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ANNEX

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the support measure in favour of the Republic of Seychelles for 2023

Action Document for “European Solidarity Action with Seychelles (EnSEL) - Cooperation Facility”

MEASURE

This document constitutes the annual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 24 of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	European Solidarity Action with Seychelles (EnSEL) – Cooperation Facility OPSYS number: ACT-62126 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (<u>NDICI-Global Europe</u>)
2. Team Europe Initiative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in the Republic of Seychelles.
4. Programming document	Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) for the Republic of Seychelles 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	The Cooperation Facility will contribute to all the objectives set out in the MIP
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Not applicable
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) Others SDG: 1 (No poverty); 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)10 (Reduced Inequality), 13 (Climate Action) 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life On Land) and 16 (Peace and Justice Strong Institutions)
8 a) DAC code(s)	15110 – Public sector policy and administrative management
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	N/A

09. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @ digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship 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"/>
	Connectivity @ 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 @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	(methodology for tagging under development)			
	Reduction of Inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line: 14.020122 Total estimated cost: EUR 2 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 2 000 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing¹	Direct management through: - Procurement			
14. Type of measure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cooperation facility <input type="checkbox"/> Measures in favour of Civil Society			

1.2 Summary of the Action

The Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027 for the Republic of Seychelles focuses on (1) Environmental protection and climate change adaptation and resilience, and (2) Good Governance.

The Cooperation Facility, branded European Solidarity Action with Seychelles (EnSEL) - Cooperation Facility (CF), aims to strengthen the cooperation between the EU and the Republic of Seychelles. Specifically, the CF aims to:

- Capacity development and institutional building, including through technical assistance and exchange of public expertise, such as TAIEX and Twinning and the participation of Seychelles in EU Programmes and cooperation with EU Agencies;
- Supporting policy dialogues: events, conferences, studies, fellowships, exchange platforms to support sector dialogues leading to policy reforms and engagement with governments and other stakeholders;
- Support to facilitate Team Europe coordination at country level and the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the Union's cooperation, including via technical assistance;
- Assist Government in the formulation and preparation of proposals for projects which could be suitable for innovative funding/blending. Seychelles already has a good track record with the joint EU/EIB/AFD supported Port Victoria project; and
- Financing EU strategic communication, and public diplomacy interventions to raise awareness and increase perception of the EU as well as its multilateral agenda in the country, including towards citizens who may not be aware of the EU or involved in policy;

The gender dimension will be taken into due consideration as a cross-cutting issue.

While (i) *Environmental protection and climate change adaptation* and resilience; and (ii) Good governance will be the primary focus of the CF, this does not preempt financing ad-hoc short interventions in other unforeseen/emerging priority areas.

The key stakeholders will be the government, public and private institutions, non-governmental organisations and the civil society (such as foundations, producer associations, business federations, advocacy groups, etc) based and established in Seychelles.

¹ Art. 27 NDICI

The action will contribute to the achievement of SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), as well as SDG 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life On Land) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The Republic of Seychelles (hereafter known as Seychelles) – with a population of around 98 000 inhabitants - comprises 115 tropical islands spread over 1 374 million square km in the western Indian Ocean, covering 455.3 square km in land area. The country acceded to the World Bank classification of high income countries in 2015 on the basis of its Gross National Income (above USD 13 000). The basis for programming is the National Development Strategy (NDS) 2019-2023 – the first of three five-year successive strategies to implement Government's *Vision 2033 - Towards a sustainable and inclusive future*. These strategies have been elaborated by Government on the basis of extensive consultations with all stakeholders, notably the private sector, civil society and the youth.

The documents are in line with many EU policy priorities, strategies and general principles supported, namely: the Green Deal, Good Governance, Human Development, sustainable growth and jobs and gender equality. As the NDS was developed before the socio-economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and before the 2020 presidential elections, the government needs a flexible tool, adapted to these contextual changes and to respond to new challenges with a view to further diversify its economy. The proposed MIP 2021-2027 does so by proposing a Cooperation Facility that will accompany the authorities in this journey and allow for a case by case decision on which support shall be privileged according to the on-going context.

As Seychelles is heavily dependent both on exports and imports, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic since 2020 has been dire. Twelve years of laborious recovery - based on strict macroeconomic and fiscal discipline since the 2008 crisis - have been lost. Tourism, one of the pillars of the economy, plunged by 84% during 2020-2021, and government's main source of revenue in foreign exchange collapsed with it. Revenue from tourism industry fell by more than 61% compared to 2019 figures. Related economic activities such as accommodation, transport and retailing were automatically not spared. By end 2020, the debt-to-GDP ratio soared to 99.4%. Economic growth plummeted to a record low -13.9% in 2020 (compared to an average +4.2% between 2009-2019), with a widening budget deficit of 14.4%, soaring inflation of 3.9%, increasing unemployment and a devaluation of the Seychelles Rupee against both the euro and the US dollar. Poverty is intensifying as the poorer households – normally working in the tourism industry – are losing their unique sources of income. By end 2020, more than 46% of the population was living under the national poverty line. Economic recovery has only begun cautiously in 2022.

The 2022 Budget Speech emphasised the need to re-build the nation and to increase resilience. This implies expanding the economic base by exploring diversification opportunities in the blue economy and agricultural sectors, while at the same time, transforming and re-dynamising existing pillars (tourism and fisheries) with higher value addition.

As a small island state Seychelles also faces acute vulnerability in the face of natural phenomena. Seychelles remains particularly vulnerable to natural hazards such as super-strong cyclones (as in 2016), floods (recurrent), sea level rise and ocean acidification (existential). The international recognition of Seychelles' stewardship in environmental conservation efforts represents an opportunity that Government is exploiting as it rebuilds its economy and targets green tourism. Leading the way internationally on climate change and biodiversity issues through pioneering work, Government is committed to a cleaner, greener, sustainable, low emission and climate-resilient transformation of the economy, in line with the Climate Change Strategy 2009, the Sustainable Development Strategy (2011) and the more recent EU funded Climate Change Policy. Seychelles was also among the first countries to submit its Revised Nationally Determined Contributions ahead of Conference of Parties (COP) 26. Seychelles is therefore an important ally for the EU in multilateral climate action.

The Government recognises the importance of good governance, transparency and accountability - in particular given the risks generated by the growing financial sector (notably its offshore corporate side). Credible commitments on anti-corruption and AML (Anti Money Laundering) regulation and enforcement are in place and are paramount to safeguard the new government's credibility, investor confidence and the country's image. A new government has indeed been in place since the 2020 Presidential elections, with the ex-Leader of Opposition elected to the post of President and hence ending the single-party regime since independence in the 1970s. The smooth transition sends a vibrant signal of consolidation of democratic values in Seychelles.

The content and orientation of the National Development Strategy 2019-2023 remain pertinent as both Environmental Sustainability and Resilience and Good Governance are key pillars. Furthermore the strategy incorporates commitments at global level, such as the United Nations Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Declaration, the African Union's Agenda 2063, and others. A challenge remains, however, in terms of implementation of the Strategy, given the current tight fiscal and budgetary constraints. Hence, the further justification for donor support at a particularly critical time. Seychelles faces acute human capacity shortages, explained below. Institutional capacity building is a *sine qua non* condition for the successful implementation of the above strategy.

The EU supports the programme of the Government which embraces/promotes similar priorities to the EU as advocated in the European Green Deal and Good Governance.

2.2 Problem Analysis

With its population of 98 000 inhabitants, Seychelles faces acute capacity constraints both at the level of its institutions and in terms of its workforce. The problem is accentuated by a particularly high level of brain drain meaning that the vast majority of its institutions have very limited labour force. A dire drug addiction epidemic affecting the productive population disproportionately add to capacity problems.

A series of new institutions have been set up in line with democratic and human rights values recently reinstated following the victory of the current President in the 2020 elections that put an end to 40 years of single party ruling in Seychelles. These institutions need to be reinforced urgently in order to become fully operational. That was the focus of the 11th EDF NIP, entirely committed in the form of a technical cooperation facility to support such key institutions including the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Financial Intelligence Unit and the Department of Legal Affairs.

Based on the above, it is important to have an adequate capacity to respond to request with high level quality technical assistance to support these national institutions, as well as to ensure the successful implementation of the EU cooperation and the sustainable development of the country.

Also, the end of the role of the National Authorising Officer (NAO) under the NDICI/Global Europe represents an opportunity to develop new cooperation mechanisms with the Government and to ensure that the limited resources are used to support common priorities, as established in the MIP.

Local private sector organisations are weak and disorganised in Seychelles. Support is currently being provided in a complementary manner to the Chamber of Commerce under the ongoing Economic Partnership Programme. Given the size of the MIP and the absorption capacity of the private sector, the current programme does not foresee direct support to private sector organisations.

Environment protection and Climate change adaptation and mitigation will be one of the two priority areas of this Cooperation Facility. As explained above, environmental protection is a *sine qua non* to safeguard Seychelles economic pillars notably tourism and fisheries. As a consequence the Government places environment and climate change as top priorities. Within these areas the focus should be on achieving resilient and inclusive growth.

Finally, EU will need specific expertise to assist it in formulating its actions and policies, but also to be agile and mobilise specific studies in response to emerging needs.

All in all, the experience with the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) Technical Cooperation Facility (TCF) has shown that the EU needs to have a flexible instrument at its disposal to be able to: a) respond rapidly to the varied requests of the government and its institutions and agencies in a number of areas; b) support the private sector in its innovative ideas; and c) study specific topics and to formulate new actions.

Finally, given the large and visible presence on the national scene of other countries, EU cooperation needs to have the means to have a clear presence in Seychelles and organise the policy dialogue.

A CF will be necessary to address the above issues. It will provide:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the necessary technical assistance (capacity development, studies, project preparation) to the national stakeholders for the implementation of the MIP as well as to respond to emerging needs and opportunities that will arise when the Government of Seychelles devises new development priorities; ii. the necessary support for policy dialogues; iii. the necessary support to the EU to increase awareness, understanding and support to the EU and our partnership with Seychelles.
<p>The main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action: Government, public and private institutions, non-governmental organisations and the civil society.</p>

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

<p>The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to strengthen the partnership between the EU and the Republic of Seychelles.</p> <p>The Specific Objectives (Outcomes) of this action are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the EU Delegation and institutional partners (both in the public and the private sector²) in the implementation of the MIP, of the Government's emerging needs and priorities,; 2. Support policy dialogue with the Government and other key stakeholders; 3. Support the EU's strategic communication and public diplomacy. <p>The main areas of intervention correspond to the priorities of the MIP, namely (1) Environmental protection and climate change adaptation and resilience (eg: by supporting the Government to achieve its own targets on renewable energies production, waste management and environment protection), and (2) Good Governance (including a specific focus on gender equality and empowerment). The outputs and activities will largely focus on these areas of intervention.</p> <p>The expected Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (Outcomes) are as follows.</p> <p><u>Outputs contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. Develop and strengthen capacities and institutions; 1.1. Strengthen sectoral knowledge and support the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the EU cooperation with Seychelles, including to support initiatives that would need a grant component (catalyser, initiator, facilitator) for projects of much greater scope funded by Financial Institutions; 1.2. Facilitate the Team Europe approach at country level and attempt to pave the way to more concrete investments (including EFSD+ opportunities),; 1.3. Support Seychelles in the implementation of its revised National Determined Contribution (NDC), environment related commitments, in its role as lead technical coordinator for the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) deepening process between the EU and five countries of Eastern and Southern Africa (Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Zimbabwe). <p><u>Outputs contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. Support policy dialogue: events, conferences, studies, fellowships, exchange platforms to support sector dialogues. <p><u>Outputs contributing to Outcome 3 (or Specific Objective 3)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 Implement strategic communication and public diplomacy activities, including to reach new audiences.

² Chamber of commerce, chamber of agriculture, and similar institutions.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities related to Output 1.1

- Deploy technical assistance and exchange of public expertise for capacity development and institutional building
- Conduct studies, analysis and other technical work in areas of EU cooperation for project identification and preparation, including to support initiatives that would need a grant component (catalyser, initiator, facilitator) for projects of much greater scope funded by Financial Institutions (including guarantees³);

Activities related to Output 1.2

- Provide Technical Assistance to facilitate the Team Europe approach at country level and to pave the way to more concrete investments (including EFSD+ opportunities);

Activities related to Output 1.4

- Provide Technical Assistance to support Seychelles in the implementation of its revised National Determined Contribution (NDC), environment related commitments, in its role as lead technical coordinator for the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) deepening process between the EU and five countries of Eastern and Southern Africa (Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Zimbabwe).

Activities related to Output 2.1

- Organise events, meetings and conferences, studies, fellowships, press releases and events, exchange platforms with various actors to support sector dialogues.

Activities related to Output 3.1

- Design and roll out at national level of major public campaign(s) aimed at ordinary citizens, with the objective of measurably increasing the profile, awareness, understanding and approval of the EU's partnership with the country (all such campaigns will be data-driven, rigorously tracking hard key performance indicators that will allow content to be constantly adjusted in line with evidence of the material and approaches that resonate most successfully with the audience);
- Promote understanding and awareness of the EU values, interests and specific policies, including the Global Gateway Strategy, inter alia through conferences and public events;
- Strengthen networks and long-term relationships with key target audiences and partners (e.g. youth, students, academics, think tanks, CSOs, business, creative industries), including leveraging existing EU programmes, in order to facilitate future cooperation across policy areas.

The commitment of the EU's contribution to the Team Europe Initiative to which this action refers, will be complemented by other contributions from members of this Team Europe Initiative. It is subject to the formal confirmation of each respective member's meaningful contribution as early as possible.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

The action is expected to have a positive impact on the environment as it will support the implementation of the MIP, whose main priority is the protection of the Environment and adaptation to climate change. It will do so by preparing the ground for a resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth based on a cleaner, greener, sustainable, low emission and climate-resilient economy, in line with the Government's vision towards a sustainable and inclusive future. Seychelles, a like-minded partner on climate change issues at international fora, will be supported in the implementation of its revised National Determined Contribution (NDC) and environment related commitments in the trade and sustainable development chapter of the full EPA currently under negotiation.

³ Including, if needed, for green bonds.

The action will enable the EU and other members of the Team Europe Initiative to accompany this transformative process, as encapsulated in the National Development Strategy 2019-2023. This CF, well integrated and complemented by ongoing and future actions supported by the Team Europe approach, should allow establishing further milestones of the circular economy in the country and a particular attention will be paid to further increase the role of women in the ecological transformation. The support envisages activities such as promotion of circular economy, technical assistance to institutions in the drafting of new environmental legislation, public participation events, drafting of roadmaps and/or studies.

The specific objective of this priority area will be to support the Government in achieving its own targets on renewable energies production, waste management and environment protection (e.g., zero coal plants, ban single use plastics, increased obligation to include Environmental Impact Assessment for large constructions), as formulated in the above mentioned strategies. The EU has a successful long-standing partnership in place with Seychelles in the environment and climate change fields but there is increasing influence from new partners including India, China, Russia and UAE. With these interventions under the NDICI-Global Europe, Seychelles will continue to support the EU in international fora for global climate change commitments.

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 gender targets will be mainstreamed in the implementation of this action. The action will contribute specifically to the objective of promoting girls' and women's participation and leadership in environmental protection and climate change adaptation and resilience, as well as good governance; in order to ensure gender-responsive strategies to these two areas.

Human Rights

Addressing green transition and good governance challenges, by improving the policy decision making processes using evidence-based information systems involving concerned stakeholders, promoting partnerships and inclusiveness are guiding principles that will allow a resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth and fight against gender inequality and corruption, respectively.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. While disability has not been identified as a significant objective, the action will promote an inclusive approach towards people with disabilities in its communication and participatory activities

Democracy

The action will promote good governance, in some of the areas where the EU has developed a constructive dialogue with Seychelles, including for example fiscal transparency, the electoral process, freedom of expression, rights of women, children and persons with disabilities, etc Following the October 2020 Presidential elections which saw the election of the ex-Leader of Opposition to the post of President, this represents a 360 degrees change in Seychelles politics. The ending of more than 40 years of single party regime and its acceptance by both the latter and the population and the smooth transition that enfolded confirm the democratic foundations that are being put in place in Seychelles.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

The action will support Environmental protection and climate change adaptation and resilience.

Disaster Risk Reduction The action will support Environmental protection and climate change adaptation and resilience. Seychelles as with all other Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), is particularly vulnerable to climate change, notably rising temperatures, sea level rise (SLR) and changes in rainfall.
Other considerations if relevant N/A

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
Governance	Low absorption capacity of public sector of technical assistance	Medium	High	Careful phasing of technical assistance bearing in mind capacity of institutions
Governance	Lack of capacities to implement the activities	Medium	High	Capacity building to be provided as and when required.
Lessons Learnt: The action will build on the lessons learnt from the 11 th EDF TCF which confirmed the pertinence of a cooperation facility.				

3.5 The Intervention Logic

<p>The underlying intervention logic for this action is to strengthen the partnership between the EU and the Republic of Seychelles.</p> <p>It will enable the EU to provide support the objectives and implementation of the MIP and to respond to emerging needs and opportunities that might arise when the Government of Seychelles devises new development priorities.</p> <p>The CF will also deepen the technical knowledge needed to formulate projects and develop the technical tools necessary for the consolidation of the EU dialogue with the government and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Finally, through the CF, the EU will implement strategic communication and public diplomacy activities with a view to measurably raise awareness and understanding of the EU, including of our partnership with the Seychelles, to policy stakeholders and the wider public.</p>
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3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

Given the nature of this action a Logical Framework Matrix is not required at action level.

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

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

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision. This length has been decided in order to cover the whole MIP period seen it small allocation (SM).

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 measures⁴.

4.3.1 Direct Management (Procurement)

Objective	Type of Procurement	Timeline
Technical assistance, studies, expertise, , conferences, and exchange platforms to support sector dialogues.(Specific objectives 1, 2)	Services, supplies	Implementation period
Strategic communication, public diplomacy (Specific objective 3)	Services, Supplies	Implementation period

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 subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realization of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components ⁵	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3	
Objective 1) “Support the EU Delegation and institutional partners (both in the public and the private sector) in the implementation of the MIP, of the Government’s emerging needs and priorities,” composed of	1 750 000
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	

⁴ 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.

⁵ N.B: The final text on audit/verification depends on the outcome of ongoing discussions on pooling of funding in (one or a limited number of) Decision(s) and the subsequent financial management, i.e. for the conclusion of audit contracts and payments.

Objective 2) “Support policy dialogue with the Government and other key stakeholders” composed of	
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.1	90 000
Objective 3) “Support the EU’s strategic communication and public diplomacy” composed of	
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.1	150 000
Audit (Direct Management)	10 000
Procurement – total envelope under section 4.4.1	2 000 000
Totals	2 000 000

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The Contracting Authority for the implementation of the action is the EU Delegation. In order to ensure coordination and appropriation at country level, the EU Delegation will continue the current practice to inform the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on each request of supports received under this CF, either by public institutions and agencies or from outside the government.

The EU Delegation will ensure proper coordination with the National Coordinating Body for all external cooperation programmes – the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The EU Delegation will keep the Ministry informed of (i) all requests not emanating from the Ministry, and (ii) of the financial status of the programme.

Similarly, and given our longstanding partnership, the Ministry will continue referring to the EU Delegation every request for technical assistance which is proposed by other Government entities. Given the amount of funding available under this CF, the EU Delegation and the Government will have to prioritise requests that fall within the priority of the Seychelles MIP 2021-2027 and with the biggest expected impact in term of socio-economic development.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

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 the responsibility of the Contracting Authority which is the Delegation. To this aim, the Delegation 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.

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

Given the nature of the action, provision for an Evaluation for this action or its components, is not necessary. Should the need for an evaluation be felt, during the implementation of the action, a ROM review can be considered.

The Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner. The financing of the evaluation may 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.

Indicatively, contracts for audit services shall be concluded under a framework contract at the end of the Service contracts.

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

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

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

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are no longer required to include a provision for communication 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.

Strategic communication activities will be implemented to foster public awareness, understanding and support for the EU’s partnership with the country, including by promoting the Team Europe approach and initiatives. Public diplomacy activities designed to foster, maintain, strengthen and connect networks and communities will be implemented. Strategic communication and public diplomacy activities will promote the EU’s values, interests, policies and impact in the country. All strategic communication and public diplomacy activities will be based on a strategic plan drawn up by the EU Delegation.

To that end, the Delegation will first develop short strategic communication and public diplomacy plans that reflect the objectives of the Delegation as a whole in this domain, initially covering the period up to the Mid-Term Review (MTR). The plans will be endorsed by a coordination mechanism comprised of the EEAS, DG INTPA, DG NEAR and FPI, and will be reviewed, modified and extended as appropriate as part of the MTR process.

The communication and public diplomacy plan will cover the following:

1. The audiences targeted;
2. For each group targeted, the principal communication objective, couched in terms of measurable outcomes;
3. The core narrative, formulated in terms not of what we do in the country concerned, but why we do it;
4. Preliminary suggestions for content (messages, straplines, hashtags), partnerships (influencers) and channels;

5. Key administrative information: timeline, budget and the programme manager responsible for implementation.

The EU Delegation may avail of the services of a consultant to prepare the communication and public diplomacy plan.