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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX II

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan for the NDICI-Global Europe thematic programme on Global Challenges (Planet) for 2023-2026

Action Document for EU Climate Dialogues 2

MULTIANNUAL PLAN

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

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	EU Climate Dialogues 2 OPSYS number: ACT-61834 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out globally, with a particular emphasis on the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States, Viet Nam
4. Programming document	NDICI – Global Europe Global Challenges multi-annual indicative programme 2021-2027 ¹ .
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	MIP Global Challenges – Priority Area 2 (Planet) Specific objective 1: Climate action and Disaster Risk Reduction Specific objective 3: Supporting the green transition in key areas The Action will also result in substantial contributions to the Priority Area 4 (Partnership) of the MIP by improving strategic cooperation and processes with a wide range of partners as well as Priority Area 3 (Prosperity) by acting on Investment climate.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Environmental sustainability / Climate change (DAC sector: General Environment Protection – 410)

¹ Decision C(2021)9157

7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG (1 only): SDG 13 (Climate Action) Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: SDG 17 (Partnership for this the Goals), and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)			
8 a) DAC code(s)	23210 Energy generation, renewable sources - multiple technologies - 20% 31110 Agricultural policy and administrative management - 10% 31210 Forestry policy and administrative management - 10% 32110 Industrial policy and administrative management - 20% 41010 Environmental policy and administrative management - 30% 43060 Disaster Risk Reduction – 10%			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	Non Applicable			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

	digital governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/
	digital entrepreneurship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	digital skills/literacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	digital services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	YES	NO	/
	energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	education and research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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): EUR 30 million Total estimated cost: EUR 30 million Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 30 million The contribution is for an amount of EUR 30 million from the general budget of the European Union for 2023.			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management (Procurement)			

1.2 Summary of the Action

This action will support the EU's objective to promote global climate action to support the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement. The European Green Deal, the Climate Law and the "Fit for 55" package put the EU on track to reducing its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 55% compared to 1990 levels by 2030 and to reach the net-zero emissions target by 2050 in line with its commitments under the Paris Agreement. To achieve the long-term temperature goal under the Paris Agreement, the EU must develop a stronger Green Deal diplomacy *"to promote and implement ambitious environment, climate and energy policies across the world"* by *"convincing and supporting others to take on their share of promoting more sustainable development"*². This is ever more important in a context where the EU's share in global emissions is declining, whereas the emissions of some other major emitters have not peaked yet.

This action will build on the experience of the SPIPA project (Strategic Partnerships for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement, 2018-2022) and the EU Climate Dialogues project (EUCDs, 2022-2024) and factor in the new context brought by the post-COVID 19 recovery, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the energy crisis deriving from it, including the REPowerEU agenda³, as well as the increasingly competitive global industrial race towards net-zero technologies and a perceived rise in protectionist policies around the globe.

² Communication from the Commission, 'The European Green Deal', 11 December 2019, p. 20.

³ [COM\(2022\) 230](#)

The action aims at decisive policy shifts delivering significant emission reductions and/or enhanced resilience to maximise the collective effort towards the goals of the Paris Agreement. The action will support the EU's international engagement with a view to promote better enabling environments, effective climate policies and best practices and ambitious climate and environmental standards in third countries. While focusing on bilateral engagement, this action directly supports multilateralism and a rule-based global order by supporting the implementation of international climate commitments and ambitions.

Steered by tailor-made geographic strategies that reflect different contexts, local needs and policy developments, this action will channel demand-driven, flexible, tailored policy and business advice to third countries soliciting EU expertise for decarbonisation and resilience. It includes political, economic and technical cooperation among peers, awareness-raising and support to national and subnational authorities, business communities, academia and civil society organisations, seminars, workshops, conferences, visits, information and knowledge sharing activities.

Its scope by design is global but it will target a series of current or potential future major emitters and other selected mid-size economies with particular regional influence and/or vulnerability features – see full list below in section 3.2. The activities foreseen will closely tie with the EU's action in multilateral fora.

While climate action is central to the implementation of this action, other major co-benefits are expected in areas such as biodiversity protection, air quality, economic development, business innovation, healthier urban populations, inclusive job creation, equality between men and women, fight against energy poverty, human security, etc. In this context, the action contributes to a range of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), most notably SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals), and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy). Meanwhile, the action benefits the fulfilment of SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), as well as SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and SDG 15 (Life on Land). Although other SDGs are not directly targeted, there are expected co-benefits that occur when this action is being implemented.

Synergies with Member States in a Team Europe approach will be proactively sought, notably at country level.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The EU is the strongest proponent of ambitious climate action under the Paris Agreement that steers the world in the transition to a global climate-neutral and climate-resilient economy. Climate change is a global challenge that requires a decisive and confident response from all countries, especially from major G20 economies as far as mitigation is concerned to achieve the Paris Agreement's temperature goal to limit *"the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels"* and pursue efforts *"to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels"*⁴. The Glasgow Climate Pact has kept the temperature goal of 1.5°C alive. To limit global warming to 1.5°C, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions must peak before 2025 at the latest and decline by 43% by 2030. As the EU's share in global emissions is limited to approximately 7% and declining, whereas the emissions of many countries, including major emitters are still rising, the EU needs to actively engage with third countries on climate action to achieve global sustained progress towards the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The EU has a 20-year head start in the implementation of ambitious climate policies, with its GHG emissions dropping by 31% between 1990 and 2020 (34% including LULUCF) and reaching their lowest level in 30 years. While other major economies and developing countries are not all transitioning at the same pace as the EU: several have expressed their interest in making use of the EU's expertise and experience in decoupling growth from emissions and are looking into better understanding the Fit for 55 package, as many of the pieces of legislations are entering the implementation phase. EU climate policy is increasingly drawing attention in third countries: for instance, the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism can offer an opportunity to promote the development of carbon pricing (Emission Trading Systems or taxation) outside the EU.

The COVID-19 pandemic and heightening geopolitical tensions, notably the illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression waged by Russia against Ukraine, translated into a destabilisation of the international order, high inflation, supply chain disruptions and a global energy and food crisis. It has revealed the risk of over-reliance on

⁴ Paris Agreement, 12 December 2015

highly concentrated manufacturing and critical raw materials and triggered many countries/regions to develop economic recovery programmes and new policies to fast track the transition to net-zero, with the Inflation Reduction Act in the US and the GX Green Transformation programme in Japan being prime examples. Also the EU reacted by further stepping up its decarbonisation efforts: first with the adoption of Next Generation EU and REPower EU and in 2023 with the adoption of the Green Deal Industrial Plan to enhance the competitiveness of Europe's net-zero industry and support the fast transition to climate neutrality, while promoting global cooperation and making trade work for the green transition. The plan consists of a Net Zero Industry Act⁵ (NZIA) aiming to strengthen the EU's industrial base for clean technologies, a Critical Raw Materials Act⁶ (CRMA) to ensure the EU's access to a secure, diversified, affordable and sustainable supply of critical raw materials and more flexible State aid rules.

The EU Green Deal published in December 2019 includes an external dimension that emphasises the need to engage with third countries to *“increase the collective effort and help them to revise and implement their nationally determined contributions and devise ambitious long-term strategies”*. It states in particular that *“the EU will step up bilateral engagement with partner countries and, where necessary, establish innovative forms of engagement. The EU will continue to engage with the economies of the G20 that are responsible for 80% of global greenhouse gas emissions”*. On 9 March 2023, the Council of the European Union reaffirmed the EU's determination to *“engage and work with partners worldwide through our Climate and Energy Diplomacy”* in its Council Conclusions⁷. The Council conclusions also recognised the altered geopolitical context and call upon the EU to engage in mutually beneficial partnerships and step up trade actions with like-minded countries willing to strengthen global supply chains. The Council also highlighted the need for investment into increasingly industrial processes and value chains that could support the green transition in hard to abate sectors.

The EU therefore has a direct strategic interest in proactively reaching out and stimulate climate policy exchanges with third countries. The EU's climate diplomacy has already significantly expanded in recent years with the establishment of several Just Energy Transition Partnerships (South Africa, Indonesia, Vietnam and Senegal), the opening of several high-level dialogues on climate (Türkiye, Chile and Brazil in addition to already well-established dialogues with China, Japan, Canada, etc.) and the adoption (or planned adoption) of green alliances (Japan, Norway, Canada) and green partnerships (Morocco, Republic of Korea). Supporting local authorities in planning for and implementing climate and energy action plans, in particular through the (Global) Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, has also fostered city climate and energy diplomacy and increased ambition at the subnational level. On the multilateral front, the EU has taken the lead in prominent international initiatives such as the Global Methane Pledge and the International Platform on Sustainable Finance. Also in the negotiations of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC), the EU is taking a leading role as a strong advocate for upholding the ambition and keeping 1.5°C within reach. The EU, with its Member States and the EIB are the world's biggest contributor to climate finance, providing at least a third of the world's public climate finance. Through its climate cooperation portfolio with third countries, the EU is delivering on its international climate finance commitments towards the developed countries' collective goal of mobilising USD 100 billion per year, which is applicable through to 2025. In addition, the EU also actively promotes the inclusion of climate considerations in international trade, both at bilateral level (through bilateral trade agreements, notably trade and sustainable development chapters) and multilateral level through the World Trade Organisation and the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate).

However, there is still a need for a targeted and flexible instrument of diplomatic engagement that allows the EU to bilaterally engage with third countries on climate action, with a focus on the EU's interest and values, showcasing the EU experience and explaining EU policy choices, while seizing political opportunities. This action is an essential tool to complement the EU's global efforts to maintain the momentum of the Paris Agreement and translate it into domestic action in third countries, while also completing the EU Green Deal.

Proactive EU efforts to raise the level of ambition are more important than ever. This action will aim to nudge third countries towards decisive policy shifts in order to deliver large-scale emission cuts, avoid emission increases and enhance resilience in a fair way. It will directly support the external dimension of the Green Deal by strengthening the climate leadership of the EU, demonstrate the EU's internal climate policies, the opportunities they open up, their effectiveness and lessons learnt, but also by responding to negative narratives about the EU's climate leadership.

⁵ COM(2023) 161

⁶ COM(2023) 160

⁷ Council conclusions on Climate and Energy Diplomacy, *“Bolstering EU climate and energy diplomacy in a critical decade”*, 9 March 2023.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Specific Problem:

Pursuant to the Paris Agreement, Parties submitted Nationally Determined Contribution to the UNFCCC and in many cases updated them⁸. They are also developing national adaptation plans, with a limited number already submitted⁹; and they committed to submit long-term strategies by COP 28 in December 2023 in the United Arab Emirates. COP28 will feature the first global stock-take exercise under the Paris Agreement to assess the progress in the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Nevertheless, we see that countries' commitments under the Paris Agreement are not always translated into action. Many, including high-emitters, are still failing to deliver clear strategies and actions in order to peak and decrease their emissions in a Paris-compatible way. In this regard, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) assessed in October 2022 that countries' current pledges fail to deliver on the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement and place the world on a 2.4-2.6°C trajectory, provided all commitments are implemented¹⁰. According to the UNEP¹¹ the window of opportunity for keeping global temperature increases below 1.5°C is rapidly closing and impacts of climate change are being felt in all parts of the world at an increasing pace and intensity. The Synthesis Report of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment cycle from March 2023 confirms that the world is warming rapidly due to human influence, but that despite warnings, global GHG emissions continue to rise, and the last decade (2010-2019) saw the largest ever absolute increase in emissions. The International Energy Agency assessed in February 2023 that fossil fuels subsidies reached an all-time high in 2022 at USD 1 trillion. The necessary battle for ambition in the context of climate justice remains therefore as crucial as ever.

With the Covid-19 pandemic slowing down, the world economy has been hit by a range of drastic other challenges, as a result of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. These new security turmoils may provide even more likelihood for climate disasters to unfold even further and faster, as consumption of fossil fuels has increased, country-to-country cooperation government spending is allocated to security sectors and a global food shortage is caused by the blockage of food exports from Ukraine. This changed global context has created the conditions for a possible loss of momentum for the Paris Agreement to trigger concrete and effective policy actions. Besides, it can fuel protectionism and its consequences, making it more difficult for the best net-zero technologies to be available globally, whereas international cooperation is a key enabler for rapid decarbonisation¹².

The EU has led the transition towards climate-neutrality and resilience and placed the implementation of the Paris Agreement at the centre of its diplomacy. At the same time, EU policies in support of the transition towards climate neutrality have also come under fire in some partner countries, fuelling allegations such as protectionism or double-standard approaches. There is a need to better and more holistically make the case for EU policies on climate – notably, but not only, the Net-Zero Industry Act¹³, the Critical Raw Materials Act¹⁴, the Regulation on Deforestation-free products¹⁵ and the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism¹⁶ – to external audiences, highlighting their contribution to the global ambition towards climate neutrality and demonstrating their potential opportunities for partner countries and for strengthened cooperation with the EU.

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

⁸ <https://unfccc.int/NDCREG>

⁹ <https://napcentral.org/submitted-naps>

¹⁰ UNEP, *Emissions Gap Report (EGR) 2022: The Closing Window – Climate crisis calls for rapid transformation of societies*, October 2022

¹¹ UNEP, *Emissions Gap Report (EGR) 2022: The Closing Window – Climate crisis calls for rapid transformation of societies*, October 2022.

¹² IEA, *Net Zero by 2050*, IEA, 2021, Paris <https://www.iea.org/reports/net-zero-by-2050>

¹³ COM(2023) 161

¹⁴ COM(2023) 160

¹⁵ Regulation (EU) 2023/1115

¹⁶ COM(2021) 564

This action is grounded in the idea that transitioning towards climate-neutrality requires an all-of-government, all-of-society approach. It is designed as a demand-driven initiative responding to opportunities and requests. Stakeholders from the partner countries may include governmental and state authorities and institutions, and domestic non-state actors such as scientific and technical institutions, local governments, business organisations, trade unions and civil society organisations such as environmental NGOs, climate advocacy and justice groups, human and women's rights organisations, youth organisations, farmers' organisations, etc. Stakeholders from the EU include various Commission services and the EEAS, EU scientific and technical institutions and think tanks, EU development aid agencies and financial institutions, business and civil society organisations and networks. Cooperation with public and private organisations susceptible of delivering the maximum mitigation and adaptation impact in partner countries will be considered as a matter of priority.

The action will be run based on the initiative and screening of dedicated country teams bringing together relevant Commission services and the EEAS, including relevant EU Delegations. A steering committee bringing together relevant Commission services and the EEAS is ultimately responsible for approving activities.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective of this action is to stimulate climate action at global level and in partner countries, in particular climate policy reform, while supporting the EU's climate diplomacy at bilateral level and implementation of the Paris Agreement in third countries.

The proposed Action intends to contribute to Priority Area 2 (Planet) of the 'Global Challenges' Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) under NDICI-Global Europe directly addressing its Specific Objectives 1 (Climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction) and 3 (Supporting the green transition in key areas). The Action will also result in substantial contributions to the Priority Area 4 (Partnership) of the MIP by improving strategic cooperation and processes with a wide range of partners as well as Priority Area 3 (Prosperity) by acting on Investment climate.

The Specific Objectives of this action are to

1. Improve exchange on climate policy options and good practices between the EU and non-EU major economies and regional lighthouses in support of the transition to climate-neutral, resilient economies and in support of the EU's climate diplomacy;
2. Improve bilateral trade, investment and innovation in the spirit of shared and mutually beneficial industrial value chains for the green transition in the partner countries and in the EU;
3. Contribute to improving public awareness of challenges and opportunities associated with the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

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

Contributing to Objective 1:

- 1.1 Enhanced mutual understanding and knowledge by European stakeholders of partner countries' policies, performance and good practices in the field of climate action on the one hand and of EU policies, good practices and lessons learned by public administrations, academia, business community, civil society and other stakeholders in partner countries on the other hand.
- 1.2 Strengthened ability of partner countries to integrate customised policy and practice options for advanced foresight, policy-making and implementation in support of the Paris Agreement

Contributing to Objective 2:

- 2.1 Increased opportunities for advanced bilateral cooperation and investment among EU businesses and businesses in partner countries in pursuit of the goals of the Paris Agreement;

Contributing to Objective 3:

- 3.1 Increased public awareness of the opportunities and challenges related to the Paris Agreement and of EU-partner country cooperation

3.2 Indicative Activities

The service provider will be expected to deliver on the following aspects:

Contributing to Output 1.1

The action will foster a mutual understanding between the EU and partner countries on climate policies, challenges and opportunities and good practices in view of fostering an effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and of partner countries' commitments under their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and/or Long-Term Strategies. By creating a space for EU and partners for mutual understanding on specific topics related to climate mitigation, climate adaptation and enabling environment (see list below), this action will create the right conditions for deepened bilateral relation and strengthened climate diplomacy between the EU and third countries. It will also allow for the EU to promote its Green Deal and related regulatory instruments as appropriate among partner countries, accelerate the implementation of agreed and upcoming partnerships and encourage partner countries to make ambitious reforms to fulfil their green transition. At the same time, EU stakeholders involved in the action can also be inspired by good practices in partner countries, which could be replicated or reinforced elsewhere. In this context, the action may support targeted activities supporting Green Alliances, Green Partnerships, High-Level Dialogues on climate and Just Energy Transition Partnerships.

Activities included under Output 1.1

- Gathering and maintenance of intelligence and key indicators on partner countries' climate ambition, policies and delivery
- Drawing up of scoping studies, reports on state of play, policy options, EU-third country cooperation opportunities

Contributing to Output 1.2

This action will build on the EU's lasting experience of formulating ambitious policy options in line with the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C goal as well as other international commitments and turning these ambitions into policy reforms and implementation. By enhancing dialogue between the EU and partner countries on climate policies, it will aim to advance concrete policy options as much as possible tailored to the specific needs of the partner countries, thereby strengthening countries' expertise and capacities to effectively take measures in line with their climate commitments and raise their level of climate ambition. In this way, this action aims to be a vehicle for the EU to inspire actors globally to set an irreversible path towards climate neutrality and resilience and guide all sectors of the economy in their efforts to decarbonise and adapt to climate change.

Activities included under Output 1.2

- Organisation of conferences, thematic workshops in countries, including logistics and expertise mobilisation
- Exchanging of experts from countries in scope for study visits in Europe or in partner countries
- Facilitation of cooperation among technical institutes and knowledge centres to customise relevant EU regulatory instruments and tools
- Facilitation of cooperation among subnational governments for enhanced local climate action, in particular building on and strengthening the (Global) Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy

Contributing to Output 2.1

The EU Green Deal agenda is one of sustainable growth at home, but also abroad. The way the EU produces, consumes and trades will evolve over time with sustainability at its heart. This presents both challenges and opportunities to businesses in the EU but also abroad. At the same time, the EU's experience has shown that the green transition can be achieved alongside economic growth. This action will aim to strengthen relations between European businesses, including SMEs, and businesses abroad and allow for business exchanges to help ensuring the green transition can be translated into better opportunities for trade and economic growth.

Activities included under Output 2.1

- Organisation of business for a, conferences, workshops, match-making events and seminars on climate topics for European and third country business organisations and selected companies
- Organisation of conferences with other key stakeholders, which can contribute to a conducive environment for businesses with the potential to advance the green transition and contribute to green growth: civil society, trade unions, youth organisations, women organisations, climate justice and environmental organisations

Contributing to Output 3.1

While the effects and impact of climate change are ever more evident and the UNFCCC process is anchored in a scientific, evidence-based process (closely connected to the framework of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)), there are still a lot of misperceptions and false assumptions in the public debate on climate change. This action will raise awareness on the importance of climate action and climate policies, as well as on the urgency to deliver on the implementation of the Paris Agreement. It will also show the benefits of EU cooperation on climate action and harness the role of the EU as a global player in the fight against climate change. Lastly it will help addressing misperceptions on EU Green Deal policies and their effects on third countries.

Activities included under Output 3.1:

- Raising awareness among selected target audiences on the Paris Agreement, EU climate policies, EU bilateral cooperation activities and the EU's global role in the implementation of the Paris Agreement
- Ensuring compliance with applicable EU visibility requirements in any activities under this programme as appropriate
- Contributing to certain plurilateral or multilateral events, as relevant and effective
- Education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information and cooperation at all levels on matters related to the implementation of the Paris Agreement

Topics found within all strands of activities may include:

Climate policy strategies:

- Climate policy-making
- Climate strategy modelling
- Methodological aspects of emission and adaptation modelling
- Stakeholder dialogues (including in view of the preparation of long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies and/or the updating/renewal of NDCs)
- *Ad-hoc* studies and impact assessments

Mitigation policy instruments:

- Carbon pricing, in particular emission trading
- Energy efficiency in housing, including zero-emission buildings, as well as products and industry
- Deployment of renewable energy sources (including green hydrogen) and renewable-friendly energy market reform
- Phase-out of fossil fuels and fossil fuel subsidies
- Clean mobility, incl. zero-emission vehicles, shipping and aviation
- Climate-sensitive agriculture and forestry, bio-economy and natural carbon sinks
- Carbon capture, storage and use
- Industrial decarbonisation, strategic value chains for net-zero industry and circular economy
- Non-carbon GHG emissions reduction, including methane, ozone-depleting substances and F-gasses

Adaptation policy instruments:

- Information platforms on adaptation and resilience practices
- Vulnerability assessments
- Methodologies for adaptation planning and preparedness scoreboard
- Budget mainstreaming and infrastructure resilience
- Country and region-specific sectoral adaptation action and collaboration
- International and domestic security issues in relation to climate change
- Disaster risk management and mitigation, including Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance
- Loss and Damage

Climate transparency and local action:

- Monitoring, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks, including institutional, administrative and procedural arrangements
- Support for city-level action, incl. through the (Global) Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy
- Climate governance and vertical integration, greenhouse gas data collection at local level
- Support to information flows across branches and levels of administration
- Assuring quality and promoting continuous improvement of data
- Addressing monitoring capacity gaps for key source categories in GHG inventory
- Land use monitoring, in particular with the EU Copernicus programme
- Value chain emissions tracking

Enabling environment:

- Sustainable finance (notably but not limited to in connection with the activities of the International Platform on Sustainable Finance)
- Just transition
- Gender and climate
- Technology development and transfer
- Greening trade patterns

The Action is on global scale, with focus on non-EU G20 countries and selected countries amongst main global emitters, highly vulnerable, regional lighthouses for climate action, and/or that have close climate bilateral relations with the EU, including through trade agreements, just energy transition partnerships, high-level dialogues, green alliances and partnerships. Target countries include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States, Viet Nam. The action is however not limited to these countries and may include other countries, as well as multi-country and regional projects.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Outcomes of the SEA screening (relevant for budget support and strategic-level interventions)

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that no further action was required.

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 G0. This implies that the action does not specifically target gender equality. Notwithstanding, throughout implementation, a gender-sensitive approach aligned with the Paris Agreement and the EU Gender Action Plan III in the respective country (notably one of its key thematic priorities: Addressing challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation) will be applied in consideration of the double-benefit of environmental sustainability also contributing to advancing gender equality and reducing gender-related vulnerabilities. This will be considered especially for activities connected to climate change adaptation and just transition.

Human Rights

The Action will be implemented through a human rights-based approach, including its key principles of participation, non-discrimination, accountability, and transparency. The action will promote inclusive policies targeting women and persons living in vulnerable situations (e.g., indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities). The action aims an impact on the citizens and their fundamental rights to live their lives in a safe environment with access to relevant environmental information. The project will be run in accordance with the EU's policy in the field of human rights.

Disability

The action is not considered relevant for inclusion of persons with disabilities, it is labelled as D0. Although the action is labelled D0 and not particularly relevant for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, the action could indirectly impact persons with disabilities as they are considered part of the targeted vulnerable communities.

Reduction of inequalities

Climate change affects the most vulnerable first, especially those who contributed the least to it. By contributing to both mitigation and adaptation to climate change, this action will therefore strive to contribute directly and indirectly to reducing inequalities in the countries in scope.

Besides, decarbonisation, if handled poorly, may put people in vulnerable situations at risk of increased poverty. Justice must therefore be at the core of strategies to achieve climate-neutrality. Climate justice, notably just transition towards cleaner energy, is a major topic of intervention for this action.

Democracy

Although this area is not its main focus, the action is expected to have a positive impact on democracy by – among others – stimulating discussions about climate strategies, mitigation and adaptation measures, including stakeholder dialogue processes underpinning climate policy-making. It will also strengthen the role of civil society organisations in partner countries.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

As conflict is often reciprocally connected with environmental degradation, this action may contribute to the preservation of peace, as it becomes part of the climate conflict nexus. Tackling climate change and environmental challenges in the targeted countries can therefore lead to more resilience and in turn less conflict due to climate change. These positive co-benefits are especially important for conflict-plagued regions in the targeted countries.

Disaster Risk Reduction

An increased level of disaster risk is accompanying the unprecedented development of human-made climate change. All major economies, as well as developing countries are affected by this development and are forced to find adequate adaptation measurements. This action supports partner countries with their adaptation pursuits, through technical and organizational partnerships.

Other considerations if relevant

The action will strengthen cooperation and exchanges between the EU and key partners in order to improve enabling environment, harmonise regulatory frameworks and norms and standards, and promote EU technology transfer and know-how, thus being fully in line with the Global Gateway strategy. In this sense, it will ultimately contribute to spur investments in a number of climate relevant sectors and contribute to advance EU strategic interests and geopolitical positioning in the context of the global climate agenda.

This action also supports the third leg of the REPowerEU Plan¹⁷ regarding the acceleration of the clean energy transition. This will, among others, require international cooperation and partnerships including on increasing the share of renewable energy sources such as hydrogen.

¹⁷ COM(2022) 230

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
Applying to all objectives	Interest in EU climate policies in third countries decreases	M	H	Maintain the right level of flexibility in the action in order to adapt the country-specific strategy. Invest proportionally more resources into third countries where interest is high.
	Overlaps with projects from other donors	M	M	Coordination with other donors, in particular EU Member States, to avoid overlaps; project design introduces necessary level of flexibility to avoid overlaps.
	Overlaps with existing EU-funded projects at national and regional level	L	H	Direct involvement of Commission services (in particular FPI) and EU Delegations ensures full knowledge of parallel EU-funded activities.
	Changes in the priorities of partner countries and in our bilateral relationships	H	M/H	Project design introduces necessary level of flexibility to adapt to such changes by focusing to particular topics and/or by involving stakeholders from a wide spectrum.
	The delivery partner is not able to implement activities and disburse funds in some of the countries in scope	M	H	Should the delivery partner not have a permanent office or be unable to implement/disburse in some countries, solutions will be sought in teaming up with relevant local or European entities who can.
	Third country authorities oppose specific activities under this action	M	H	Interest and buy-in from third country authorities will be carefully assessed together with EU Delegations. Third country authorities will not be required to approve specific activities – only where strictly necessary – and will be informed about them.
	Local partners are not authorised to engage in collaborations with their EU peers and/or accept funding from the Action (“foreign	L	H	In such a scenario, the action will have the necessary flexibility to work with organisations that are not based in the target country.

	agent law syndrome”)			
	EU Member States follow different approaches in engaging with the partner countries on climate and energy issues	L	L	Pursue a Team Europe approach. Policy coordination through the Green Diplomacy Network.
	Limited visibility for the EU’s action	M	M	Effective supervision of the delivery partner is required, in particular through a dedicated Communication and Visibility Plan (see below).

Lessons Learnt:

- Promoting climate action in major economies and regional lighthouses has proven to align with the interest of the EU and it helps shape the EU’s profile as a progressive forward-looking actor. It contributes to levelling the playing field among competitors, thus decreasing the risks of carbon leakage and accelerating the emergence and market penetration of climate-friendly solutions.
- Action at the level of G20 countries is more relevant than ever. Countries in scope of this action account for 69% of the world’s GHG emissions. The SPIPA and EUCDs projects were instrumental in upholding the Paris Agreement in a critical period so that it remains widely recognised and accepted as an overarching framework to guide international climate action.
- The EU’s expertise and knowhow on climate policy measures and technologies are in high demand across the world. The EU’s model aiming at climate-neutrality is gaining traction among partner countries, especially with the European Green Deal setting a clear direction. As the 2023 global stocktake under the Paris Agreement is getting closer, there is an even stronger interest for this expertise in order to identify economic opportunities while raising the level of ambition.
- Relatively small amounts of financial resources, when invested at the right time and in the right place, can play a significant role in advancing climate ambition in third countries and unlock decision-making. The flexibility that the SPIPA programme and EUCDs has offered is a key feature.
- In its previous phases – SPIPA and EUCDs – this project’s set-up has proven to provide the best possible guarantees on complementarity, impact and efficiency of the actions pursued. The implementation modality of a service contract, in combination with the broad and deep consultation of various Commission services in the design of the project’s activities, has proven to be an effective format.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

This action is based on EU interests and values, notably strengthening the global climate leadership of the EU and its diplomatic engagement with third partners, ensuring implementation of the Paris Agreement and upholding the principles of sustainable development, high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, as well as the principles guiding the EU's external action as per article 21 TEU.

If output 1.1, including enhanced mutual understanding and knowledge by European stakeholders of partner countries' policies, performance and good practices in the field of climate action on the one hand and of EU policies, good practices and lessons learned by partner countries on the other hand. And output 1.2, as strengthened ability of partner countries to integrate customised policy and practice options for advanced foresight, policy-making and implementation in support of the Paris Agreement.

then exchanges on climate policy options and good practices between the EU and non-EU major economies and regional lighthouses would be improved in support of the transition to climate-neutral, resilient economies and in support of the EU's climate diplomacy (1).

If output 2.1 opportunities for advanced bilateral cooperation and investment among EU businesses and businesses in partner countries in pursuit of the goals of the Paris Agreement are increased;

then these bilateral trade, investments and innovations in in the spirit of shared and mutually beneficial industrial development for the green transition in partner countries would be improved (2).

If output 3.1 including public awareness of the opportunities and challenges related to the Paris Agreement and of EU-partner country cooperation is increased,

then resilience of third countries to challenges associated with the implementation of the Paris agreement would be increased (3).

If these specific objectives (1, 2 and 3) are achieved,

then the action will contribute to the overall desired objective which is to support the EU's climate diplomacy at bilateral level, to promote effective implementation of the Paris Agreement in third countries and to stimulate climate action at global level and in partner countries, in particular climate policy reform.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

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

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

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.

The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

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

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	Support the EU's climate diplomacy at bilateral level, promote effective implementation of the Paris Agreement in third countries and stimulate climate action, in particular climate policy reform, in partner countries based on political opportunities	1. Number of countries demonstrating positive trend in relation to SDG and Sendai common indicators	1. TBD (2023)	1. TBD (2026)	1. Sendai Framework Monitoring Report	Not applicable
		2. Number of third countries adopting climate policy reforms in favour of a more effective implementation of the Paris Agreement	2. TBD (2023)	2. TBD (2026)	2. Baseline, mid-line and end-line surveys	
		3. Updates of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and Long-Term Strategies under the Paris Agreement, disaggregated by country	3. TBD (2023)	3. TBD (2026)	3. UNFCCC	
Outcome 1	Improve exchange on climate policy options and good practices between the EU and non-EU major economies and regional lighthouses in support of the transition to climate-neutral, resilient economies and in support of the EU's climate diplomacy	1.1 Number of state-level and sub-state level (bilateral, regional, multi-lateral) partnership strategies and policy dialogues which have been improved or influenced 1.2 Number of partner country approaches to and practices on challenges of global concern which have been improved or influenced	1.1. TBD (2023) 1.2	1.1. 10 (2026) 1.2. 5 (2026)	EC press releases Project progress reports EUD webpages Country profiles Country engagement strategies	EU commitments to integrate environment, disaster risk reduction and climate change, and to support climate action and the implementation of the Paris Agreement in EU

Outcome 2	Improve bilateral trade, investment and innovation in the spirit of shared and mutually beneficial industrial development for the green transition in the partner countries	2.1. Number of countries that strengthen their bilateral trade	2.1. TBD (2023)	2.1. (2026)	2.1. Baseline, mid-line and end-line surveys	international cooperation are maintained or increased.
		2.2. Volume of investments (in euro) contributing to the goals of the Paris Agreement, secured by the target countries	2.2. TBD (2023)	2.2. TBD (2026)	2.2. Baseline, mid-line and end-line surveys	Partner countries remain engaged with and committed to the Paris Agreement, the UNFCCC negotiating process, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as the 2030 Agenda.
Outcome 3	Contribute to improving public awareness of challenges and opportunities associated with the implementation of the Paris Agreement	3.1. Number of countries that show commitment to the implementation of the Paris Agreement	3.1. TBD (2023)	3.1. TBD (2026)	Baseline, mid-line and end-line surveys	
Outputs	1.1 Enhanced mutual understanding and knowledge by European stakeholders of partner countries' policies, performance and good practices in the field of climate action on the one hand and of EU policies, good practices and lessons learned by public administrations, academia, business community, civil society and other stakeholders in partner countries on the other hand 1.2 Strengthened ability of partner countries to integrate customised policy and practice options for advanced foresight, policy-making and	1.1.1. Number of stakeholders reached through knowledge products and events on European policies, good practices and lessons learned for climate action, disaggregated by country and type of stakeholder	1.1.1. 0 (2023)	1.1.1 (2026)	Event participation lists; Dissemination records of knowledge products	Sustained interest from EUDs in partner countries
		1.2.1. Number of countries receiving EU assistance in support of international climate, sustainable energy and environmental objectives	1.2.1. TBD (2023)	1.2.1. TBD (2026)	Intervention progress reports	Political and economical stability in partner countries
		1.2.2. Number of professionals of partner countries having strengthened ability on customised policy making and	1.2.2. 0 (2023)	1.2.2. 480 (2026)	Pre and post assessment of participants	Sustained engagement of the partner countries to the Paris Agreement

	implementation in support of the Paris Agreement	implementation, disaggregated by sex, age, country and affiliation				
	2.1 Increased opportunities for advanced bilateral cooperation and investment among EU businesses and businesses in partner countries in pursuit of the goals of the Paris Agreement	2.1.1. Number of stakeholder within partner countries that are facilitated to engage in dialauge for bilateral cooperation and investments, disaggregated by country and type of stakeholder	2.1.1. TBD (2023)	21.1. TBD (2026)	Intervention progress reports	
	3.1 Increased public awareness of the opportunities and challenges related to the Paris Agreement and of EU-partner country cooperation	3.1.1. Percentage of participants targeted by outreach and advocacy events who acknowledge a positive change in their perception of the EU and/or international policies and standards (disaggregated by sex)	3.1.1. 0% (2023)	1.3.1. 50% (2026)	Baseline, mid-line and end-line surveys	

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

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

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 72 months from the date of entry into force of the financing agreement adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer in duly justified cases.

4.3 Implementation Modalities

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

In order to carry out activities under this project, the service provider will be expected to sub-contract a large share of the budget (tbd) to stakeholders from the EU and partner countries.

4.3.1 Direct Management (Procurement)

The service provider(s) will be selected through a competitive call for tenders in line with the Financial Regulation applicable to the EU budget. The procurement will contribute to achieving all outputs under Objectives 1, 2 and 3 mentioned in section 3.1.

Under derogation, the call for tenders will be launched in September 2023 under a suspensive clause prior to the adoption of this Decision.. This is justified to ensure continuity between this action and the previous phase of EU Climate Dialogues whose ending date is mid 2024.

4.3.2 Changes from direct to indirect management mode due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

In case the preferred implementation modality under Direct management cannot be implemented due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control and in case no service provider up to quality standards can be identified, a contribution agreement (indirect management) with one or more pillar-assessed organisations, such as agencies of the EU and its Member States and international organisations could be considered. Specific objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

- Proven capacity to manage successfully the implementation of a large EU-funded project in the climate sector
- Proven expertise at promoting climate action (including climate policies), clean energy, energy efficiency, sustainable mobility, sustainable agriculture, land use and forestry, low-carbon industry, adaptation and disaster risk management
- Experience in the field of communication and (public) diplomacy

¹⁸ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

- Track-record of constructive engagement with stakeholders, in particular with national or subnational authorities, business associations, civil society, think tanks and academia.
- Experience and capacity to operate in the countries targeted by this action.

4.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

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

4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components¹⁹	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3	
Procurement – total envelope under section 4.3.1 ²⁰	30M
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	may be covered by another Decision
Totals	30M

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The action will be run based on the initiative and screening of dedicated country teams bringing together relevant Commission services and the EEAS, including relevant EU Delegations. A steering committee bringing together relevant Commission services and the EEAS is ultimately responsible for approving activities and will have to guarantee both the approval of activities at various service level as well as the avoidance of overlap with existing EU-funded actions.

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

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ In order to avoid details on budgets for individual contracts, it is sufficient to indicate the total envelop for procurement. If budgets for individual contracts are public, tenderers tend to orientate themselves on them and not on the terms of reference.

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, during the inception period, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action. The implementing partner will also elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports throughout the whole period of the action. 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).

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

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

Responsibility for data collection, analysis and monitoring will ultimately rest with the implementing partner, who will be expected to report in writing through progress reports and orally during steering committee meetings for this action. The implementing partner may include data collection, analysis and monitoring provisions in the separate contracts issued under this action. Data collection, analysis and monitoring will be available at a disaggregate country and activity level and at aggregate level, both for country-specific and multi-country activities. Key data about specific activities undertaken under this action (country/ies, delivery partner, state of play, budget) will be available online in a secure, restricted way at any time to the contracting authority. Data collected is presumed confidential and shall not be disclosed outside the European Commission, the External Action Service and the implementing partner without the contracting authority's permission.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a final evaluation(s) will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision)) taking into account in particular support provided to the EU's climate diplomacy and results achieved towards implementing the Paris Agreement in partner countries.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 1 months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination²¹. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

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

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.

²¹ 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.

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

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

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Action level (i.e. Budget Support, blending)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Group of actions level (i.e. top-up cases, different phases of a single programme)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSYS#):
Contract level		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	

<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	
Group of contracts level (i.e. series of programme estimates, cases in which an Action includes for example four contracts and two of them, a technical assistance contract and a contribution agreement, aim at the same objectives and complement each other)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of contracts 1	