. However, each project will make sure that results are sustainable in light of climate change and environmental degradation, and will not cause environmental damage or contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, including impacts on biodiversity. For instance, workings travels will be limited to the strict minimum in favour of virtual meetings, for reducing the carbon footprint.

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

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that the Action substantially targets the persons who are discriminated because of their gender identity or their gender expression. Under the Action, initiatives to challenge and change social norms and discriminatory gender stereotypes will be supported. Special attention to women rights defenders will be paid, it includes LGBTI activists, as issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression are part of achieving gender equality. The Action will be implemented in respect of gender mainstreaming and will contribute to the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP III) which stresses the need for an equal participation and enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

#### **Human Rights**

All the projects funded under the Action will be designed and implemented according to the human rights based-approach methodology, as outlined in the 2021 Toolbox for placing rights-holders at the centre of EU's International Partnerships, ensuring that all activities leaves no one behind, while addressing the multiple and intersecting discrimination faced by minorities and persons in vulnerable situation. In doing so, the projects will be designed through the application of the working principles of applying all rights, participation and access to the decision making process, non-discrimination and equal access, accountability and access to the rule of law, transparency and access to information.

The core objective of the Action is to empower CSOs for protecting persons belonging to groups that experience discrimination or inequalities to claim their human rights, such as LGBTI persons and persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities.

#### **Disability**

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that although persons with disabilities are not the specific target population of this Action, they will be among the beneficiaries if they belong to a group discriminated because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, belief, linguistic or ethnic minority background.

#### **Democracy**

Progress made towards abolition of death penalty, torture and ill-treatment, and respect of minorities' rights contribute to strengthening the rule of law and improving justice systems.

### 3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
Political	Risk 1: some projects implemented under this Action might take place in difficult, dangerous and volatile	H	H	Most difficult projects to be implemented at HQ level, as restricted projects if needed. Size and format is adapted for the most difficult situations. Gender analysis that includes analysis of the security risks will be conducted the latest during the inception phase.

	contexts. They are confronted with various political and physical risks that must not be underestimated			
Political	Risk 2: Difficult mobilisation of high level political actors to take position on the death penalty or on same-sex relationships	M	M	The global or regional approach of the Action will limit the risk, and support from networks of influential actors can monitor and increase political influence.
Political	Risk 3: Resistance to the implementation of sensitive activities (i.e. in favour of LGBTI persons, gender equality, sexual and gender-based violence)	M	M	Grant making at HQ level can engage actors with an otherwise limited scope of action, and the use of low-visibility confidential processes and contracts can safeguard EU and partner's reputation and security.
Sanitary	Risk 5: Prolongation of the COVID-19 pandemic leading to greater difficulty of gathering and travel	M	M	If the crisis extends beyond 2022, the implementing partners will intensify and adjust their digital offer

**Assumptions:**

Given the sensitivity of the implementation of this Action in some countries and to guarantee the security of local partners' applicants, special attention will be paid to the requirements for confidentiality and security when needed.

**Lessons Learnt:**

Many EU-funded projects have been slowed down or even suspended because of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, most have adapted to the situation and resumed their activities, including organising events virtually. The positive effect of this setback is that more people were able to participate in the activities and at a lower cost.

### 3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that all components rely on the initiative of civil society partners to implement the predefined human rights priorities. The Global Call(s) for Proposals or for Framework Partnership Agreements (FFPAs) will be launched from HQ addressing, in line with the MIP, issues which are either (i) global or regional, (ii) politically sensitive to be implemented at national level, (iii) emerging and may therefore not be adequately tackled through calls for proposals at Delegation's level.

The Action intends: (i) to enhance alignment of national legal frameworks and policies with international human rights norms and standards; (ii) to facilitate implementation and enforcement of public human rights-related policies and improve their effectiveness in terms of transparency, inclusiveness, equal opportunities and accessibility, reach, service quality, environmental protection and gender responsiveness, (iii) to make strides towards equality, inclusion and respect for those persons living in vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalised situations.

### 3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

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

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

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action. The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

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 uphold human rights as essential to human dignity and to promote equality, inclusion and respect for diversity in all spheres of life	<p>Number of victims (sex/gender- and age-disaggregated) of human rights violations and abuses, directly benefitting from assistance funded by the EU *</p> <p>Number of CSOs and human rights defenders (disaggregated by sex/gender<sup>5</sup>) directly benefiting from EU supported interventions that aim to reduce inequality and promote inclusion and respect for diversity**</p> <p>Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law (SDG 16.b.1)</p>	TBD in 2022-2023		EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: annual and final reports from implementing organisations, ROM reviews, and evaluations	Not applicable

<sup>5</sup> Please ensure self-identification of persons and allow categories like « other » and « prefer not to answer ».

<b>Outcome 1</b>	1. Progressing towards the universal abolition of the death penalty	1.1 Number of laws or policies adopted or revised by the State, aligned with the abolition of the death penalty	TBD in 2022-2023		National Databases of Adopted Laws, National Gazette, Ministries' official policies	
<b>Outcome 2</b>	2. Striving for the eradication of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	2.1 Extent to which domestic laws, national action plans or development plans enshrining right not to be tortured**	TBD in 2022-2023		National Databases of Adopted Laws, National Gazette, Ministries' official policies	
<b>Outcome 3</b>	3. Making strides towards equality, inclusion and respect for those persons living in vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalised situations – LGBTI persons and persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities – in all spheres of public and private life	3.1 Percentage of persons who faced discrimination due to their sexual orientation, gender identity, sex characteristics, belief and persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and participated in EU initiative, feel more accepted and protected, disaggregated by sex/gender and type of discrimination	TBD in 2022-2023		EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: annual and final reports from implementing organisations, ROM reviews, and evaluations	
<b>Output 1 related to Outcome 1</b>	1.1 Strengthened capacities of civil society, including advocacy and public awareness, to effectively operate for the worldwide abolition of the death penalty	1.1.1. Number of national and sub-national laws and public policies on the abolition of the death penalty, adopted or amended thanks to the critical role played by civil society organisations through EU support*	TBD in 2022-2023		National Databases of Adopted Laws, National Gazette, Ministries' official policies	
<b>Output 1 related to Outcome 2</b>	2.1 Strengthened capacities of civil society, including advocacy and public awareness, to effectively operate for the eradication of all forms of torture, cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment or punishment including SGBV against women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity	2.1.1 Number of national and sub-national laws and public policies for the eradication of all forms of torture, cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment or punishment, adopted or amended thanks to the critical role played by civil society organisations through EU support*	TBD in 2022-2023		National Databases of Adopted Laws, National Gazette, Ministries' official policies	

<b>Output 2 related to Outcome 2</b>	2.2 Enhanced oversight and strengthened role of civil society in monitoring, preventing and responding to human rights violations and abuses	2.2.1 Number of inclusive social dialogues in partner countries, promoted and facilitated by EU-funded actions*	TBD in 2022-2023		EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: annual and final reports from implementing organisations, ROM reviews, and evaluations	
<b>Output 1 related to Outcome 3</b>	3.1 Strengthened capacities of civil society, including advocacy and public awareness, to contribute to repealing discriminatory laws, policies, measures and practices against LGBTI persons, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and to contribute to policy-making in the area of non-discrimination	3.1.1 Number of government policies fighting discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, sex characteristics, religion or belief, developed or revised with CSOs participation through EU support**  3.1.2 Extent to which legislation, policies and practices are revised to remove gender-discriminatory clauses	TBD in 2022-2023		EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: annual and final reports from implementing organisations, ROM reviews, and evaluations	
<b>Output 2 related to Outcome 3</b>	3.2. Improved equality, inclusion, respect and engagement of LGBTI persons and persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in all spheres of public and private life	3.2.1 Number of persons benefitting from EU-funded programmes to counter discrimination against LGBTI persons, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities disaggregated by sex/gender, ethnicity and type of discriminationreligion.	TBD in 2022-2023		EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: annual and final reports from implementing organisations, ROM reviews, and evaluations	

\* Indicators from the MIP

\*\* Indicators from EURF and SDGs

## 4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1 Financing Agreement

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

### 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 measures<sup>6</sup>.

#### 4.3.1 Direct Management (Grants)

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

The Action will be implemented in particular through calls for proposals. The calls will have different lots corresponding to the outputs as listed in the logframe, and the specific modalities (eligibility requirements, financial framework partnership agreements) for each thematic area may vary.

The component on death penalty and torture may be implemented through Financial Framework Partnership Agreements (FFPAs) with global civil society partners which illustrate the commitment of the European Commission to support CSOs not only as providers of aid but also as pivotal actors of governance. These FFPAs would allow for further alignment of CSO initiatives and European Union's policy priorities through partnerships that highlight mutual interest and common shared objectives. FFPAs would allow this Action to reach different kinds of actors than those best placed to compete in global calls for proposals, engaging those whose networks and outreach can involve more local and marginalised groups. FFPAs may engage various different types of CSOs, such as Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs), Foundations, community and faith-based organisations. Specific focus may be given to the inclusion of women's and youth organisations and networks.

##### **(a) Purpose of the grants:**

To uphold all human rights as essential to human dignity and to promote equality, inclusion and respect for diversity in all spheres of life.

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

Potential applicants for funding are civil society organisations.

<sup>6</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu). Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.



#### 4.4 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>Implementation modalities</b> – Grants (direct management)	
<b>Equality, diversity &amp; non-discrimination</b>	15 000 000
<b>Torture and Death Penalty</b>	20 000 000
<b>Grants</b> – total envelope	35 000 000
<b>Evaluation</b> – cf. section 5.2 <b>Audit</b> – cf. section 5.3	will be covered by another Decision
<b>Totals</b>	<b>35 000 000</b>

#### 4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The management of the grants resulting from this decision will be carried out by the European Commission, no specific governance structure will be set-up other than the normal monitoring practises and regular meetings.

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.

#### 4.7 Pre-conditions

N/A

### 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.

Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by sex. Monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is taking into account the human rights based approach and gender equality.

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

## 5.2 Evaluation

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

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the importance of the action for policy dialogue in the EU human rights policy.

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

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

The financing of the evaluation(s) contracted by the Commission 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.

As per Article 47 of Regulation (UE) 2021/947 on derogations from visibility requirements, security issues or political sensitivities may make it preferable or necessary to limit communication and visibility activities in certain countries or areas or during certain periods. In such cases, the target audience and the visibility tools, products and channels to be used to promote a given action will be determined on a case-by-case basis, in consultation and agreement with the EU.

## Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

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

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

The present Action identifies as

<b>Action level</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
<b>Group of actions level</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSYS#): <Present action> <Other action>
<b>Contract level</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Group of contracts	Every contract signed by an authorising officer will be a PINTV