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ANNEX III

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 Fair, Accountable and Inclusive Trade and Business - Flagship Action on Business and Human Rights, Forced and Child Labour and Indigenous Peoples' Rights

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

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Fair, Accountable and Inclusive Trade and Business - Flagship Action on Business and Human Rights, Forced and Child Labour and Indigenous Peoples' Rights CRIS reference 2022: 043-838 OPSYS reference 2022: ACT-60817 / JAD.971311 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (<i>Global Europe</i>)
2. Team Europe Initiative	This Action is part of the Global Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Sustainability in Global Supply Chains
3. Zone benefiting from the action	Global
4. Programming document	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for the Thematic Programme on Human Rights and Democracy 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results	The proposed Action will contribute to MIP priorities 1 Protecting and empowering individuals and 3 Promoting a Global System for Human Rights and Democracy , The proposed Action will aim at achieving the following draft MIP expected results including monitoring of its possible impact : i) enhanced oversight and strengthened role of civil society and social partners in monitoring, preventing and responding to human rights violations and abuses; ii) increased engagement opportunities and participation of persons in vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalised situations in decision-making processes, iii) enhanced implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	151 – Government and Civil Society – general 160 - Labour rights, decent work standards

7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	<p>Main 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 and in particular Goals 16.2 and 16.3</p> <p>Other significant SDGs and where appropriate, targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 5 Gender Equality and in particular Goals 5.3 and 5.4 • SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth and in particular Goals 8.7 and 8.8 • SDG 10 Reduction of inequalities and in particular Goals 10.2 and 10.3 • SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development and in particular Goals 17.14 and 17.17. 			
8 a) DAC code(s)	<p>15160 – Human Rights 67 % 16070 – Labour Rights 33 %</p>			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel @	<p>Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society - 2000</p>			
9. Targets	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Migration</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Education</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance</p>			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women’s and girl’s empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @ Tags: digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship job creation digital skills/literacy digital services	<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"/> <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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020211 Total estimated cost: EUR 27 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 12 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2022 and for an amount of EUR 15 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2023 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.			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing¹	Direct management through grants. Indirect management with the entity to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.2			

1.2 Summary of the Action

Public and corporate governance gaps in global supply chains continue to contribute to unsustainable business practices. The COVID-19 pandemic also shed light on business malpractices and state neglect that affect workers

¹ Art. 27 NDICI

and local communities alike. Disregard for human rights, labour and environmental standards is impeding decent work and sustainable development opportunities for all.

The EU is strongly advocating and supporting the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) globally and the European Commission has proposed EU-wide mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence which demonstrate its leading role in this area. The EU is also fully engaged on promoting a decent work agenda worldwide notably by fighting off and eliminating child labour and forced labour. As the world's biggest trade block, the EU has further committed to improve transparency and monitoring by civil society and social partners of its trade policy instruments, such as the EU Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP). Finally, the EU upholds the strengthening of the links between biodiversity protection and human rights is a key approach to ensure a just climate transition for all.

Considering these commitments, this Action aims at enhancing the UNGPs' state duty to protect human rights and corporate responsibility to respect human rights globally through better engagement with civil society actors and social partners. By doing so, this Action will support best corporate practices on sustainability that are driving forward the UNGPs framework.

This Action will work along four axes of intervention: i) Preventing corporate harm and ensuring corporate accountability, ii) Ensuring monitoring and transparency of the Generalised Scheme of Preferences' Special Incentive Arrangement for Sustainable Development or GSP+, iii) Combatting child labour and forced labour and iv) Promoting and protecting indigenous peoples' rights.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

Global value chains are a key feature of today's global economy with about half of world trade being related to them. While economic globalisation and technological change has brought enormous economic and social benefits, it has also contributed to irreversible environmental damage, widespread human rights violations and abuses and vicious labour practices including in its worst forms such as child labour, forced labour and trafficking of human beings.

The COVID-19 pandemic unveiled the fragile state of many global value chains where unsustainable business practices are still prevalent. Moreover, the absence of social nets, poor occupational, health and safety standards in the workplace and lack of decent work opportunities has aggravated the economic vulnerability of workers, migrants, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, women and girls as well as other groups and minorities, many of them working in domestic and informal settings. Disregard for human rights, labour and environmental standards also broadens the informal economy where root causes of inequalities such as poverty, social norms, conflict or climate change entangle the most vulnerable groups into continuous hardship.

The Adoption of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in 2011 has clarified both the obligations of states to respect, protect and fulfil human rights in the context of business operations and the responsibility for business enterprises to abide to human rights². Yet, a decade later, the large-scale and complex nature of these challenges requires the continuous involvement and collaboration of States and companies given the key role they play in this endeavour. This effort is essential in addressing both public and corporate governance gaps contributing to unsustainable global supply chains. The EU is highly committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and, as underlined by President's von der Leyen 2021 State of the Union Address³, the private sector must act in delivering shared prosperity to our planet and its peoples. The 2020 EU Council Conclusions on Human Rights and Decent Work in Global Supply Chains⁴ consider that voluntary measures alone are insufficient to mitigate effectively adverse corporate impacts and emphasise that responsible business conduct and decent work are key drivers for fair globalisation, inclusive and sustainable development and the protection of human rights and

² [United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights \(ohchr.org\)](https://www.ohchr.org/)

³ [State of the Union 2021 | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/sta/20210001)

⁴ [Human rights and decent work in global supply chains: the Council approves conclusions - Consilium \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/sta/20200001)

the environment. The European Commission has adopted in February 2022 an important proposal for a Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive⁵, which will impose mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence across sectors, requiring businesses to prevent and mitigate adverse human rights and environmental impacts related to their operations and supply chains.

This Action is fully in line with these EU political priorities and contribute to implement the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (2020-2024)⁶ which identifies **business and human rights** as a key priority and calls for action to foster implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights worldwide, supporting multi-stakeholder processes to develop, implement and strengthen standards on business and human rights and due diligence, enabling space for business engagement with civil society and ensure access to remedies in a participative manner. A specific focus on supporting vulnerable stakeholders contributing to companies' human rights and environmental due diligence processes and in accessing remedies will serve as accompanying measure to the EU legislative proposal on Sustainable Corporate Governance. In this regards, this Action will act as concrete follow-up to actions identified in the upcoming EU Framework on the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles and will directly support the global Team Europe Initiative on Sustainability in Global Supply Chains. It also follows Opinions made by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency⁷ by contributing to a global level playing field that includes victims and which is required to ensure corporate respect to human rights.

This Action also follows up on key recommendation in the 2017 EU Aid for Trade Strategy⁸ and the European Commission's 2021 Communication on Trade Policy Review⁹ that underlines the need for further transparency and stakeholder engagement including analytic input from civil society actors and social partners on trade policy for development. The EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy prioritises strengthening the implementation of human rights provisions in EU trade policy, including through the **Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP)**. This Action will thus support civil society's contributions to the implementation and enforcement of core human rights and labour rights international conventions, as well as climate and environment and good governance agreements in the GSP+ beneficiaries¹⁰ and in Everything But Arms (EBA) beneficiaries under enhanced engagement with the EU¹¹, including as regards responsible business conduct.

The EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy sets as a priority a zero-tolerance approach on **child labour** and the eradication of **forced labour**. Enhancing children participation and empowerment is also a key focus of the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child (2021-2024)¹². Moreover, 2021 is the International Year for the elimination of child labour. This Action will put that commitment into action by working towards the abolition of child labour and supporting evidence-based policy and corporation decisions that affect children. This Action is also in line with the EU Commission Communication on Decent Work Worldwide¹³, by specifically working on discrimination at work, elimination of child labour and forced labour, promoting social dialogue, freedom of association of workers, collective bargaining for decent wages and respect of other labour rights, including tackling labour inequalities experienced by vulnerable groups such as migrants and tackling trafficking in human beings that foster labour exploitation.

Through its EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030¹⁴, the EU has vowed to strengthen the links between biodiversity protection and human rights and acknowledged that full respect and implementation of environmental standards is conducive to the full realisation of all human rights notably by ensuring access to information and participative decision-making. Indigenous peoples are key constituents in protecting natural public goods and ensuring their participation can also foster better management of natural resources and their responsible use in global supply

⁵ [Corporate sustainability due diligence - Fostering sustainability in corporate governance and management systems \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁶ [EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy \(2020-2024\) – European External Action Service \(eeas.europa.eu\)](#)

⁷ [Improving access to remedy in the area of business and human rights at the EU level - Opinion of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁸ [Aid for Trade: Helping developing countries to achieve prosperity through trade and investment \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁹ [Communication on the Trade Policy Review \(europa.eu\)](#)

¹⁰ [Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus \(GSP+\) \(europa.eu\)](#)

¹¹ [Everything but Arms | GSP Platform](#)

¹² [The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and the European Child Guarantee - European Commission](#)

¹³ [Commission sets out strategy to promote decent work worldwide and prepares instrument for ban on forced labour products \(europa.eu\)](#)

¹⁴ [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 – European Commission](#)

chains. The EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy also prioritises supporting the realisation of **indigenous peoples' rights** as set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples¹⁵. This Action will operationalise these commitments by supporting the respect and protection of indigenous peoples' rights and promoting their full and effective participation in relevant human rights and development processes, with particular attention to ensuring observance of the principle of free, prior and informed consent in all decisions affecting them. This approach will also support the recognition in 2021 by the Human Rights Council of a right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right and will address the vulnerability of indigenous peoples in the face of harmful business behaviour.

Finally, this Action is equally relevant for the implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan 2021-2025 (GAP III)¹⁶ and in particular for its objectives related to its thematic area of engagement “Promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women” among others. The Action will provide a key example on how to embed a ‘do no harm’ approach on key political issues as reflected in the recently adopted Staff Working Document on Applying the Human Rights Based Approach to International Partnerships (SWD(2021) 179 final) of 30 June 2021 which provides a human rights-based approach methodology to guide all interventions under the NDICI – Global Europe¹⁷. The ‘do no harm’ approach fits particularly well with the implementation of international standards on responsible business conduct, such as the the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy¹⁸ and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises¹⁹ which requires effective consultation and social dialogue between the private sector, workers’ organisations and vulnerable stakeholders to address unintended social and environmental consequences of business activities.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis:

Component 1: Preventing corporate harm and ensuring corporate accountability

Despite the broad legal consensus for ensuring remedies in international human rights law, corporate harm derives from weak accountability mechanisms, loopholes in corporate governance and gaps between national jurisdictions and high corruption levels. Moreover, positive legal outcomes for victims, supported by civil society actors and social partners, have been meagre with rare compensation offered and with most cases having been dismissed in courts. According to the ILO, workers had no or only restricted access to justice in 65 per cent of countries worldwide. In addition, civil society actors, trade unionists and human rights defenders that speak against harmful business practices are often facing strategic lawsuits against public participation, criminal or civil lawsuits brought or initiated by business actors to intimidate them.

Effective remedies still face structural legal hurdles which can compromise the effectiveness of existing or forthcoming mandatory due diligence legislation, rendering it toothless. Similarly, the legal obstacles for victims also prolongs a state of impunity in partner countries which can seriously harm any progress to cement rule of law and good governance but also an enabling business environment. Legal hurdles faced by victims are complex and multiple. Victims already face structural discrimination that hinders legal protection available. Separate liability between corporate entities operating in global supply chains but also gaps between national jurisdictions cast a corporate veil on legal recourse for victims. Bringing cases forward against corporate harm is an activity that involves high legal costs and very specific legal expertise. This strain on resources on the plaintiffs’ side should also be weighed against the resources mobilised by corporate defendants which is particularly striking when legal costs must be paid by the losing party. Proving the link between the company and the harm caused can be cumbersome as the burden of proof in many cases falls on the victims’ side. In difficult contexts, local CSOs or

¹⁵ [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – United Nations](#)

¹⁶ [Joint Communication JOIN\(2020\) 17 final and SWD\(2020\) 284 final EU Gender Action Plan \(GAP\) III – An ambitious agenda for gender equality and women's empowerment in EU external action](#)

¹⁷ [Applying the Human Rights Based Approach to international partnerships - EU Commission Staff Working Document](#)

¹⁸ [Tripartite declaration of principles concerning multinational enterprises and social policy \(MNE Declaration\) - 5th Edition \(March 2017\) \(ilo.org\)](#)

¹⁹ [2011 Update of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises - OECD](#)

victims' associations can experience difficulty in gathering evidence in front of security risks and public defamation. Working toward supporting legal recourse for victims will help address these constraints but also broaden the space for corporate responsibility on human rights to engage meaningfully with vulnerable stakeholders. At the same time, civil society actors play a crucial watchdog role when breaches of accountability occur because of corporate actors. Specific investigative research can open the space for stronger legal claims.

Surveys and benchmarking exercises about due diligence practices in supply chains demonstrate that there are clear gaps between companies' policies regarding human rights and their current due diligence processes. When considering due diligence in relation to most salient human rights issues such as child labour, forced labour, human trafficking but also women's rights and gender inequality, gathering the necessary information to mitigate risks effectively remains a complex task for businesses. The complexity of informal supply chains, the lack of company leverage at the lower tiers of the supply chain coupled with the hidden nature of these violations brings additional challenges. Civil society actors can play a crucial role in supporting the compliance of companies to business and human rights standards through their ground knowledge and networks but also their understanding about risks and vulnerable groups affected by corporate harm. While this work can most definitely support victims engaged in legal proceedings, it can also strengthen non-judicial and non-state grievances mechanisms and thus effectively enhance companies' due diligence processes in practice.

Component 2: Ensuring monitoring and transparency of the Generalised Scheme of Preferences' Special Incentive Arrangement for Sustainable Development (GSP+)

Provisions related to international human rights, labour rights, environmental protection, good governance and responsible business conduct in EU trade instruments increased substantially in the last decade. Evidence shows that the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) is contributing to eradicating poverty and to promoting sustainable development by granting unilateral trade preferences on goods exported from developing countries to the EU market. Beneficiaries of the GSP+ Special Incentive Arrangement must ratify and effectively implement a list of international conventions on human rights (including labour rights), environmental protection and good governance. At the same time, promoting the ratification and effective implementation of labour and environmental conventions and of responsible business standards through EU trade agreements is a key step contributing to fight against child labour, forced labour, trafficking in human beings and other labour abuses. However, ratification and enforcement of international conventions still remain insufficient thereby creating an implementation gap and compromising the attainment of the goals set in these international agreements. Greater involvement of stakeholders in externally supporting GSP monitoring through disaggregated data collection and analysis can contribute to effective implementation of GSP commitments by beneficiary countries. The special incentive arrangement of the GSP+ is a particularly interesting entry-point in this regard as applicant partner countries are expected to fulfil their obligations related to the ratification and effective implementation of international conventions on human rights (including labour rights) as well as climate and environment and good governance international agreements and through sustainable development to graduate out of the scheme. It may notably help in better documenting the compliance of partner countries with requirements regarding women's rights and gender equality.

Component 3: Combatting child labour and forced labour

Child labour and forced labour are complex, multifaceted and deeply embedded issues within societies that require holistic approaches to tackle them. Overall, they result from transposition gaps in legislation where relevant international conventions are nearly universally ratified but lack of effective implementation, enforcement, inspectorate capacity, and access to justice still create space for non-compliance. Poverty, lack of access to quality education, underdeveloped services, the absence of social safety nets and social protection mechanisms, also exacerbates pressures on workers and people and increases inequalities and their vulnerability by broadening the scope of the informal economy.

Child labour

Poverty, lack of decent work for parents, lack of safe access to quality and inclusive education and health, absence of birth registration, absence of social protection systems, socially discriminatory norms and social exclusion are key contributing factors to child labour. The COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted social services in these

areas but also decent work and living income for parents. As a consequence of the pandemic, around 8.9 million more children will likely be engaged in child labour by 2022. This comes on top to the 160 million children, almost 1 in 10 children worldwide, that are currently engaged in child labour and 79 million children that are performing hazardous work worldwide, the largest category of the worst forms of child labour. This is concerning as global progress against child labour has stalled since 2016 following a downward trend since two decades, all regions concerned. The majority of child labour cases occur within rural households, affecting differently boys and girls including those disabilities, which underlines that gender-responsive solutions tailored for local and informal settings are required. The lack of meaningful engagement with children when identifying and formulating policy decisions is also a noticeable obstacle to the systemic change needed. International labour organisation research²⁰ notes that child labour is far more likely to be involved in production for the domestic economy, there is however a nonnegligible risk that this child will be contributing to global supply chains. To fully eradicate child labour due consideration is required for both global supply chains and domestic production.

Forced Labour

Today, 25 million people are in forced labour globally, 71% being women and girls. Profits made by businesses from forced labour are estimated at 130 billion Euros per annum while the socio-economic costs to the most vulnerable are incalculable. The informal economy which accounts for more than 6 out of 10 workers accommodates forced labour conditions and locks marginalised groups, such as women and children, into extreme poverty. The COVID-19 crisis is increasing the pool of workers living in vulnerable situations and at risk of being trapped in forced labour and worsening work conditions that are already exploitative. Desperate job seekers, particularly women and people living with disabilities, are more susceptible to deceptive recruitment practices and workers employed in precarious jobs, including domestic workers, are more vulnerable to intimidation, harassment and violence aimed at preventing them from claiming their rights, filing complaints and leaving.

On top of these socio-economic inequalities and vulnerabilities, fundamental labour rights have been increasingly under threat, a trend only amplified by the recent pandemic. Trade union density has reduced worldwide. The number of countries that impeded the registration of unions increased from 89 countries in 2020 to 109 in 2021 which increases economic informality and vulnerability of workers in poor jobs, unemployed, underemployed. Migrant workers or trafficked people (including domestic workers) who cannot join trade unions are at particular risk of poor working conditions and rights violations, with little regulation of working hours, no respect for occupational health and safety, limited freedom of movement and poor wages. In this respect, women and girls are at particular risk. There is a clear correlation between social dialogue including collective bargaining and freedom of association and the reduction of inequality and forced labour by ensuring a decent living income and minimum wage and by mitigating unfair prices, indecent wages and abusive purchasing practices. Similarly, decent work can also support equal pay for work of equal value, protection against violence and sexual harassment at work and equal opportunities for people living with disabilities. In many ways, women's economic empowerment through better workers' representation is a significant step to ensure gender equality. A greater focus on inclusive and participative social dialogue and collective bargaining leading to binding commitments by companies, including at global level while involving multinational companies, can also tackle the inadequacy of social audits and other self-regulating and corrective actions by companies. This can diminish the risk of cosmetic compliance while promoting collective and effective mitigation measures.

Component 4: Promoting and protecting indigenous peoples' rights:

Indigenous Peoples protect nearly a quarter of the world's land surface, despite making up only 6% of the global population. Indigenous peoples are critical stakeholders and defenders of biological diversity and sustainable land management while being among the first to face the direct consequences of climate change. Indigenous peoples are strongly impacted by adverse corporate behaviour in areas of poor governance and for which only poor accountability mechanisms exist. The number of reprisals against indigenous human rights defenders remains consistently high. Over a third of the attacks on human rights defenders in 2020 were reportedly linked to resource exploitation and over a third of human rights defenders killed in 2020 belonged to indigenous communities. The level of impunity occurring in indigenous territories is alarming and has also worsened with the COVID-19

²⁰ https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipecc/documents/publication/wcms_728062.pdf

pandemic, whereas economic interests have often prevailed over social and environmental laws, policies and safeguards. In addition, tens of millions of indigenous women and men, also living with disabilities, have been working in sectors particularly hard hit by the COVID-19 crisis. Safeguarding their rights, and ensuring they are enforced, are critical in ensuring a sustainable, rights based and just responses not only to adverse effects of the pandemic but also to the climate crisis and poor labour conditions in global supply chains.

Globally, more than 476 million indigenous women and men lag behind in all measurements of human development. Indigenous peoples suffer of higher levels of discrimination in relation to decent employment, access to traditional livelihoods, access to education and health, housing conditions, access to clean water and sanitation. Lack of awareness and insufficient integration of indigenous peoples' rights and needs into development planning are key factors that explain these inequalities.

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

Rights-holders:

- **Trade unions and workers' associations**, including those at global, national and sectoral levels advocate for the effective implementation of labour rights and better social protection for workers in particular those in the informal economy and for their legal recognition as workers. Through tripartite cooperation, they can also engage in improving the legislation in the area of labour relations, such as labour law reform or business environment reform. Particular focus will be given to participation of women's rights defenders promoting better labour rights, gender-responsive social protection systems and more equal share of domestic and care work.
- **Local communities, traditional leaders, including women representatives** must equally be involved in the action given the wide scope of negative business impact. Leading figures within communities also play a key role to raise awareness about rights but also inform about risk of forced labour and child labour, in particular, based on social norms, community sensitivities and appropriate responses.
- **Victims and plaintiffs** have suffered an injustice to which no remedy has been given. It is not only important to provide them with appropriate compensation but support the legal processes that can reduce the space of impunity and the probability of future harm.
- .
- **Women and girls** are particular at risk as indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, children, workers or mothers. The compound intersectional discrimination that affects them calls for an urgent action that can tackle in particular gender inequality and discrimination in the workplace, in indigenous territories and in informal supply chains. In particular, women human rights defenders play a vital role in ensuring that the voices of the most marginalised be heard given their leading presence in social life.
- **Children and youth, boys and girls in all their diversity** always suffer more from long-term negative impact when human rights abuses occur. By building a participatory approach and responding to their gender-specific needs and aspirations, we can understand the reality of their daily life, their challenges and envisage with them potential solutions and opportunities.
- **Human rights defenders** operate in difficult situations and under constraints. They are also at-risk of retaliation or public defamation for protecting human rights and gender equality worldwide. They must be given protection to speak up to ensure sufficient corporate accountability.
- **Indigenous peoples and indigenous organisations** at local, national and regional levels in the concerned countries. They play a crucial role in ensuring respect and protection of indigenous peoples' rights, advocating these rights with duty-bearers. They also contribute to more inclusive and sustainable societies
- **People living with disabilities** are among the most fragile and exposed groups. They are more likely to fall in situation of forced labour or having to resort to work at a young age. They lack representation to defend their rights or suffer from a lack of inclusiveness which hinders equal opportunities.

Duty-bearers:

- **Government representatives and governmental institutions** at national and local levels play a crucial role to enact laws, build trust and ownership among stakeholders, providing access to remedies and support

for legal enforcement and policy reviews that are crucial to support implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and national action plans on child labour.

- **Private sector, intermediary and trade operators**, in line with their corporate responsibility, are pivotal to get the labour rights, gender equality and human rights understood and enforced through their formal and informal networks. Through stakeholder engagement and robust human rights and environmental due diligence, they can adopt and implement mitigation measures and reduce negative impact on human rights and in particular child labour and forced labour.
- **Employers' organisations**, including those at global and national levels, can help with their networks raising awareness and foster the adoption of decent work and fundamental rights and principles at work.
- **National human rights institutions** play a key role in the monitoring of corporate human rights violations and abuses and violations at country-level. In particular, they can examine domestic legislation in force, follow up on complaints or play a mediating role between parties.
- **Key international development actors** can provide direct support but also driving policy discussions towards sustainable impact.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to enhance the state duty to protect human rights and the corporate responsibility to respect human rights globally through improved engagement of civil society actors and social partners

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

1. Ensure the effective implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights by supporting vulnerable stakeholders claiming stronger corporate accountability and engaging in human rights, and environmental due diligence
2. Enhance the monitoring and reporting by civil society actors and social partners on the implementation and enforcement of core human rights, including labour rights, as well as climate and environment and good governance agreements in GSP+ beneficiaries and in EBA beneficiaries with enhanced engagement with the EU
3. Empower trade unions and rights-holders, in particular women, girls and people living with disabilities, to combat child labour and forced labour in formal and informal economic sectors
4. Support global advocacy and self-development processes by indigenous communities, which are particularly at risk of corporate human rights violations and abuses and environmental harm.

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

1. Contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1)
 - 1.1 Enhanced oversight and strengthened role of civil society and social partners in monitoring, preventing and responding to human rights violations and abuses;
 - 1.2 Facilitated access to remedies for aggrieved parties through legal expertise and resourcing of local civil society organisations and social partners to investigate corporate human rights violations and abuses and engage in collective redress;
 - 1.3 Effective advocacy to EU institutions and global human rights actors about the implementation of human rights, and environmental due diligence including access to remedies.
2. Contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2)
 - 2.1 Strengthened capacities for monitoring effectively the implementation of human rights including labour rights;
 - 2.2 Improved transparency of the GSP+ framework through active engagement of civil society and social partners;
 - 2.3 Informed policy-making of EU institutions about the effective implementation and compliance of third-country partners.
- 3.1 Contributing to Outcome 3 (or Specific Objective 3)
 - 3.1.1 Strengthened capacities for the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the rights of every

- child;
- 3.1.2 Better protection of girls and boys, including those with disabilities, from all forms of discriminatory social norms and raise social awareness on the challenges of child labour and child trafficking;
 - 3.1.3 Enhanced child protection systems that provide essential services to victims of child labour.
- 3.2 Contributing to Outcome 3 (or Specific Objective 3)
- 3.2.1 Strengthened capacities for the protection of labour rights and promotion of decent work;
 - 3.2.2 Enhanced participation of workers and their organisations in the monitoring and reporting of cases of forced labour and in the enforcement of the necessary mitigation measures to fight it;
 - 3.2.3 Improved prevention of abusive and fraudulent labour practices against migrant workers, women workers and domestic workers including relatives.
4. Contributing to Outcome 4 (or Specific Objective 4)
- 4.1 Increased capacity of indigenous peoples' networks and organisations to monitor their rights and define their development priorities through data collection;
 - 4.2 Increased engagement opportunities and capacities for the participation in decision-making of indigenous peoples and indigenous organisations;
 - 4.3 Established communication channels with strategic multilateral partners, EU and UN institutions and key national authorities and development actors to make their voice heard;
 - 4.4 Effective sustainable human development of indigenous communities that is self-determined and self-operationalised through capacity building and locally defined pilot initiatives.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities related to Output 1:

- Supporting community-based initiatives for monitoring implementation of business and human rights standards, auditing, benchmarking and product sourcing.
- Promote multi-stakeholder initiatives among civil society, and social partners, governments and businesses to enhance on the ground impact of responsible business practices and the promotion and implementation of international standards
- Strengthening of legal capacities and expertise of civil society organisations and social partners to lead collective redress processes and strategic litigation
- Support initiatives from civil society, and social partners and human rights defenders to facilitate access to an effective remedy for victims in third countries, including through non-State grievance mechanism, research, investigation and awareness raising campaigns about corporate malpractice, and consultation, advice, assistance, evidence-building and legal referral of civil society actors and social partners with affected communities and victims.
- Engagement with national and international state and non-state judicial bodies to support legal cases and cooperate towards mutual legal assistance
- Advocacy with EU institutions and global human rights actors to report back on operational difficulties linked to human rights and environmental due diligence processes and legal hurdles for victims in accessing remedies.

Activities related to Output 2:

- Create awareness among civil society actors including trade unions about human rights and labour standards in the context of the GSP+ monitoring framework.
- Support capacity-building of local civil society to conduct appropriate monitoring and reporting, including through a train-the-trainer approach
- Disaggregated data (sex, age, disability) collection, field research, monitoring and reporting of the implementation of relevant GSP+ conventions
- Convene multi-stakeholder discussions with civil society, social partners and relevant international organisations for information-sharing and coordination.
- Engage with EU Delegations and HQ to discuss findings of the reporting.

Activities related to Output 3.1:

- Support local CSOs and social partners building gender-sensitive expertise on child labour and led advocacy campaigns both state and corporate actors in eliminating child labour focusing on prevention, identification, monitoring and remedial measures of companies
- Empower, enable and institutionalise spaces for dialogue and meaningful engagement with children whose rights are being denied through child labour
- Advocating political and corporate decision-makers including their suppliers about policies and laws required to combat child labour in formal and informal settings in particular those implying domestic work based on local evidence-based knowledge and data
- Develop with children and disseminate, both online and offline, child-friendly, gender-sensitive and age-appropriate and accessible information to children, families, youth, teachers and communities on acceptable and unacceptable forms of work for children
- Set up the necessary community-level child awareness, monitoring, sensitisation and protection systems to overturn harmful discriminatory norms and stereotypes against boys and girls that influence child labour including better understanding of child labour and its legal standards.
- Health care (including sexual and reproductive health), including both medical and psychological assistance, as well as provision of special rehabilitative and reinsertion measures for children-at-work

Activities related to Output 3.2:

- Promoting rights to freedom of association, collective bargaining and social dialogue to better negotiate wages and working time, gender-responsive social security schemes, receive the appropriate trainings and ensure decent working conditions.
- Promoting exchange of good practices to foster effective state-private sector-employers-trade unions collaboration to tackle corporate malpractices related to forced labour
- Supporting trade unions in the monitoring of global framework agreements that are binding for companies and which promote inclusive and encompassing collective bargaining, including on issues of gender equality.
- Develop and reinforce workers-driven social responsibility programmes that can empower workers and their organisations to tackle decent work deficits including cases of forced labour and design and implement the appropriate mitigation responses.
- Guidance, training and awareness raising at the workplace by trade unions to workers about their rights including violence and harassment, discrimination, the abuse of power relations, and the gender, cultural and social norms that support such labour rights abuses.
- Create awareness and better understanding about trafficking of human beings and forced labour situations by providing orientation and information for migrants workers, women workers and domestic workers.
- Protect the rights of workers, including migrants workers, women workers and domestic workers, from abusive and fraudulent practices during the recruitment process (including pre-selection, selection, transportation, placement and possibility to return)
- Enhance development outcomes for migrant workers, women workers and domestic workers including their families, as well as for countries of origin and destination.

Activities related to Output 4:

- Continuous improvement of a virtual data collection portal that compiles the development needs self-identified by indigenous peoples including possible risks posed by global supply chains
- Support to indigenous communities and local partners to conduct disaggregated data collection (by sex, age), verification and analysis of their development priorities and the human rights violations affecting them
- Translation, interpretation, visits that facilitate indigenous peoples' participation in global human right fora
- Spreading information and implementing trainings and workshops to improve indigenous peoples' informed decision-making about the legal and policy processes affecting them
- Alliance building through advocacy visits and meetings with strategic partners for action, such as NHRIs, government and international bodies
- Implementation of pilot projects with the aim to improve response to rights-based, gender-responsive,

culturally adequate and participatory development needs.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

This Action provides key political and logistical support for indigenous peoples and indigenous organisations to better advocate their development needs in global human rights fora. The role of indigenous peoples has proven to be key in sustainable land management that generates valuable ecosystem services at a lower cost than other forest management approaches but also in preventing land grabbing. Biodiversity protection greatly benefits from the stewardship of indigenous peoples of their land which is less likely prone to deforestation and act as a carbon sink. Better indigenous representation in the view of policymakers can support to tenure and forest management by indigenous peoples and local communities which are vital to address the climate and biodiversity crises.

Supporting access to remedies to victims of corporate human rights violations and abuses in the context of forthcoming mandatory due diligence requirements on both human rights and environmental aspects can greatly broaden the scope to which most vulnerable groups can seek compensation for environmental damage and harm that occurs in the vicinity of their community. At the same time, stronger access to remedies in this area will cement in legal practice the recognition of a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right. A complementary focus on civil society actors' input into the human rights and environmental due diligence processes of companies will also strengthen responsible corporate practices in this area.

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

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

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

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

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 will adequately mainstream women empowerment and the particular situation of mothers of children in child labour, of vulnerable women workers subject to discrimination and harassment including increased vulnerability to situations of forced labour and indigenous women that suffer from heightened levels of discrimination.

Men, women, boys and girls are powerful agents of change if they have the deserved autonomy and minimum assistance. Gender inequalities will be addressed in this action notably by raising awareness of parents, community leaders and youth to change behaviour anchored on social norms leading to gender inequalities in various areas compromising boys' and girls' well-being and non-discrimination for their future.

Specific objective 3 will entail a gender equality as a significant objective. Data analysis, collection and management will be disaggregated by sex and age throughout the Action.

Human Rights

The Action provides support to reinforce the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights worldwide, including with regard to the prevention of human rights impacts and ensuring sufficient prevention, protection and access to remedies to victims of human rights corporate violations and abuses. It is also complementary to ensuring concrete application of ILO Convention 87 on Freedom of Association and ILO Convention 98 on right to Collective Bargaining. It also supports the implementation of the ILO Convention 169 on indigenous and tribal peoples and respect of the UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

All forms of child labour as defined in the ILO Conventions 138 and 182 are a serious violation of the rights of the

child, the same goes for all forms of forced labour which are enshrined in the ILO Convention 29 and its 2014 Protocol and ILO Convention 105. This Action will also be in line with the International Convention on the Rights of the Child and the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. Labour rights will be mainstreamed across the action through activities to support civil society organisations including trade unions to claim their rights and fight off discrimination at work.

The human rights-based approach (HRBA) will help identify risks and mitigated measures in the respect of the “do no harm” principle. The HRBA will also contribute to identify and address cases of forced child labour, forced labour and other human rights and labour rights violations. The action also promotes transparency, non-discrimination, participation, and accountability principles.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that disability inclusion is an important and deliberate objective, but not the principal reason for undertaking the intervention.

Democracy

A participatory approach will be used to empower target groups in particular indigenous peoples, children, youth, workers and plaintiffs in consultations to understand key drivers for achieving sustainable development including their needs, and aspirations for their development, and role to play as agents for change.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

The Action will strengthen indigenous peoples networking and advocacy in global fora on top of an improved assessment of risks in their immediate vicinity. The effective governance, advocacy and planning of the territory contribute to guarantee those conditions that allow resilience within communities in the face of climate change and land grabbing by corporate actors. Resilience becomes, without a doubt, a protective factor.

The action will contribute to build social cohesion and social peace, to strengthen resilience of families in vulnerable, fragile and marginalised situations with increased decent work conditions, respecting the fundamental principles and rights at work. The action aims at designing interventions to improve livelihoods and social safeguards to avoid resorting to child labour such as youth and women employability, diversified incomes, access to microfinance, insurance and saving mechanisms

Disaster Risk Reduction

Not targeted

Other considerations if relevant

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3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating measures
Political	Weak political cooperation by government and business actors on the ground.	Medium	Low	The Action will include activities that allow a continuous engagement of civil society actors with local authorities but also globally with the private sector downstream the chain and EU institutions to ensure that sufficient attention is given to the Action by all actors.
Social	Indigenous communities and local civil society actors lack the sufficient	Low	Medium	Building awareness based on evidence, empowering vulnerable groups’ participation in human rights monitoring and reporting processes. Ensure regular dialogues with CSOs and grassroots organisations. Privilege flexible procedures that

	awareness and capacity-building to claim and advocate for their rights.			respond to smaller organizations challenges and provide tailor-made capacity building for CSOs.
Legal	Legal loopholes in corporate governance and gaps in national jurisdictions impede legal claims being received in courts	Medium	Medium	The Action will ensure a combined approach between resourcing local CSOs to build up legal claims both at national and internal level and an advocacy component to inform policymakers about legislative gaps.
Social	Entrenched community-based behaviours and social norms in remote rural areas impede sufficient support in informal settings.	Low	Medium	Participative approaches to enable communities assessing their development needs but also to the monitoring and reporting of human rights abuses can deter harmful behaviours. Community-driven data collection and assessment by other complementary actions can support solutions tailored for local and informal settings.
Political	Lack of enforcement by governmental bodies and poor social services impedes progress on the ground	Medium	Medium	Collaboration between governments and trade unions and worker-driven social responsibility can effectively support state actors. Fact-based advocacy to both political and corporate actors can ensure the appropriate policies and laws.

Lessons Learnt:

Environmental and human rights due diligence is gaining traction among companies but voluntary measures are insufficient to deliver up-to-scale mitigation measures. Research by the OECD demonstrate a clear gap between human rights policies adopted by companies and their risk mitigations measures. A smart-mix of measures that entails both capacity-building but also more participative approaches with civil society will be key to allow business actors complying with the standards set in the UN Guiding Principles and strengthen the key role they play to strengthen the framework. At the same time, sufficient remedies must exist to ensure that victims can claim corporate accountability.

Building on the achievements of previous EIDHR grants (EIDHR/2016/376-915, 376-917 & 376-918), increased inputs by civil society actors into monitoring the implementation of GSP+ commitments is key to ensure transparency. However, the evaluation of these grants shows that the constrained context at national level can impede advocacy efforts and sometimes be counter productive. Therefore, a more tailored approach in supporting civil society through shadow reporting is more likely to deliver sufficient result in policy discussions. It will also act in complementarity with other ongoing project such as the GSP+ Hub project focused on research and convening multi-stakeholders around the issue.

Child labour and forced labour are pervasive issues that reflects numerous issues. According to extended research by the International Labour Organisation, they are often deeply embedded within societies and informal sectors and require a multi-stakeholder approach capable of generating scalable solutions. Participative and empowerment approaches for vulnerable groups such as domestic, women and migrant workers can ensure that development responses can reach those at most-at-risk and these solutions also fit their needs. Stronger local engagement can

allow leverage governments to act strongly on these issues.

Self-determination and participative approaches to identify indigenous development needs are key to understand local needs. Previous grants on the Indigenous Navigator consortium (EIDHR/2019/414-404) or to the Indigenous Peoples' Centre for Documentation, Research and Information (EIDHR/2018/402-201) have demonstrated their relevance in informing policymaking. Sustaining these efforts is key but stronger collaboration with state bodies, national human rights institutions and other development actors is required to ensure sustainability of the intervention. At the same time, advocacy on indigenous issues needs to be more tailored and more in line with key development issues as climate mitigation or business and human rights.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that:

Component 1: Preventing corporate harm and ensuring corporate accountability

As the EU is stepping up its standards on business and human right, notably through binding due diligence requirement for EU companies, it is paramount to ensure that such standards are effectively implemented. This Action will entail capacity-building prevention, reveal and redress activities that support civil society actors and social partners working both in the EU and out of the EU to investigate, document and expose corporate harm when it occurs and to support justice and remedies for victims. Protection activities seeking to address the root causes and structural issues behind threats of plaintiffs will be left for existing EU protection mechanisms for human rights defenders that are already operating.

Improving civil society actors' and social partners' inputs to companies' due diligence processes and supporting specific legal cases worldwide will support a global level playing field for both victims and companies leading on sustainability. The gap between public commitments regarding human rights by companies and their current due diligence processes explains why many companies face severe allegations. Civil society actors and social partners can play a crucial role in reducing that space by supporting compliance of companies with business and human rights standards through their ground knowledge and networks but also their understanding about risks and third parties. Civil society action that addresses human rights violations and abuses by companies also enables companies to broaden the risk management process. Therefore, this Action will also support companies in their due diligence processes to think beyond litigation risks, engage meaningfully with stakeholders and fulfil their responsibility to respect human rights including labour rights. This Action will tackle the uneven uptake and implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights worldwide whereas existing legal loopholes between jurisdictions on top of structural legal hurdles for victims in areas of weak governance still leave space for corporate impunity.

Component 2: Supporting monitoring and transparency of the Generalised Scheme of Preferences' Special Incentive Arrangement for Sustainable Development (GSP+)

This Action's component will line up with the implementation of the new GSP+ regulation set for 2024 and its new extended 3-years monitoring period. The Action will take place in countries that will be in the process of reapplication or have successfully reapplied to the GSP+ arrangement under the new regulation and will also include countries that fall under enhanced engagement as to cover any possible deterioration of human and labour rights or to support a country's future application to the GSP+ framework. This Action will mainly focus on capacitating civil society actors, including social partners, to monitor and report the effective implementation and compliance of third-country partners with international human rights and labour rights, as well as environmental and climate standards under GSP+ including progress achieved in their roadmaps. More specifically, it will build concrete links between civil society actors and social partners and political and trade sections in EU Delegations that are engaging with local authorities to discuss progress on the implementation of GSP+ related conventions but also the programming of EU development cooperation.

A more demand-driven reporting established through regular exchanges can bring in the added-value of CSOs and social partners expertise and develop ability to work on trade-related issues. Specific focus on ILO fundamental conventions will be the focus of this component. However, a tailored approach based on a preliminary needs assessment conducted both at Delegation and HQ level will determine a possible extension to other GSP+ conventions including environmental and good governance ones. In the same vein, prior consultation with EU Delegations will take place to identify best suited partners at national level capable of conducting the technical reporting. A train-the-trainers approach to human and labour rights monitoring will be given preference to ensure long term follow-up from civil society and social partners on these issues and anticipate possible graduation of countries out of the GSP+ framework. Convening stakeholders such as the private sector, the International Labour Organisation and trade unions to discuss findings will be part of the approach in this Action but specific advocacy activities will be left in the hand of the EU Delegations according to the political context, which can be sensitive with regard to GSP+ issues.

Component 3: Combatting child labour and forced labour

In light of the complexity and scale of child labour, forced labour, collaboration between businesses, trade unions and vulnerable stakeholders can help ensure that concrete solutions can address root causes while avoiding inefficient individual corporate actions in this area. Research highlights the importance of such multi-stakeholder collaboration in this area. Child labour and forced labour are systemic problems that require a holistic approach covering public services, social transfers, and ensuring decent work, with living income increase, awareness raising campaigns, stronger labour inspections, capacity building for inspectorates criminalisation of existing cases, dialogue with and feedback from civil society organisations including trade unions. This action will take on an area-based approach so that community-based efforts coupled with multi-stakeholder engagements can deliver and address root causes in a specific target area or region without running the risk of transferring the problem to other supply chain productions. Ensuring a fact-based and solution-orientated advocacy in legislative and policy developments on child labour and forced labour including concrete support is an essential step to enabling meaningful stakeholder engagement but also effective implementation of the Guiding Principles and related ILO Conventions over the next decade.

Child labour

Supporting civil society organisations and social partners to advocate local perspectives for better supply chains risk management and social protection to both the political and corporate actors at global level can effectively ensure that effective protection can be trickled down the chain and support given to families and local communities. This engagement should also include continuous meaningful dialogue and engagement with youth, including their participation in policy discussions as key step for identifying the necessary policy measures. Special remediative and rehabilitative measures to children victim of child labour and forced labour cannot be decoupled from these efforts as preventive activities must be lined up to protection interventions.

Forced Labour

Empowering and strengthening trade unions' work in favour of freedom of association, collective bargaining and social dialogue can ensure that a human rights-based approach truly applies to all vulnerable groups operating in the workplace. In this regard, worker-driven social responsibility initiatives can place workers in a leading role to ensure the independence of grievances mechanisms, play an active part in the design of codes of conduct, more responsible business practices or shape health, safety and occupational standards at work and provide workers with sufficient education about their rights. In the same vein, they can ensure comprehensive social audits through self-reporting, data verification and control the transparency of these processes. Supporting trade unions to play an active role in shaping global framework agreements can also ensure that the human rights protection in supply chains can be worker-driven, enforcement-focused and legally binding.

A particular focus would be placed on activities that address the risks of violence and harassment and associated psychosocial risks at work particularly on women, migrant and domestic workers are also called for. Individualized support services to these vulnerable groups, during and after their migration, including on safe migration counselling, legal assistance for trafficking victims, forced labour and other abuse can act as necessary preventive measures. Enhanced support by trade unions in this regard can be transformative to address social vulnerabilities but also economic gaps as bridging the gender wage gap and ensuring a living wage or income would decrease vulnerability to falling into forced labour.

Component 4: Protecting and promoting Indigenous Peoples' rights

This Action will ensure a full, effective and active participation of indigenous peoples in policy and development processes and mechanisms affecting them both at global and national level. This is a critical step for bridging the gap between the international normative framework on indigenous peoples' rights and its concrete implementation. Training and capacity building of indigenous communities, their institutions and organizations including data collection and field surveys about their development needs will support the production of knowledge products that reflects indigenous peoples' self-determination and raise awareness to members of their communities about their rights. Similarly, dedicated resources to organise visits and meeting including policy advising but also to ensure translation and interpretation will not only foster engagement with representatives with the EU and the UN but also increase participation of indigenous peoples in both the UN fora at global level and relevant governmental bodies and development actors at national level.

Improved participation, advocacy, dialogue and engagement of indigenous peoples is expected to lead to policy change and enjoyment by indigenous peoples of their human rights and better access to development. At the same time, enhanced organisational skills of indigenous organisations will create the space for better follow up of decisions and recommendations of international organisations, bodies and mechanisms at the national and local level on issues affecting them, specifically on climate mitigation, business accountability and higher exposition to child labour and forced labour. Through this activity, recognition of Indigenous Peoples' views among policymakers, high-ranking national and international officials, businesses, civil society, social partners and other stakeholders will be enhanced. As a result, National laws, policies and development programmes will be more responsive to indigenous peoples' rights and development needs.

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 (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 state duty to protect human rights and the corporate responsibility to respect human rights globally through improved engagement of civil society actors	Extent to which private sector entities identify, assess, mitigate and communicate the actual and potential adverse human rights impacts with which they are involved, as per Corporate Human Rights Benchmark (HR results chain thematic indicator)			World Benchmarking Alliance Corporate Human Rights Benchmark indicator	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	1. Enhanced implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (HR&D MIP result)	1. Extent to which private sector entities that provide basic public services, comply with the international and national standards regarding non-discrimination and the provision and quality of services to all (HR results chain thematic indicator)			1. EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: (i) interim and final reports from implementing organisations, (ii) ROM reviews and (iii) evaluations	
Outcome 2	2. Enhance the monitoring and reporting by civil society actors on the implementation and enforcement of core human rights and labour rights as well as climate and environment and good governance agreements in GSP+ beneficiaries and in EBA beneficiaries with enhanced engagement with the EU	2. Number of new mechanisms for the involvement of CSOs in the policy process developed with EU support (HR results chain thematic indicator)			2. EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: annual and final reports from implementing organisations	

<p>Outcome 3</p>	<p>3. Empowered trade unions and rights-holders, in particular women and girls, to combat child labour and forced labour in formal and informal economic sectors</p>	<p>3.1 Number of children aged 5-17 years who are removed from child labour following EU support, disaggregated by age, sex and disability status (HR results chain thematic indicator)</p> <p>3.2 Number of persons removed from a forced labour situation following EU support, disaggregated by age, sex and disability status (HR results chain thematic indicator)</p>			<p>3.1 & 3.2 EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: (i) interim and final reports from implementing organisations, (ii) ROM reviews and (iii) evaluations</p>	
<p>Outcome 4</p>	<p>4. Strengthened global advocacy and self-development processes by indigenous communities</p>	<p>4. Number of government policies developed or revised with civil society organisation participation through EU support (EURF 29 indicator)</p>			<p>4. EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: (i) interim and final reports from implementing organisations, (ii) ROM reviews and (iii) evaluations</p>	
<p>Output 1 related to Outcome 1</p>	<p>1.1 Enhanced oversight and strengthened role of civil society in monitoring, preventing and responding to human rights violations and abuses (HR&D MIP result)</p>	<p>1.1 Number of people trained by the EU-funded intervention, who increased their knowledge on UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and Corporate Social Responsibility in respect of human rights, disaggregated by sex, age, disability status and sector (HR MIP indicator)</p>			<p>1.1 EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: (i) interim and final reports from implementing organisations, (ii) ROM reviews and (iii) evaluations</p>	
<p>Output 1 related to Outcome 1</p>	<p>1.2 Facilitated access to remedies for aggrieved parties through legal expertise and resourcing of local civil society organisations to investigate corporate human rights violations and abuses and engage in collective redress</p>	<p>1.2 Number of people directly benefiting from legal aid interventions supported by the EU (EU RF 26) disaggregated by sex, age and disability status</p>			<p>1.2 EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: (i) interim and final reports from implementing organisations, (ii) ROM reviews and (iii) evaluations</p>	

Output 1 related to Outcome 1	1.3 Effective advocacy to EU institutions and global human rights fora about the implementation of human rights and environmental due diligence including access to remedies	1.3 Number of people reached through Civil Society-led advocacy strategies and campaigns funded by the EU to raise awareness on responsible business conduct (HR results chain thematic indicator)			1.3 EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: (i) interim and final reports from implementing organisations, (ii) ROM reviews and (iii) evaluations	
Output 2 related to Outcome 2	2.1 Strengthened capacities for monitoring effectively the implementation of human and labour rights (HR thematic output level result)	2.1 Number of people whose skills and/or knowledge are strengthened with EU support for participation in consultations and decision-making processes, disaggregated by sex, age, disability status and population group (HR results chain thematic indicator)			2.1 EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: (i) interim and final reports from implementing organisations, (ii) ROM reviews and (iii) evaluations	
Output 2 related to Outcome 2	2.2 Improved transparency of the GSP+ framework through active engagement of civil society.	2.2 Number of CSOs supported to participate in a. regional and b. international networks, meetings and UN Conferences, disaggregated by type of geographical area covered (regional or international) and thematic topic of focus (HR results chain thematic indicator)			2.2 EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: (i) interim and final reports from implementing organisations, (ii) ROM reviews and (iii) evaluations	
Output 2 related to Outcome 2	2.3 Informed policy-making of EU institutions about the effective implementation and compliance of third-country partners.	2.3 Number of government policies developed or revised with civil society organisation participation through EU support (EURF Indicator)			2.3 EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: (i) interim and final reports from implementing organisations, (ii) ROM reviews and (iii) evaluations	

<p>Output 3.1 related to Outcome 3</p>	<p>3.1.1 Strengthened capacities for the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the rights of every child (HR thematic output level result)</p>	<p>3.1.1 Number of state and non-state actors (individuals) trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, disaggregated by sex and sector (HR results chain thematic indicator)</p>			<p>3.1.1. EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: (i) interim and final reports from implementing organisations, (ii) ROM reviews and (iii) evaluations</p>	
<p>Output 3.1 related to Outcome 3</p>	<p>3.1.2 Better protection of girls and boys from all forms of discriminatory social norms and raise social awareness on the challenges of child labour and child trafficking</p>	<p>3.1.2 Extent to which local and national leaders and influencers, including traditional, religious and community leaders, engage in EU-funded initiatives to challenge and change social norms and discriminatory gender stereotypes (HR results chain thematic indicator)</p>			<p>3.1.2 EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: (i) interim and final reports from implementing organisations, (ii) ROM reviews and (iii) evaluations</p>	
<p>Output 3.1 related to Outcome 3</p>	<p>3.3 Enhanced child protection systems that provide essential services to victims of child labour</p>	<p>3.1.3 Number of mechanisms supported by the EU to protect and promote the safety and welfare of children, disaggregated by type of actor (HR results chain thematic indicator)</p>			<p>3.1.3 EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: (i) interim and final reports from implementing organisations, (ii) ROM reviews and (iii) evaluations</p>	
<p>Output 3.2 related to Outcome 3</p>	<p>3.2.1 Strengthened capacities for the protection of labour rights and promotion of decent work (HR thematic output level result)</p>	<p>3.2.1 Number of people reached with EU support to increase their awareness about labour rights, disaggregated by sex, age, disability status (HR results chain thematic indicator)</p>			<p>3.2.1 EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: (i) interim and final reports from implementing organisations, (ii) ROM reviews and (iii) evaluations</p>	

Output 3.2 related to Outcome 3	3.2.2 Enhanced participation of workers and their organisations in the monitoring and reporting of cases of forced labour and in the enforcement of the necessary mitigation measures to fight it off.	3.2.2 Number of government policies developed or revised with civil society organisation participation through EU support (EU RF 29)			3.2.2 EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: (i) interim and final reports from implementing organisations, (ii) ROM reviews and (iii) evaluations	
Output 3.2 related to Outcome 3	3.2.3 Improved prevention of abusive and fraudulent labour practices against migrant workers, women workers and domestic workers including their relatives	3.2.3 Number of persons living in a forced labour situation who are supported by the EU, disaggregated by age, sex and disability status (HR results chain thematic indicator)			3.2.3 EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: (i) interim and final reports from implementing organisations, (ii) ROM reviews and (iii) evaluations	
Output 4 related to Outcome 4	4.1 Increased capacity of indigenous peoples' networks and organisations to monitor their rights and define their development priorities through data collection	4.1 Number of people whose skills and/or knowledge are strengthened with EU support for participation in consultations and decision-making processes, disaggregated by sex, age, disability status and population group (HR results chain thematic indicator)			4.1 EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: (i) interim and final reports from implementing organisations, (ii) ROM reviews and (iii) evaluations	
Output 4 related to Outcome 4	4.2 Increased engagement opportunities and capacities for the participation in decision-making of indigenous peoples and indigenous organisations (HR thematic output level result)	4.2 Number of people supported by the EU support to participate in local, national, regional and international decision-making bodies, disaggregated by sex, age, population group and disability status (HR results chain thematic indicator)			4.2 EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: (i) interim and final reports from implementing organisations, (ii) ROM reviews and (iii) evaluations	

<p>Output 4 related to Outcome 4</p>	<p>4.3 Established communication channels with strategic multilateral partners, EU and UN institutions and key national authorities and development actors to make their voice heard</p>	<p>4.3 Number of CSOs supported to participate in a. regional and b. international networks, meetings and UN Conferences, disaggregated by type of geographical area covered (regional or international) and thematic topic of focus (HR results chain thematic indicator)</p>			<p>4.3 EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: (i) interim and final reports from implementing organisations, (ii) ROM reviews and (iii) evaluations</p>	
<p>Output 4 related to Outcome 4</p>	<p>4.4 Effective sustainable human development of indigenous communities that is self-determined and self-operationalised through capacity building and locally defined pilot initiatives.</p>	<p>4.4 Number of individuals directly benefiting from EU supported interventions that aim to reduce social and economic inequality disaggregated by sex (EU RF indicator)</p>			<p>4.4 EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: (i) interim and final reports from implementing organisations, (ii) ROM reviews and (iii) evaluations</p>	

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

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

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 72 months from the date of 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 measures²¹.

4.3.1 Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grants

As described above, the overall objective of this action is to enhance the state duty to protect human rights and the corporate responsibility to respect human rights globally through the improved engagement of civil society actors.

Regarding Component 1, the specific objective is to ensure the effective implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights by supporting vulnerable stakeholders claiming stronger corporate accountability and engage in human rights and environmental due diligence.

Component 2's specific objective is to Enhance the monitoring and reporting by civil society actors on the implementation and enforcement of core human rights and labour rights as well as climate and environment and good governance agreements in GSP+ beneficiaries and in EBA beneficiaries with enhanced engagement with the EU.

Regarding Component 3, the specific objective is to empower trade unions and rights-holders, in particular women and girls, to fight against cases of child labour and forced labour in formal and informal economic sectors.

Finally, Component 4 has the specific objective is to support global advocacy and self-development processes by indigenous communities, which are particularly at risk of corporate human rights violations and abuses and environmental harm.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

Potential applicants for funding of all 4 components under this Action will be civil society actors both at local and international level. Grants may be awarded to sole beneficiaries and to consortia of beneficiaries.

²¹ 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.

(c) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, some grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to civil society actors selected using the following criteria: track record and capacity to bring together relevant networks and/or build partnership grassroots organisations; ability to promote and enhance EU's visibility; proven expertise and experience in the relevant field; (for outcome 4): track record in representing and coordinating advocacy of indigenous communities in international fora.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified i) for outcome 3 because of the detrimental impact of the health crisis on child labour resulting in a crisis situation as per Article 2(21) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046; and ii) for outcome 4 due to the de facto monopoly situation of two NGOs providing i) global and EU advocacy coordination on behalf of indigenous communities and ii) sound data collection of indigenous peoples rights and development processes (article 195 (c) (c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046).

4.3.2 Changes from direct to indirect management mode due to exceptional circumstances

If direct management under grants mentioned in point 4.3.1 and falling under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer was not possible, the action could be implemented through indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: experience in the field of work, outreach with partners at local level, high advocacy capacity in policy-making and field presence.

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

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Component 1 on Business and Human Rights composed of	
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	5,000,000
Component 2 on GSP+ composed of	
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	5,000,000
Component 3 on Forced Labour and Child Labour composed of	
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	10,000,000
Indirect management with international organisation - cf. section 4.3.1	
Component 4 on Indigenous Peoples' Rights composed of	
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	7,000,000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2	will be covered by another Decision
Audit – cf. section 5.3	
Totals (all years)	27,000,000

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.

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

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

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

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a 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 both policy dialogue and policy making linked to EU action in the field of human rights.

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

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination²². 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 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.

²² See best [practice of evaluation dissemination](#)

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 Intervention²³ (also generally called project/programme) is the operational entity associated to a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Interventions are the most effective (hence optimal) entities for the operational follow-up by the Commission of its external development operations. As such, Interventions constitute the base unit for managing operational implementations, assessing performance, monitoring, evaluation, internal and external communication, reporting and aggregation.

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

The present Action identifies as

Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Group of contracts 1	Each contract will be a PINTV

²³ [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](#).