
NDICI-Global Europe

'Global Challenges' thematic programme

Multi-annual indicative programme

2021-2027

1 Executive summary

The 'Global Challenges' programme of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument — Global Europe (NDICI-Global Europe) covers the global and multilateral dimension of the EU's action to implement its political priorities. It aims to strengthen the EU as a global actor in the delivery of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹ and the Paris Agreement² to help eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and achieve sustainable development.

This 2021-2027 programme will complement and strengthen the country and regional dimensions of EU action to pursue and project the EU's interests and values in support of universal global agendas and initiatives, multilateralism and the rules-based global order, and position the EU as a global leader spearheading collaborative and transformative changes that will help us to 'build back better'. In line with the 2030 Agenda, the European Consensus on Development³ and the European Commission's geopolitical priorities, it will support global actions contributing to the objective of 'a stronger Europe in the world'.

The programme will therefore act as a key instrument for the external projection of the EU's policies, by helping it to leverage more effectively its regulatory power, high environmental and social standards, unique single market, and social market economy model.

Following the 'geographisation'⁴ and complementarity principles underpinning the 2021-2027 programming, the programme will deploy resources strategically to support truly global action, promoting the EU's priorities and values. It thus complements and strengthens country, multi-country and regional actions by financing global and trans-regional actions and initiatives. This will result in activities addressing global challenges, supporting the pursuit of global goals, in particular the UN

¹ <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

² https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf

³ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/24011/european-consensus-for-development-st09459en17.pdf>

⁴The NDICI has a strengthened geographic focus. Geographisation means that most funds are disbursed in at the national and regional level and that EU Delegations and Member States in partner countries have a greater role in decision making over priorities and allocations in a given country.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement, protecting global public goods, supporting multilateralism and the rules-based order, and promoting transformative changes.

The structure of the programme reflects the key intertwined pillars of the 2030 Agenda, which shape the SDGs: People, Planet, Prosperity and Partnership⁵.

Priority area	Indicative allocation (€ million)
<p>Priority area 1: People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health • Education and skills • Gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment • Children and youth • Migration and forced displacement • Decent work, social protection, inequality and inclusion • Culture 	1 835
<p>Priority area 2: Planet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change and disaster risk reduction • Environment and natural resources (biodiversity, land, forest, water, oceans, pollution) • Green transition (sustainable energy, green cities, sustainable mobility, green skills and lifelong learning) 	793
<p>Priority area 3: Prosperity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment climate, private sector, decent work, employment and trade • Circular economy • Quality infrastructure investments and connectivity • Global action to eradicate child labour • Digital transformation • Resilient and sustainable agri-food systems 	697
<p>Priority area 4: Partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic cooperation with global and multilateral organisations and processes • Economic governance and inclusive societies • Local authorities 	304

2 Overall context

We live in a world that is highly interconnected and interdependent, and facing numerous global challenges. Climate change, environmental degradation, poverty and social exclusion, pandemics and non-communicable diseases are pressing, disruptive global threats that require better multilateral coordination and global solutions. New forms of inequality and new forms of work are emerging, amplified by globalisation. While accelerated digital transformation and connectivity offer great potential for innovation and sustainable growth, they also pose new threats to citizens’ equality, security and rights.

⁵ The fifth ‘P’, Peace, is tackled by the dedicated ‘Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention’ programme.

The COVID-19 crisis has not only exacerbated existing social and economic inequalities, but also revealed our systems' failures in ensuring resilience and sustainable, equitable access to opportunities and even outcomes for all. It has confirmed how intertwined global challenges are and clearly demonstrated that we must tackle poverty and inequality while addressing climate change, tackling pollution and preserving and sustainably managing biodiversity and natural resources on land and in the ocean.

At the same time, multilateralism and our collective capacity to address challenges and pursue global common goods are increasingly undermined by unilateralism and geopolitical power shifts.

Against a backdrop of global disruption and power struggles, and in line with the Commission's ambition of 'a stronger Europe in the world' and the Joint Communication on *Strengthening the EU's contribution to rules-based multilateralism*⁶, the EU is reviewing its policies in order to strengthen its strategic influence and prominence. The EU will be more assertive, defending its interests and values at global level while building and reinforcing coalitions with partners on key priorities.

The EU has reaffirmed its support for the universal aims of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the rule of law, gender equality and human rights (including labour rights). Its pursuit of these objectives goes hand in hand with promoting its own strategic interests. It has developed ambitious policies ('a European Green Deal', 'a Europe fit for the digital age' and the vision for 'Europe's digital decade', 'an economy that works for people', 'a new push for European democracy', the 'European Pillar of Social Rights' and 'promoting the European way of life') that implement these agendas at home, recognise their external implications and help its partner countries to roll out the universal agendas. Each policy is geared to strengthening global solutions, including support for the multilateral system, so as to uphold and update the rules-based global order.

Progress on the 2030 Agenda in the 'Decade of Action' depends critically on ensuring a sustainable, resilient, inclusive and green recovery from the pandemic, building back better and working better together worldwide.

The post-COVID-19 recovery provides the EU with a unique window of opportunity to build back better, project our priorities, interests and values, promote a green, digital and inclusive recovery and boost our strategic sovereignty and resilience. The EU has presented a vision for this recovery through its Global Recovery Initiative⁷, which incorporates the multi-dimensional reality of the current challenges. It has committed to make this Initiative a reality at the multilateral level, by linking debt relief and investment to the SDGs. More than ever, EU unity and coherence is crucial for the success of these ambitious goals.

Financial capacity to support global actions that project EU priorities and values is key. The 'Global Challenges' programme responds to this imperative and complements and strengthens the country, multi-country and regional dimensions of EU action. It should enable the EU to have a stronger voice on the global stage, shape the international agenda and influence norms and standards internationally and in support of local and regional solutions.

Global challenges have to be tackled individually and in combination in order to put the world on a path to sustainable, equitable and inclusive development. The five Pillars of the 2030 Agenda – People, Planet, Prosperity, Partnership and Peace - provide the basis for such interlinking. All SDGs are multi-dimensional and interlinked, and the programme will promote integrated actions that can generate co-benefits and meet multiple objectives in a coherent way.

Highly specialised knowledge and technical assistance will be required to deliver on the international dimension of EU priorities. It is important to support global knowledge generation in relation to global

⁶ JOIN(2021) 3 final, 17.2.2021.

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_20_963

challenges and EU priorities, and its dissemination and use in partner countries. It will be crucial to mobilise the best available international expertise, in combination with local knowledge, research and innovation capacity, to address common challenges and seize opportunities across pillars, regions and countries. Research, innovation and knowledge will feed into an EU model of international expertise, projecting EU know-how, promoting knowledge development and the sharing of best practices through a mutual exchange and learning approach to address common challenges in a cost-effective way. The EU will rely on methodologically sound and policy relevant empirical research and develop the evidence base for its policies by supporting evaluation of the effectiveness of its programmes. Where possible and relevant, a ‘Team Europe’ approach⁸ will be taken.

2.1 PEOPLE

The global agenda

Human development is at the core of our multilateral commitment to achieving the SDGs by 2030 and leaving no-one behind. The SDGs express the world’s determination ‘to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment’.

This means taking a human rights-based approach to guarantee that all individuals can thrive and have equal opportunities. As a pre-condition for the success of all SDGs, universal access to quality education (SDG 4) is at the heart of the ‘global challenges’ programme. Similarly, achieving universal health coverage (SDG 3) is an essential investment in human capital. Access to basic nutrition (SDG 2.1), safe drinking water and sanitation (SDG 6) are human rights and essential conditions for health and prosperity. In addition, they act as equalisers, freeing time for women and children, and offering them a path to educational achievement and better health conditions. Global access to social inclusion (SDG 10.2) and social protection (SDG 1.3) are critical not only for the social, but also the economic and environmental dimensions of the SDG agenda, acting as a powerful socio-economic stabiliser and reducer of inequalities. Building sustainable and shock-responsive national social protection systems is key to helping women and children, persons in vulnerable situations such as migrants and refugees, and persons with disabilities.

Reducing inequalities is a fundamental goal in itself (SDG 10), with a focus on ensuring inclusive access to assets, non-discrimination, skills development, avoiding a digital divide and reducing already existing digital inequalities, and improving decent working conditions. It is also a cross-cutting issue linked to poverty reduction and sustainable and inclusive growth (SDGs 1, 8 and 9), gender equality and inclusion (SDG 5), environmental sustainability (SDGs 6, 7, 11-15 and 17) and many other public goods.

Engrained discrimination and inequalities of all kinds make it hard for part of the population to exercise their rights, access basic services and contribute to their full potential, which all puts a brake on sustainable development. All people, in all their diversity, should be free to live their chosen life, thrive socially and economically, participate and take a lead as equals. Gender inequality is one of the most persistent forms of inequality in the world and one of the greatest barriers to human development (UNDP 2019). Gender equality (SDG 5) has a multiplier effect as regards poverty eradication, education, jobs and growth, and is key to unlocking the development of democratic societies founded on human rights, social justice and sustainability. Investing in the future of people and human development also entails investing in children and young people, as key agents of development and essential contributors to the 2030 Agenda, including through their ability to innovate. Supporting

⁸ The objective of the “Team Europe” approach is to combine resources from the EU, its Member States, and financial institutions, in particular the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Team Europe Initiatives focus on identifying a critical priority (bottleneck) that currently constrains development at country level, where a coordinated and coherent effort by Team Europe would ensure results with a transformative impact. Team Europe Initiatives are open to all participants to Team Europe who are interested in working together (an inclusive approach) in the design, financing and implementation of actions.

robust policies and stimulating investment in culture (SDGs 4.7 and 8.9) can provide key opportunities to deepen intercultural dialogue in favour of more inclusive, tolerant and peaceful societies, and to create jobs and growth through cultural and creative industries and cultural heritage.

Migration and forced displacement (SDG 10.7) are a perennial phenomenon, shaping economies, societies and politics throughout the world. Increased sustainable multilateral cooperation is key to addressing the risks and vulnerabilities faced by migrants and refugees, while at the same time promoting the opportunities that safe and regular migration presents for development in countries of origin and destination and also for the migrants themselves as beneficiaries of legal pathways.

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the urgency of stepping up strategic and smart investments in human development and ‘building back better’. Given the scale of the socio-economic challenges it has caused, which are reversing years of progress, the EU needs to act swiftly through a Team Europe approach to support partner countries in the recovery, of which human development is an essential building block.

Recognising the urgent need for global coordinated action in these areas, the international community has developed specific multilateral frameworks covering the multiple sectors affected by the ‘people’ priority area. These include:

- the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, which include education and health;
- the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence;
- the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);
- the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection 2030;
- the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- the UNESCO Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions; and
- the UN Global Compacts on Migration and on Refugees.
- The 1951 Refugee Convention

These frameworks commit or provide recommendations for countries to step up action, ensure coordination, share knowledge and information, boost financial support, establish common tools and harmonised monitoring and reporting systems, and provide capacity development for developing countries.

The EU’s goals and priorities

This global emphasis on human development is echoed in the priorities of the European Consensus on Development, which calls for the promotion of universal health coverage and access to quality education and training, adequate and sustainable social protection, nutrition and decent work for all in a healthy environment. The Consensus calls for the reduction of inequalities, the promotion of women’s and youth empowerment, the provision of a safe and nurturing environment for children, and the promotion of safe and well-managed migration and mobility. Investing in people and human development is in the EU’s interest, as it is the smartest long-term economic and political investment in sustainable development. Ensuring stability and multilateralism is a key vehicle for achieving the Commission’s geopolitical priorities.

Human development, with education and skills development at its centre, is an essential foundation and catalyst for the achievement of all the Commission’s geopolitical priorities, including the European Green Deal, the digital transition and the EU’s Africa strategy. The EU has a strong commitment to

supporting education in partner countries, strengthening systems through evidence-based investments. As announced during the Global Education Summit in summer 2021, and during the Global Citizen live event in September 2021, continued EU support for global funds and initiatives, such as the Global Partnership on Education and Education Cannot Wait, will be a crucial means of delivering on this commitment.

In the current pandemic context, global health is a key priority for the Commission and the Member States, with high expectations of stronger EU global health action and support for the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as other relevant organisations under a One Health Approach. Health security is also a priority in the global strategy for the EU's foreign and security policy. It is in the strong interest of the EU to help end the pandemic everywhere. To this end, the Commission and the Member States as Team Europe have established the COVAX Facility that aims to deliver COVID vaccines to vaccinate at least 30% of the population in low and lower middle income countries. Pledges to facilitate and accelerate the distribution of vaccines in these countries have repeatedly been made, notably to COVAX, and an additional 200 million vaccine doses were announced by President von der Leyen in her State of the European Union speech.⁹ In helping to deliver on the global commitments on health, and mitigate the important health impacts of the pandemic, the Commission has been and will continue to be a strong supporter of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria since it was established in 2002. Other flagship initiatives are:

- GAVI — the Vaccine Alliance, which is critical for ensuring innovative vaccines at preferential prices in the poorest countries;
- the WHO's Universal Health Coverage Partnership, which helps countries to create sustainable, resilient health systems in a consistent manner (emphasising support for health service delivery, health workforce, health information systems, access to essential medicines, health system financing, and leadership and governance); and
- the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) Supplies Partnership, which provides women and girls with access to quality assured reproductive healthcare and family planning products.

The European Consensus for Development underlines the importance of strengthening social protection systems in partner countries. The EU is a member of the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection 2030, which brings together national and multilateral stakeholders to help partner countries design comprehensive social protection systems. The EU is also strongly committed to reducing inequalities for persons with disabilities in line with the EU disability strategy 2020-2030, and has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

With the EU's gender equality strategy and gender action plan III (2021-2025), expectations are high that its new policy framework will be a game changer in helping to reverse worrying global trends that stem from a backlash on women's rights and have been amplified by the COVID-19 crisis, and to achieve SDG 5. Promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) as agreed in accordance with the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the outcomes of their review conferences and combatting gender-based violence are at the centre of the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, a key flagship programme for a global, multi-year partnership to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls by 2030.

Youth is a cross-cutting priority for the EU and increased youth engagement and empowerment (including via dedicated public diplomacy initiatives) is one of the key objectives in our work with

⁹ President von der Leyen announced 200 million vaccines to be shared with Africa. The funds for this pledge come on top of the amounts laid down under this MIP and in addition to other commitments already made to COVAX in 2021 and previous pledges made by former President Juncker to the Global Fund for the period 2021-2022 for an amount of 550 M€.

partner countries in line with the June 2020 Council conclusions on youth in external action. It also echoes the Commission's political priority emphasis on youth in the EU.

Addressing the challenges and opportunities of migration remains a political priority for the EU and the Commission. The implementation of the external dimension of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum proposed by the European Commission, including at global level, will contribute to SDG 10.7 on orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration, and support partner countries' efforts to deliver on the Global Compacts on Migrants and Refugees.

The EU recognises culture as an enabler of social and economic development, and as helping to advance human rights. The New Agenda for Culture (2018), the 2019 Council Resolution on the cultural dimension of sustainable development (2019) and the European Framework of Action on Cultural Heritage (2018) outline its commitments and its approach to promoting culture as a vector for development, including in international relations.

The current gaps

Despite steady progress in reducing global poverty, the world is not on track to achieving many 'people'-focused SDGs and essential aspects of human development are under threat. Poverty has become entrenched in Latin America, Central Asia, the Middle East and above all sub-Saharan Africa, which is home to more than half of the world's poor. Coupled with the very robust demographic growth foreseen for the near future, this poses particularly acute challenges to sustainable development.

Extreme levels of inequality in human development remain widespread, gaps are widening and a new generation of 21st century inequalities is emerging, in particular as a result of digital transformation, environmental degradation and climate change. These shape people's ability to seize the opportunities of our century, to function in a knowledge economy and generally to rise to global challenges such as climate change. Women, young people, children, persons with disabilities and other persons in vulnerable or marginalized situations, including indigenous people and migrants and forcibly displaced people, are disproportionately affected. COVID-19 is exacerbating these trends and hampering ongoing strategies of poverty eradication and human development.

With respect to education, there is a risk of lost opportunity for a whole generation – over 127 million children and young people in countries affected by conflict or disaster are not in school. The pandemic has aggravated this risk, as many children (in particular girls) may not return to school. Quality of education is a persistent challenge in terms of both access and learning outcomes, with vulnerable groups, including girls, disproportionately affected. Education funding will remain a challenge, as more than two thirds of partner governments have cut their education budgets due to the impacts of COVID-19 on public finances.

Continued global attention will be needed to end the pandemic by facilitating universal access to COVID vaccines particularly for high risk populations and mitigate the effects of the pandemic, namely in countries with weak health systems. Despite impressive progress on health in the past 20 years, only 50% of the world's population have access to basic healthcare, while inequalities persist within and between countries. Health systems in many partner countries remain fragile, underfunded and confronted with deadly diseases. The pandemic has confirmed the need for a 'one health' approach, exposed the lack of global health security preparedness and significantly hindered progress on global health. Essential health services have been interrupted and years of progress on maternal and child health, access to family planning, immunisation, and non-communicable and communicable diseases have been reversed. Progress towards universal health coverage, including equitable access to essential quality medicines, vaccines and medical technologies, has also been compromised. Unmet family planning needs affect gender equality work and lead to demographic growth in many regions,

creating unsustainable pressure on jobs, growth, basic service provision and natural resources. Additional challenges include the growing health impact of pollution and environmental degradation¹⁰.

While access to social protection has continued to expand, significant gaps still exist as regards the coverage and adequacy of benefits. Only 45% of the world's population have access to at least one type of social protection benefit, while the remaining 55% (4 billion people) are left unprotected. The pandemic has exacerbated the vulnerability of the population at large and demonstrated the importance of social protection, calling for redistributive policies to lift the bottom 40% of the population. Access to participation in all spheres of life (SDG 10.2) is a human right of which persons living with disabilities are often deprived, due to physical and social barriers, stigma and discrimination. Consequently, they are over-represented among those living in persistent poverty, which they are less likely to escape. It is estimated that 1 billion people, or 15% of the world's population, have some form of disability; 80% of them live in developing countries.

Gender inequality (SDG 5) remains a global challenge and a major human rights violation. Despite some progress, gender inequalities are still pervasive and have been further compounded by the COVID-19 crisis. Gender-based violence and violence against women, girls and children have spiked across the globe following the imposition of many pandemic-related restrictions, as have unequal access to education and discrimination on pay and working conditions.

Of over 1.8 billion young people in the world today, 90% live in developing countries, where they tend to make up a larger proportion of the population. In Africa alone, three quarters of the population is below 35, and 12-15 million jobs are needed annually to absorb young people into the labour market. In many countries, young people are often largely disempowered and disenfranchised. Research has shown that economic concerns, in particular unemployment, are among the main problems facing young people, especially in Africa, followed by environmental concerns and challenges in education and skills development, further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The cultural and creative sectors have been among the parts of the economy most affected by COVID-19 lockdowns. While the situation has sparked creativity and the use of digital technology in some areas, recovery for the sectors (which attract many girls, women and young people) will remain a challenge. However, culture's potential as an enabler and key component of human and sustainable development has still to be fully utilised, especially as it has proven to be key to societal resilience.

Migration has increased steadily in recent decades, with an estimated 271 million international migrants in mid-2019, or 3.5% of the world's population (up from 2.8% in 2000). An estimated 48% of those migrants were women and an estimated 12% were children under 18. At the end of 2019, there were 79.5 million forcibly displaced people in the world (around 85% of whom were in developing countries): 26 million were refugees (40% of whom were children under 18), 7.8 million asylum seekers and 45.7 million internally displaced people (IDPs).

While regular migration can contribute to development, irregular migration can entail increased risks and vulnerabilities for migrants, including exploitation, marginalisation and abuse. It also creates challenges, including development challenges, for the countries of origin, transit and destination. Existing migration dynamics are modified or exacerbated by climate change and environmental degradation – factors that are projected to increase further the number of displaced people across the world, due to water stress, land degradation and extreme weather events.

2.2 PLANET

The global agenda

¹⁰ In 2015, pollution led to an estimated 9 million premature deaths worldwide (16% of all deaths), which is three times more deaths than from AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria combined, and 15 times more than from all wars and other forms of violence. 92% were in developing countries, particularly in Africa and Asia.

As recognised in the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity, our prosperity, livelihoods and well-being all depend on a healthy planet, a stable climate and a thriving biodiversity. While humanity has prospered immensely in recent decades, this prosperity has been highly unequal and achieved at a devastating cost to our planet. Estimates of our total impact on nature suggest that it would require 1.6 Earths to maintain the world's current living standards to 2030¹¹. The International Resource Panel has presented sobering findings concerning the environmental impacts of unsustainable material resource extraction and processing¹². Raising our living standards while reducing our ecological footprint requires a radical shift to sustainable development, production and consumption pathways. We are already seeing climate and environmental impacts affecting developing countries and poor communities first, and hardest. The perceived tension between social and environmental objectives, and between environment/climate and inequality, is a false dichotomy: we have no other option but to deliver simultaneously on the twin defining challenges of our time. The COVID-19 pandemic is a wake-up call, exposing the urgent need to preserve nature and promote sanitation, hygiene and sustainable agriculture and food systems.

Achieving the SDGs and providing enough food, water, energy, transportation and livelihoods for a growing, increasingly urban and affluent population, while staying within the 1.5-2 °C goal set in the Paris Agreement and the planet's ecological boundaries are defining challenges of the 21st century. They require global responses and system-wide transformation from the local to the global level. They require transformative change in key areas that are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda, including climate action (SDG 13), marine and terrestrial biological diversity (SDGs 14 and 15), water and sanitation (SDG 6), agriculture, food and nutrition (SDG 2), sustainable energy (SDG 7), sustainable consumption and production (SDG 12), sustainable industrialisation and infrastructure including transport (SDG 9) and sustainable cities (SDG 11).

Recognising the urgent need for global coordinated action in these areas, the international community has developed specific multilateral frameworks, in particular the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, other multilateral/international agreements, initiatives and organisations on biodiversity, desertification, energy and energy efficiency, water and ocean governance, chemicals and waste, sustainable finance, methane emissions and the Sendai Framework on disaster risk reduction (DRR). These frameworks commit participating countries to stepping up action, coordinating efforts, establishing common tools and harmonised monitoring and reporting systems, sharing knowledge and information, and increasing financial support, technological transfer and capacity development for developing countries.

The EU's goals and priorities

The EU recognises that we must strengthen international governance and global knowledge, capacities, partnerships, innovation and action if we are to preserve our planet and accelerate the green transition. The EU and its Member States have been instrumental in the development and adoption of most of the above-mentioned international agreements and frameworks for action. In specific cases, where the context was not conducive to multilateral initiatives, the EU has developed its own action plans to promote international action, in particular on deforestation, illegal logging and wildlife trafficking. The European Consensus strikes a coherent, integrated balance between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, and puts climate and environment action, sustainable energy, transportation and agri-food systems, a green economy and the promotion of high sustainability standards for trade and investments at the heart of the EU's international partnerships policy.

¹¹ [The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review](#)

¹² The extraction and processing of material resources (biomass, minerals, metals, and fossil fuels) accounts for more than 90% of global biodiversity and water stress impacts, approximately half of global climate change emissions (not including climate impacts related to land use), and about one third of the health impacts due to particulate matter (IRP, Global Resource Outlook 2019).

The European Green Deal is this Commission's flagship policy and central to the EU's strategy for implementing the 2030 Agenda. Recognising the urgency of the climate and biodiversity crises and the opportunity for the EU to spearhead the green transition, it commits the EU to becoming the first climate-neutral continent by 2050 and to promoting global efforts to protect our planet. It aims to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient, competitive and resilient economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050 and where economic growth is decoupled from resource depletion, pollution and biodiversity loss, while leaving no-one behind.

The Green Deal sets out deeply transformative policies in key areas, including:

- the EU climate law;
- the Climate Pact;
- the 'fit for 55' package to reduce emissions by at least 55% by 2030 and the associated Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism;
- the adaptation strategy;
- the biodiversity strategy for 2030 and the new forest strategy;
- the EU Communication on deforestation;
- the 'farm to fork' strategy for sustainable food systems;
- the circular economy action plan and the EU industrial strategy;
- the legislation and strategies for clean, affordable and secure energy – energy efficiency, renewable energy (including offshore energy, bioenergy and low-carbon fuels such as green hydrogen), the EU methane strategy, the energy system integration strategy, the EU hydrogen strategy, the Just Transition Mechanism and initiatives to address energy poverty;
- the sustainable and smart mobility strategy;
- the zero-pollution action plan and chemicals strategy for sustainability;
- the Renewed Leipzig Charter on the transformative power of cities for the common good;
- the Sustainable Blue Economy Communication; and
- the "Strategy for Financing the Transition to a Sustainable Economy"¹³.

The Green Deal also promotes measures to mainstream sustainability in all EU policies. Sustainable finance represents a real potential and could help accelerate financial flows towards green, inclusive and resilient transitions.

The success of the Green Deal will depend above all on our success in mainstreaming sustainability coherently across all our policies. It will also depend on close international cooperation with partners, in order to support their efforts to 'build back better' and raise the level of global ambition to reach universally agreed environmental objectives, which underpin sustainable development. The Green Deal and its components therefore have a strong international dimension that commits the EU to leading international negotiations and action on climate, energy and biodiversity, and to using its green diplomacy, multilateral engagement, trade policy, external investments and international cooperation to shape and support the global sustainability transition. The post-COVID recovery provides the EU (and the world) with a unique window of opportunity to promote a green and inclusive recovery and accelerate the transition to climate neutrality and resilience, and environmental sustainability. The EU

¹³ COM (2021) 390 final, 6.7.2021

has undertaken to use the Green Deal as its compass for the recovery and to help partner countries build back better. This relates to both the “people”, ‘planet’ and the ‘prosperity’ pillars of this programme. In the spirit of the Green Deal, we must ensure a just transition for all, including our partners around the world and their poorest communities.

The current gaps

The world is not on track to meet most of the international commitments on climate change and environmental degradation, in particular SDGs 13, 14 and 15, and the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity. On the contrary, recent reports, in particular by the Intergovernmental Panels on Climate Change (IPCC) and on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the International Resource Panel (IRP), highlight an acceleration of the climate and biodiversity crises, unsustainable natural resource use and a risk of irreversible damage and tipping points. They also stress that the climate and environmental crises are deeply interconnected and require transformative action in key areas: efforts to meet SDG 2 (food), SDG 6 (water), SDG 7 (energy), SDG 9 (sustainable industrialisation and transport), SDG 11 (cities) and SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production) must be stepped up, as the COVID-19 pandemic threatens to delay or reverse progress in these areas.

The current changes to our planet's climate are an existential threat to humanity and the world economy¹⁴; they magnify the risks of instability in all forms. The last two decades have included 19 of the warmest years on record. Human-induced global average temperature increase has already exceeded 1.1°C above pre-industrial levels¹⁵. Global warming is transforming our environment, increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, heat waves, droughts, typhoons and hurricanes, floods and forest fires, threatening health, livelihoods and food systems, particularly affecting the poorest, women and girls, increasing the risk of forced displacement and causing massive devastation and loss of life. Arctic surface air temperature has increased by more than double the global average over the last two decades, with feedbacks from loss of sea ice and snow cover contributing to the amplified warming. The polar regions are losing ice, and their oceans are changing rapidly, with consequences extending to the whole planet, and affecting people in multiple ways.

Unconstrained climate change could turn the Earth into a hothouse, with large-scale irreversible climate impacts, ecosystem collapse, ocean acidification and sea-level rises affecting coastal areas and low-lying land and islands around the world¹⁶. Recent studies estimate that temperature increases of 1.5 or 2°C would cause economic damage to the tune of EUR 45 trillion or USD 57 trillion by 2100. Without additional action, 7% of the world GDP could be lost by 2100, pushing 100 million people below the poverty line. Without urgently and decisively intensified global mitigation efforts, temperature rises could reach 2°C soon after 2060. The world has a window of opportunity to limit global warming to 1.5°C, provided that we act now to promote a green recovery and use every tool at our disposal to accelerate progress towards climate neutrality, while strengthening climate resilience and adaptation, with a focus on the most vulnerable segments of the population. Global action must be stepped up to steer and coordinate efforts, both on mitigation and adaptation, at all levels, strengthen knowledge and capacities, national commitments, monitoring, reporting and verification systems, and promote innovative climate investments.

Healthy, prosperous and resilient societies and a stable climate depend on well-functioning ecosystems, in particular forest, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems. Nature is in crisis and urgent action is needed. Biodiversity is declining faster than at any time in human history. Protecting,

¹⁴ World Economic Forum, [The Global Risks Report 2019](#).

¹⁵ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), October 2018, [Special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels](#).

¹⁶ European Commission ([COM\(2018\) 773 final](#)), *A clean planet for all — a European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy*.

restoring and sustainably managing biodiversity (wildlife and ecosystems) is crucial for ensuring food, water and energy security, gender equality, livelihoods and human health, enhancing resilience to the impacts of climate change, and achieving climate neutrality. Between 2005 and 2020, 11.4 million hectares of tropical forests were lost every year and at least as much degraded, although 1.6 billion people depend on them for their livelihoods. Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse also threaten the foundations of our economies and societies, and the costs of inaction are high and expected to increase¹⁷. None of the internationally agreed goals and targets relating to biodiversity, forest and land for 2020 have been met. A robust post-2020 UN global biodiversity framework for action is required to avoid catastrophic ecosystem collapse and the extinction of a million threatened species that would undermine hard-won development gains. Enhanced international action is also required to tackle deforestation, wildlife trafficking and illegal logging, including strengthening global knowledge and data, and coordinated action, including demand- and supply-side measures on timber and agricultural commodities, in line with the relevant EU policies and action plans.

Water scarcity affects more than 40% of the world's population and is projected to rise, with women and girls most affected. 42% of the world's population live in transboundary basins¹⁸ where pressure on water resources is increasing. Enhanced international water governance, addressing the energy-water-food nexus and collaboration among riparian countries is needed to ease international tensions in already fragile areas (Tigris-Euphrates, Mekong, Nile, Himalaya, Orange, Lake Chad and Central Asia). At the same time, one in three people do not have access to safe drinking water and nearly 1 000 children die every day due to preventable water and sanitation-related diarrheal diseases. It is therefore necessary to step up investment to protect water-related ecosystems, promote sustainable water management and water infrastructure, and strengthen coordination and collaboration at all levels to achieve SDG 6 and ensure that water security supports all other SDGs.

Oceans cover almost three quarters of our planet's surface and play a critical role in regulating climate and weather patterns, water, oxygen and CO₂ cycles. Over 3 billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods and food security. Careful management of this essential global resource is key for a sustainable future. Oceans have a key role to play to address global challenges and contribute to the economy and human development, but this is thwarted by the cumulative effects of over-exploitation, pollution, declining biodiversity, climate change and weak and fragmented international ocean governance. There is an urgent need to step up international efforts to strengthen ocean governance (including ocean science), establish a more effective and comprehensive global system of marine protected areas (also covering waters beyond national jurisdictions) and promote international measures for sustainable fisheries.

Food systems are currently not sustainable. Agriculture, food, fibre and feed production and consumption patterns are the main drivers of deforestation and biodiversity loss. They account for close to 30% of global greenhouse gas emissions and use 70% of global freshwater resources. More than a third of fish stocks around the world are overfished¹⁹. At the same time, agriculture and food systems are increasingly under stress, including from climate change and environmental degradation. We must promote sustainable agriculture (including agro-ecology, sustainable agriculture value chains and sustainable healthy diets) and prevent food loss and waste if we are to preserve ecosystems, biodiversity and natural resources, tackle climate change, improve livelihoods, contribute to food and nutrition security, reduce risks of pandemics and enhance resilience. Global action is needed to stimulate research and innovation, and governance (e.g. to foster equitable access to land or to preserve genetic diversity for food and agriculture), to ensure sustainable aquaculture and fisheries (including a zero-tolerance approach to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, which is often associated with forced labour on fishing vessels) and to guide and foster sustainable investments, with

¹⁷ OECD (2019), *Biodiversity: finance and the economic and business case for action*.

¹⁸ http://ihp-wins.unesco.org/layers/geonode/transboundary_river_basins

¹⁹ *The state of world fisheries and aquaculture 2020* (fao.org).

an emphasis on women and smallholders. Global action is key in complementing regional and national interventions to promote sustainable agri-food systems and achieve SDG 2.

Air, water and soil pollution is the cause of a fifth of all premature deaths worldwide — three times more than AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria combined²⁰. Air pollution alone kills an estimated 7 million people every year²¹. Badly managed waste contaminates soils, freshwater bodies and oceans, and is a serious health and sanitation hazard. Building on existing multilateral agreements, international governance measures need to be strengthened to control international trade in hazardous chemicals and waste, and promote their sound management. Enhanced international action is also needed to tackle the plastic pollution crisis, possibly through a new global treaty.

13% of the world's population still lack access to modern electricity and 3 billion people rely on wood, coal, charcoal or animal waste for cooking and heating, thereby contributing to deforestation and indoor air pollution. Energy production and use is responsible for 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Meeting SDG 7 on affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all while progressing towards climate neutrality requires an acceleration of the global green energy transition. Current share of renewables in the electricity sector reach 25.4% while more efforts are needed in heating (9.2% and transport (3.4%). Further efforts are needed in energy efficiency, to increase the annual efficiency improvement rate from 2% to 3% until 2030. Recent advances in technology, rapid cost declines in renewable energy, strategic shifts in policies, and new innovative business models and practices mean that we can achieve SDG 7²². Stronger partnerships and alignment between international partners and between the public and the private sectors must reorient investments and international capital flows to renewable energy and energy efficiency so as to ensure a just and orderly clean transition away from fossil fuels, while ensuring a stable and secure energy supply. This will require international alignment on ambitious policy goals and systematic knowledge-sharing in areas such as regulation, governance and innovation. The EU and European businesses and researchers are well placed to support this ambition by leveraging their expertise and technological leadership.

By 2050, more than two thirds of the world's population (close to 7 billion people) will live in urban areas. This will put increasing pressure on resources, but also provide opportunities to meet basic human development needs and create jobs, while minimising environmental impacts, including climate change, pollution and waste. Cities will play a central role in shaping future consumption and production patterns, and in the transition to climate neutrality and resilience, circularity, sustainable urban mobility, zero pollution and the sustainable use of natural resources and ecosystems. To harness these opportunities, an integrated urban development approach that works for all people and the planet will be key. Transport accounts for a quarter of the world's greenhouse gas emissions and is the largest contributor to air pollution and the fastest growing emission sector. Since demand for mobility is projected to continue growing, decarbonisation and digitalisation efforts will be fundamental, i.e. taking transformative action on clean vehicles and less-polluting transport systems, deploying sustainable alternative fuels, efficiency improvements and smart multi-modal transport modes, and developing corridors. It will be essential to strike a balance, taking account of affordability and equality, between partner countries' development of strategic transport infrastructure and minimising carbon footprints. Cooperation in relevant international fora, such as the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) or the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) will be equally important towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions globally.

2.3 PROSPERITY

The global agenda

²⁰ [https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(17\)32345-0.pdf](https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(17)32345-0.pdf)

²¹ <https://www.who.int/airpollution/en/>

²² SDG 7 progress report by UNDESA.

Poverty eradication is the EU's primary development objective, integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development (SDG 1). It is a pre-condition for sustainable development, as recognised by the 2030 Agenda. Promoting sustainable economic recovery and growth with decent jobs (in particular, SDGs 8, 9 and 12) is an objective that entails progress on human development indicators and sustainable solutions in the management of natural resources across the SDG framework.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda²³ calls for greater support for domestic and international private business and finance, international development cooperation and international trade as an engine for development.

The EU's goals and priorities

The European Consensus on Development underlines that creating decent jobs, particularly for women and young people, is essential for inclusive, sustainable growth (SDG 8). Such growth builds long-term resilience in partner countries and fosters sustainable and resilient value chains, e.g. by promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns (SDG 12) and circular economy. Sustainable public and private investment (SDG 17.3.1) is a vital driver of sustainable economic development. It helps to foster growth and decent jobs, deliver innovative products and services, link developing countries' economies to regional and global value chains, and promote regional integration and trade.

The EU is committed to the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which provide a framework steering the contribution of responsible investment to sustainable development in all its dimensions. Private and public investments will be scaled up in the spirit of an inclusive, low-emission, climate-resilient green economy. Sustainable economic growth will be fostered by advances in more equitable digital transformation and quality infrastructure (SDG 9). Prosperity will be achieved through action in key domains of agri-food systems, notably agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, which also provide jobs and trade opportunities for many people (SDGs 2, 14, 15 and 16).

President von der Leyen's political guidelines state: 'I want Europe to strive for more by strengthening our unique brand of responsible global leadership'. The Joint Communication on the global EU response to COVID-19²⁴ lays the groundwork: a resilient recovery from the crisis depends on sustainability, the respect of labour rights and corporate responsibility in global supply chains.

The priorities underline the importance of social fairness and prosperity in the framework of 'an economy that works for people', particularly as regards private businesses, decent jobs, green jobs and equality, including gender equality. The international community has developed labour standards covering employment rights and principles, in particular the fundamental conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO). The priorities state that '[o]ne of the key foundations of our social market economy is that everybody pays their fair share'. It is also essential to ensure fair taxation and calling for an urgent reform of international corporate tax systems. This concerns the 'prosperity' pillar and the 'partnerships' pillar equally.

With the European Green Deal, the Commission reinforces the EU's ambition to promote a more sustainable growth model that helps to tackle climate- and environment-related challenges. The EU has an impact on nearly all countries around the world and its economy is connected with their workers and workplaces. As a major economic player, the EU needs to influence global value chains for the better.

The current gaps

The present worldwide economic situation is difficult and only in the years to come will we see the full long-term impacts and economic and social costs of the pandemic for employment, productivity and

²³ The outcome document adopted at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 13–16 July 2015) and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015.

²⁴ 8.4.2020 JOIN(2020) 11 final

potential output. While large-scale fiscal stimuli in most countries have prevented total economic collapse and supported the incomes of millions of households, realisation of the 2030 Agenda has been substantially impacted.

World gross product fell by an estimated 4.3% in 2020 — the sharpest contraction of global output since the Great Depression. Developing countries experienced a relatively less severe contraction, with output shrinking by 2.5% in 2020. However, GDP estimates mask the severity of the employment crisis on labour markets in the developing world. Women have been particularly badly hit by the pandemic, as they account for more than 50% of workers in labour-intensive service sectors, such as retail trade and tourism. The COVID-19 pandemic and containment measures have prevented millions of people from going to work, resulting in an exceptionally sharp drop in activity and unprecedented job losses. Remittance flows have shown remarkable resilience and helped to maintain the living standards of migrant families in developing countries. Managing the employment crisis involves providing businesses with the liquidity and policy support they need to survive and supporting workers whose incomes are affected.

The crisis is exacerbating poverty, inequality and state fragility. The total number of people living in poverty is expected to have increased by 131 million in 2020 alone and as many as 797 million will still be trapped in extreme poverty in 2030. SDG 1.1 on eradicating extreme poverty by 2030 will probably be missed by a large margin.

Around 160 million children worldwide are in child labour and almost half of them are in hazardous forms of work²⁵. In 2020 International private sector SDG-related investment flows among developing and transition economies have fallen by 51% in Africa, 44% in Latin America and the Caribbean, 33% in Asia and 27% in transition economies²⁶. The COVID-19 pandemic has more than undone the progress made in promoting SDG investment since 2015. Green-field investment in SDG sectors in developing and transition economies is now 27% below pre-2015 levels and international project finance is 12% lower. While the crisis has created a new threat to the livelihoods of many workers, it has also highlighted the existing poor living and working conditions of millions and the need for change.

There is an urgent need to decouple economic development from resource use and greenhouse gas emissions, by promoting the global transition to carbon-neutral, resource-efficient and circular economies and sustainable consumption and production, in line with the European Green Deal and the circular economy action plan. In a business-as-usual scenario, the global use of materials will more than double and plastics production will quadruple by 2050. It is also essential to ensure sustainable access to critical raw materials needed for the green transition.

The pandemic had an immediate impact on foreign direct investment in 2020. The outlook remains dire, with further deterioration projected in 2021. The vast liquidity in financial markets (due to containment measures) must be steered towards socially and environmentally sustainable investments and growth. Investment is not only about quantity, but also about quality, safety and sustainability. Maximising its positive impact is essential to achieve sustainable growth and prosperity.

Quality infrastructure, including non-physical factors such as internationally agreed principles, rules, conventions and technical standards, is vital to improving connectivity and enabling safe roads and the smart interoperability of networks and trade across borders, while ensuring resilience to the impacts of climate change. In addition, the impact on the environment should be continuously assessed and ecosystem-based adaptation should be considered.

Agri-food systems sustain the livelihoods of over 3 billion people in developing countries, making their inclusive and sustainable development key to tackling poverty and inequality, and strengthening resilience. Sustainable agri-food systems have the potential to be key drivers for poverty eradication, rural development, decent job creation, women's empowerment, economic growth and innovation,

²⁵ Latest Global Estimates ILO-UNICEF on Child Labour released in June 2021

²⁶ World Investment Report UNCTAD (January 2021).

thus offering young people prospects to live and remain in rural areas. Job projections for the food economy in developing countries for 2030 show that the highest employment growth will be in the downstream segments. Shaping the direction of change in agri-food systems will be crucial in determining the extent to which they can contribute to sustainability, provide decent livelihoods, enhance resilience to economic shocks and climate-change impacts, and promote low-carbon, circular economies, while preserving biodiversity and coping with water scarcity.

Food systems need to perform better to address food crises, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition. Hunger remains a critical concern in many developing countries, while rates of overweight and obesity, leading to rising non-communicable diseases, are rising rapidly all over the world, including in low- and middle-income countries. World hunger increased in 2020 — the prevalence of undernourishment increased by 1.5 percentage points in just a year, reaching around 9.9%. Close to 12% of the world's population was severely food-insecure, i.e. 928 million people — 148 million more than in 2019. Already before COVID-19 struck, 135 million people suffered from acute hunger and were in need of food assistance, a figure that has only increased. Moreover, not one country is on course to meet all 10 of the 2025 global nutrition targets and just eight of 194 countries are on track to meet four targets.

Digital transformation is an important driver of sustainable development, with a significant potential impact on many SDGs and great potential to amplify social and economic benefits across a large number of sectors. However, digital technologies can be energy-intensive and can be misused to infringe human rights, bolster authoritarian regimes and increase arbitrary surveillance. Also, current rates of digitalisation are very unequal: more than 3 billion people are not digitally connected, including many women. A more digitalised society requires the promotion of sustainability and the building of a global, open, stable and secure cyberspace, grounded in the rule of law, human rights and democratic values that leave no-one behind.

Today, the digital transformation is driven largely by data and is a key factor for global competitiveness, with great potential for generating economic growth and development and innovative solutions. The COVID-19 pandemic has further accelerated it. Digital technologies and solutions, including space data and applications, are at the forefront of efforts to combat the crisis, while transforming markets and industries. The EU space programme, with its flagship programmes on Earth observation (Copernicus) and satellite navigation (Galileo and EGNOS), can play a key role in supporting global action. The global economic recovery will largely depend on the use of digital technologies, but unreliable and incomplete connectivity, and low levels of digital governance and skills prevent many countries, especially least developed countries, from taking full advantage of digital technologies in fighting and mitigating the pandemic. Enhanced cooperation on space technologies and space-enabled applications from the EU Copernicus and Galileo/EGNOS programmes will help support global efforts to adapt to climate change and weather extremes, tackle pollution, protect people, the environment and biodiversity, promote ocean governance and ensure sustainable agri-food systems.

2.4 PARTNERSHIPS

The global agenda

Growing global challenges call for more multilateral governance and rules-based international cooperation, with special emphasis on the role of the UN system. The SDGs can be achieved only with strong global partnerships and cooperation (SDG 17). The development landscape is expanding, encompassing more and new actors. The 2030 Agenda therefore calls for inclusive partnerships at global, regional, national and local levels that are built on shared principles, values, visions and goals, and place people and the planet at the centre.

This is echoed by calls to incorporate new approaches to multilateralism where they are likely to deliver better outcomes for our governance of the global commons and public goods. A broader range

of State and non-State actors are participating in global affairs today, with greater potential for solving problems by drawing on the capacities and hearing the voices of all relevant actors. This is a form of multilateralism that is more networked, more inclusive and more effective in addressing twenty-first century challenges²⁷. It is closely linked to the ‘people’ priority (see Section 2.1) and requires deep interaction with civil society, the private sector, social stakeholders, local and regional authorities, and other stakeholders through appropriate public diplomacy initiatives.

New emerging and reinvigorated formats for partnerships are crucial in a fast-changing environment. In particular, the multilateral order needs continued reinvigoration to make it fit for purpose to rise to the numerous and often new challenges. The current UN development system reform is just one illustration of such efforts, with similar reforms ongoing across many multilateral institutions. At the same time, historical partners, such as local authorities, are at the forefront in responding to the challenges on the ground and providing viable solutions for their communities.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires states and other relevant actors, individually and collectively, to adopt policies and mobilise resources to advance equitable sustainable development. In this regard, global partnerships that help mobilise all possible means of financing national strategies are crucial. Countries are increasingly seeking the most efficient combinations of policies and reforms with all available means — domestic resources, domestic or international private investment, development assistance, emerging donors and debt.

The EU’s goals and priorities

The capacity to forge partnerships is paramount for the EU’s political ambition as a geopolitical player and in support of its numerous international commitments and the global universal agendas. Complementing the other ‘Ps’, partnerships bring together the EU and the rest of the world, including private and public actors, to address some of the most pressing challenges through concerted action.

Partnerships are central to the EU’s priority of upholding the principles of multilateralism and strengthening the rules-based global order with the UN at its core, as spelled out in the Joint Communication on *Strengthening the EU’s contribution to rules-based multilateralism*. The EU has been and will continue to be the best ally of multilateralism and its institutions. It has an interest in reinforcing global cooperation in priority areas of global governance. It has also committed to continue renewing the multilateral system, so as to make it fit for purpose and more inclusive. Its ambition is to uphold what works, reform what needs to change and extend global governance to new areas.

At a time when the global economy is more profoundly interlinked than ever, we must pursue reinforced global partnerships, dialogues and initiatives on improved global economic governance and shared responsibility, in particular with multilateral stakeholders such as the UN, the World Bank (WB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the G20, the G7, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and other institutions. The EU can pursue its vision of ‘building back better’ and a Global Recovery Initiative, linking debt relief and investment to the SDGs, only in tandem with others. The approach has a crucial global layer, as alliances at multilateral level can help partner countries to deliver their policy commitments and financing strategies.

In 2021, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the EU and other international partners launched the Addis Tax Initiative Declaration 2025, which reflects the renewed international consensus on mobilising domestic revenue. Similarly, EU flagship work on the Integrated National Financing Frameworks and Total Official Support for Sustainable Development called for in the Addis Agenda, and initiatives such as ‘Collect More, Spend Better’ have been key in helping partner countries to mobilise and channel financing to achieve sustainable development priorities. The EU is a key global

²⁷ United Nations (2021): “Our Common Agenda” – Report of the Secretary General
https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/assets/pdf/Common_Agenda_Report_English.pdf

player on sustainable finance and partnerships in this area will be crucial to scale up sustainable finance in our partner countries.

The EU is a known and trusted partner in alliances with other stakeholders that help it act as a force, influencer and credible interlocutor on the inclusive multilateralism agenda. For instance, it has signed five framework partnership agreements with regional and global associations of local authorities to develop their members' capacity, reinforce advocacy activities and strengthen their internal structures. This contributes to state reforms and sectoral policies in relation to all the Commission's global priorities.

The current gaps

Just when cooperation is paramount, the multilateral system as we know it is often under threat. Geopolitical tensions and the growing assertion of new powers challenge the normative foundations of the multilateral system and its capacity to provide collective solutions. New non-state actors, such as digital platforms and multinationals, are becoming shapers of international norms outside established channels. At the same time, citizens feel increasingly disconnected from governance, in particular global governance.

These trends threaten to undermine capacity to forge partnerships to realise the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Action is needed to uphold and update the rules-based global order and build/reinforce coalitions with like-minded organisations and partners in order to support and develop global solutions to global challenges. Reforms of institutions that are key for effective partnerships need vision and resources. Inclusivity is increasingly crucial, as it ensures the relevance and legitimacy of decisions and institutions.

The global economic system is under strain in the face of new global challenges for international economic cooperation, such as unsustainable debt levels and the return of protectionism. The past decade has seen the largest, fastest and most broad-based increase in public debt in developing economies in the past 50 years.

The economic response to the pandemic will continue to weigh on public debt sustainability, particularly in developing countries. Many of them are at risk of being trapped in a vicious cycle of high debt and low growth. Emergency measures to support the health sector and cushion the economic and social effect of the crisis have increased government expenditures and public debt. At the same time, tax revenues have fallen sharply due to the economic slowdown, lower commodity prices and fiscal measures. The overwhelming majority of low- and middle-income economies will face sizable fiscal deficits in 2021 and probably for years to come. Fossil fuel exporters and tourism-dependent countries, including many Small Island Developing States, are among those hardest hit.

At the same time, with an increasingly reactive and flexible international economy, production and markets switch easily between continents, thus creating tensions for consumers and labour markets. Illegal and illicit financial flows also react to shifts in tax regimes or supervisory loopholes. Global action and standards are needed to channel financial flows, curb illicit transactions and avoid a tax race to the bottom, so as to ensure ultimately that everyone pays a fair share.

In addition, the pressures on local governments have never been greater. It is estimated that 65% of the 169 targets underlying the 17 SDGs will not be reached without the engagement of local and regional governments. In the context of globalisation, urbanisation, migration and the COVID-19 pandemic, these bodies face even greater responsibilities and challenges as regards delivering quality services with constrained finances and local fiscal autonomy, implementing strategies for disaster risk reduction, handling rapidly evolving technologies and population growth, engaging citizens and communities, forming effective partnerships with local actors and generating inclusive, sustainable development.

3 The overall EU strategy

Scope and overall objectives

The 'Global Challenges' programme is at the heart of the EU's global and multilateral ambition and contributes to the objective of 'a stronger Europe in the world' and the implementation of the international dimension of the EU's priorities, notably the European Green Deal and the Digital Agenda, as well as representing a renewed EU contribution to rules-based multilateralism. It aims to strengthen the EU as a global actor in the delivery of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement to help eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and achieve sustainable development.

In line with the 'geographisation' and complementarity principles underpinning the 2021-2027 programming, the programme will deploy resources strategically to support global and trans-regional actions complementing and strengthening country, multi-country and regional programmes. Such actions will seek to enhance global public goods, address global challenges and help achieve the internationally agreed goals of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement²⁸ and other relevant international agreements and frameworks.

The programme will promote a rules- and value-based international order and approach to global challenges, with effective multilateralism and the UN at its core. In line with global 'build back better' efforts, it will support a green, digital, just and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that is aligned with the SDGs and focused on four inter-related strategic areas: people and human development; the planet and the European Green Deal; prosperity, sustainable growth and jobs; and partnerships. A human rights-based approach will be promoted, leaving no-one behind.

The programme will therefore support the following (non-exhaustive) set of inter-linked types of activity:

- (i) contributions to multilateralism, a rules-based global order and international governance;
- (ii) global/multilateral processes, programmes and funds;
- (iii) global/trans-regional advocacy, research and innovation, technical assistance, public goods and knowledge;
- (iv) global/trans-regional networks, information and early warning systems;
- (v) global standard-setting; and
- (vi) testing innovative approaches and pilot projects.

Principles of engagement

When selecting actions, the EU will carefully and strategically assess the scope for building on existing global initiatives and multilateral actions and partnerships. Given the interlinkages between the 'Ps' of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs²⁹, it will pay specific attention to actions with cross-sectoral and multi-dimensional potential. Actions will also be considered in terms of their synergies in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus where relevant. The EU will also seek to address emerging and unforeseen challenges that are an inevitable part of today's global dynamics. It will seek to learn from and build on flagship initiatives that it has launched at global level with partners. This will involve policy monitoring and evaluation throughout the life cycle of new programmes and interventions. It will leverage more strongly its funding support for international organisations and global initiatives.

²⁸ NDICI Article 4(3) and (5).

²⁹ NDICI Article 8(6).

The EU will join forces with its Member States and seek to work under a ‘Team Europe’ approach as a guiding principle of engagement in global challenges, to increase its weight, credibility and impact.

In line with the Joint Communication on multilateralism, the EU will assert leadership in multilateral forums and seek to build effective partnerships to increase its impact in multilateral organisations, such as the UN, the G7, the G20 and other international organisations and financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the IMF, including sector-specific international organisations, advisory bodies and initiatives.

It will build and reinforce cooperation with civil society, thus enhancing its public diplomacy, in particular through networks and associations representing women’s and youth organisations, local authorities, the private sector and the numerous other stakeholders that are vital for the advancement of the global agendas, so as to help shape truly inclusive international governance and multilateralism. It will support the acceleration of public and private financial flows towards a green, just and resilient transition, to develop sustainable financial markets in partner countries and to promote transparency and long-termism in financial and economic activities.

The design of global actions should ensure coherence, complementarity and synergies between country, multi-country, regional and global programmes.

Strategic Communication and public diplomacy

Strategic communication and public diplomacy activities under NDICI-Global Europe are driven by the geographisation principle. Communication objectives and activities related to the priorities identified in the Global Challenges programme will therefore be embedded in country, regional and global level strategic plans. At country and regional level, the requisite resources will be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established via Support Measures Action Documents under the geographic envelopes. At global level, the requisite resources will be consolidated in a Cooperation Facility established by a Global Challenges Support Measures Action Document.

Strategic communication activities will cover public facing campaigns, political communication and stakeholder communication, as relevant to meet the specified objectives. Public diplomacy means engaging over the long term with selected target audiences and partners to build trust and enhance their understanding and support for EU policies and principles by developing networks and new alliances.

With varying emphasis depending on the geo-strategic context, strategic communication and public diplomacy activities will primarily target two complementary types of audience:

- Wider audiences, comprising ordinary citizens, who are not involved in policy, advocacy or international relations, and who may hardly be aware of the EU.
- Specialised audiences, made up of opinion leaders, activists and other multipliers who already have a stake in the sphere of policy, advocacy and international relations. These may include civil society, youth and women’s groups, academia, and other such fora and networks.

This will contribute to increased awareness and understanding among specified target audiences of the EU’s political and policy priorities, and the impact the EU has in building a safer, greener, fairer world. By doing so, it will contribute to building support for the priorities identified under the Global Challenges programme.

Duration

This multiannual indicative programme has a duration of 7 years (2021 to 2027). A mid-term review is tentatively envisaged for 2024.

The EU strategy by pillar

3.1 The EU strategy for PEOPLE under the programme

The many challenges identified in the area of human development and migration require a transformative and multi-layered response, with global action complementing, reinforcing and scaling up action at country, multi-country and regional levels. The 'people' priority area in this MIP will focus on global-level action to address gaps and challenges in relation to health, education, gender equality, social protection, children, young people, persons with disabilities, culture and migration. In addition, the multiple dimensions of human development will be addressed and mainstreamed throughout the other priority areas, including in actions relating to food and nutrition security.

Strategic EU support for global funds and initiatives will be a crucial channel to deliver on the EU's commitment to addressing global education and health needs.

Education is a driver for human development, a catalyst that can unlock progress on all SDGs. The pooled funds of global initiatives leverage and reinforce delivery on EU priorities on education and have a greater impact. Global action ensures a strong EU voice in multilateral forums, which is key to aligning all stakeholders around priority actions for effective implementation of the SDGs and raising additional (domestic and external) funding to address the huge financing gaps. The programme will contribute to global education initiatives and frameworks, promoting multilateral efforts to accelerate progress on SDG 4, supporting in particular investments in equitable and gender responsive systems in order to improve outcomes in access, retention and learning for all girls and boys, including the most vulnerable (those in areas affected by war, protracted crisis and natural disasters). Considering the impact of the pandemic on education, contribution to global education initiatives and frameworks will support the recovery of learning losses and increase the resilience and effectiveness of education systems, as well as explore innovative solutions for quality teaching and learning, in areas such as digitalisation and climate, to achieve quality education for all in the 21st century.

The pandemic has underlined the importance of human development, as societies' resilience to the virus is strongly linked to the capacity of their health systems and social protection coverage. Measures in these policy areas can be particularly effective in addressing fundamental drivers of economic inequality, improving opportunities and outcomes for the bottom 40%. In the area of health, global funds and initiatives complement and add value to country programmes, particularly as regards crucial elements of effective and comprehensive health systems that are best addressed at supranational level, e.g. fighting infectious diseases that cross borders, pooled procurement and shaping markets for key health commodities (notably vaccines), and the translation into practice of global evidence and normative guidance. By contributing to global health funds, the EU can leverage influence in change processes and give itself platforms to promote its priorities, values and expertise in the aid architecture at both global and country level. The programme will contribute to global health initiatives and frameworks, supporting multilateral cooperation to advance the achievement of SDG 3, in particular on universal health coverage, access to quality essential healthcare and safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all. It will also promote a 'one health' approach and greater emphasis on environmental determinants of health, notably pollution. Stepping up our support for global organisations, funds and initiatives on health goes hand in hand with promoting the Green Deal ambition in this area, in line with the zero-pollution action plan. The EU will promote these issues through its engagement in the boards of global funds and initiatives on health.

The EU's action at global level is key to promoting multilateral cooperation and efforts that help to implement its global commitments on universal social protection and fighting inequalities, including for persons with disabilities. Global-level support is most effective in addressing global capacity and knowledge gaps, and monitoring and accountability mechanisms. The programme will contribute to global initiatives and partnerships aimed at accelerating multilateral efforts on SDGs 1 and 10, in particular to improve universal access to social protection and promote disability-inclusive policies and action.

In accordance with the gender action plan for EU external action 2021-2025 (GAP III), gender equality will be mainstreamed across the 'global challenges' MIP and all geographical and thematic

programmes. This will involve supporting and monitoring GAP III implementation. Gender-responsive and gender transformative actions under the ‘people’ pillar will focus on links between addressing gender-based violence, health (including SRHR) and girls’ education. EU global action on gender equality and women’s/girls’ empowerment will promote alignment with normative frames and galvanise global efforts and EU leadership in building alliances to achieve SDG 5. In particular, it will focus on the eradication of all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, including online gender-based violence, building on the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, lessons learned and the theory of change by supporting knowledge building and encouraging further donor mobilisation.

Global EU action in the area of migration and forced displacement is crucial to promote constructive multilateral dialogue and cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination in a politically sensitive area. Recommendations of the High-level panel on Internal Displacement are also relevant in this context. Complementing action at national and regional level, promoting EU values and interests by supporting multilateral processes and dialogues, is an important part of the new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum proposed by the European Commission³⁰. The programme will contribute to global migration processes, partnerships and platforms, to advance on SDG 10.7, including through support for the mandated or specialised UN agencies leading these processes.

In the area of children’s rights and youth, EU action at global level will complement national and regional programmes to strengthen the participation of children and young people in global decision-making and to create bridges between children and young people in Europe and partner countries. In particular, the programme will contribute to the implementation of the planned youth action plan.

EU action at global level will reinforce national and regional action to promote culture as an engine for sustainable social and economic development, and global cooperation and preservation of cultural heritage. The programme will contribute to the implementation of the UNESCO Convention for the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions, by supporting the design of policy and regulatory frameworks, and the collection of data and evidence on culture’s contribution to the SDGs.

Robust knowledge, innovation and technical assistance will be required to support transformative action in all the above areas, supporting international policy and normative work, and providing partner countries and EU Delegations with expertise, knowledge and capacity development. Global technical assistance and support facilities may be established to ensure access to international expertise and EU know-how for the effective implementation of EU commitments in all thematic areas under the ‘people’ pillar, including the human rights-based approach. The knowledge, innovation and assistance work will also benefit from and foster synergies between the pillars and all thematic areas.

3.2 The EU strategy for PLANET under the programme

Global coordinated responses and action from the local to the global level are required to tackle climate change and the environmental crises, and support the transition to resilient, prosperous and inclusive economies and societies, respecting the planet’s ecological boundaries. In line with the European Green Deal, the programme will strengthen international action on climate change (SDG 13), water (SDG 6) and the environment, both on land (SDG 15) and in the ocean (SDG 14), also promoting nature-based responses to climate change. It will also support the global energy transition (SDG 7) and transformative action in four other areas that are central to the transition to climate-neutral and climate-resilient, resource-efficient economies and to achieving the SDGs: smart and green cities, sustainable mobility, sustainable agri-food systems and circular economy³¹. It will strengthen

³⁰ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, [A new pact on migration and asylum](#), 23 September 2020 (COM(2020) 609 final).

³¹ Sustainable agri-food systems and circular economy cut across the ‘planet’ and the ‘prosperity’ strategic areas: global action on these matters will be financed from the ‘prosperity’ area and budget line of the programme.

international governance and global knowledge, capacities, partnerships, innovation and coordinated action. In addition, the cross-cutting dimensions of climate and environmental action will be addressed and mainstreamed throughout the other strategic areas of this MIP.

Robust international governance frameworks, anchored in multilateral agreements and strong organisations, and coordinated action supported by robust data and knowledge, are essential to preserve global commons and ensure that efforts in one region are not undermined by inaction elsewhere. The programme will provide targeted support for international climate, environmental and energy governance, and the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements. It will also support that developing countries can participate in multilateral organisations and initiatives.

The EU will promote climate action (SDG 13) and the implementation and further development of the Paris Agreement. It will do so by shaping and supporting selected international initiatives and funds, in line with the EU's climate ambition and objectives. Global funds and initiatives are essential to catalyse the mobilisation of international climate finance and to help countries raise their ambition and deliver on their international climate commitments. They are also critical to improve partner countries' capacity to adapt to the effects of climate change and promote disaster risk reduction, in line with the objectives of the Sendai Framework.

In the area of environment, the programme will help to shape and promote global efforts to accelerate progress on SDG 14 on oceans and seas and SDG 15 on life on land. It will support the adoption and implementation of an ambitious global post-2020 framework for action on biodiversity, in line with the European Green Deal's ambition, including through selected international initiatives, stronger global knowledge and data and the development of a global network of interconnected protected areas. Coordinated efforts and action on global value chains (including demand- and supply-side measures and action against illegal trade and criminal networks) are essential to tackle wildlife trafficking and illegal logging, and promote deforestation-free supply chains, in line with the EU action plans on wildlife trafficking and illegal logging, and the Communication on 'Stepping up EU action to protect and restore the world's forests'. Water and oceans are global public goods and their conservation and sustainable use require international cooperation across continents. The programme will provide targeted support for international water and ocean governance frameworks, the management of transboundary water resources and efforts to step up investments to achieve SDG 6. It will build and strengthen capacities for the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, enhance the global system of marine protection and conservation areas, and ensure synergies with activities to combat overfishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. It will support global action to tackle pollution and promote the sound management of chemicals and waste, in line with the EU Zero Pollution action plan.

Achieving a system-wide green transition in key sectors will require advocacy, enhanced international cooperation and normative work, knowledge, standard-setting, green skills, innovation and pilot action to promote sustainable production and consumption, tackle pollution and promote global sustainable value chains, including for critical raw materials needed for the green transition, in line with SDGs 9 and 12. The EU will continue to support international initiatives to strengthen international research and innovation, knowledge, data, capacities, green skills and standards in support of the international ambition of the European Green Deal.

In the energy sector (SDG 7), the EU will strengthen international partnerships, support new global initiatives and promote knowledge sharing, building on the know-how of European stakeholders, in key areas such as governance, policy, regulation, standards, and research and innovation contributing to the just and orderly global clean and sustainable energy transition. It will support international initiatives and cooperation, including between public and private actors, to develop energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions based on market principles, reduce greenhouse gas emissions linked to energy use and promote a just transition.

In the agri-food sector, the EU will build on the follow-up to the UN Food Systems Summit and the Nutrition for Growth Summit in transforming agri-food systems, including through agro-ecological approaches, and tackling all forms of malnutrition, in line with SDG 2. It will play an active role in global standard-setting in food systems, climate, forestry, the blue economy, research and innovation, and finance.

Cities will be essential for delivering on most aspects of the green transformation. To harness their potential effectively, actions must be considered in a context of more integrated approaches to sustainable urban development, consistent with SDG 11. This calls for global knowledge and normative work, promoting cities that deliver on green transformation, prosperity and inclusiveness, and smart and sustainable mobility in cities and beyond.

Robust knowledge, innovation and technical assistance will be required to support transformative action in all the above areas, supporting international policy and normative work, and providing partner countries and EU Delegations with expertise, knowledge and capacity development. Global technical assistance and knowledge facilities will be established to mobilise international expertise and EU know-how and support the effective implementation of the Green Deal's international dimension and other EU commitments in all thematic areas in the 'planet' pillar. The knowledge, innovation and assistance work will also benefit from and foster synergies between thematic areas.

3.3. The EU strategy for PROSPERITY under the programme

The post-COVID recovery provides the EU with a unique window of opportunity to support the growth of new economic and business opportunities conducive to a green transition and to create prosperity for all, in line with the Green Deal and the 2030 Agenda (including SDGs 8, 9 and 12). The private sector provides some 90% of jobs in developing countries and is thus an essential partner in the fight against poverty. It is also needed as an investor in sustainable food production and processing if the world is to meet the challenge of feeding 9 billion people by 2050.

A resilient recovery from the crisis is only possible if sustainability, the respect of labour rights and corporate responsibility are strengthened, including in global supply chains. Promoting sustainable growth and decent jobs in the context of a green recovery from the COVID-19 crisis will also help to address some of the main drivers of migration, i.e. the lack of employment opportunities, insecurity, climate change and environmental degradation from unsustainable production.

Whereas most EU action in this area, such as the majority of vocational education and training programmes, will be at country level, the 'global challenges' programme will support global action that is conducive to more equitable and sustainable growth, building on EU values and a common approach. As the global economy is interlinked, such action is needed to capture adequately the various dimensions of 'prosperity' and take the opportunities to support them. The EU will ensure an approach that links national/regional efforts and strong global action.

The 'prosperity' pillar implements the EU's political priority of 'an economy that works for the people'. The goal of a climate-neutral and healthy planet is built on a resilient economy, which needs support if we are to achieve a sustainable and inclusive economic recovery worldwide over the next few years. The programme will support the global dimension of the efforts needed to create and promote decent, green jobs, especially for women and young people. It will also strive for progress in human development, including training, skills development and re-skilling to accompany the green and digital transitions, and promote climate-neutral, sustainable economic development and resilient economies. The 'prosperity' and 'partnerships' pillars will make the link between better investment and international and national macroeconomic frameworks conducive to more investment.

Circular economy focuses on sustainable resource use and inclusive green growth. Resilient and sustainable agri-food systems will lead to increased resilience to crises, enhanced food security and more inclusive value chains.

Sustainable finance represents a real potential and could help accelerate financial flows towards green, inclusive and resilient transitions.

Digital transformation is bringing fast change that affects our labour markets. With the Communications on *Shaping Europe's digital future* and the *2030 Digital Compass Decade*, the EU has put forward a human-centric approach to digital transformation that is rooted in universal principles and rules, and reflects EU values such as openness, security, human rights and inclusiveness, and the principles of the EU digital single market. These efforts have been supported by measures to promote and protect a global, open, free, stable and secure cyberspace, and to reduce the digital divide between more and less developed areas, including through the Digital4Development (D4D) strategy and the EU4Digital initiative. The D4D hub is the EU's key instrument for shaping and promoting digital transformation, and supporting the Team Europe approach. There is a need for a global umbrella that bundles the thematic strands and overarching digital priorities (global D4D hub and secretariat, technical assistance for regional D4D hubs) that will be supported by the programme.

Robust knowledge, innovation and technical assistance will be required to support transformative action in all the above areas, supporting international policy and normative work, and providing partner countries and EU Delegations with expertise, knowledge and capacity development. Global technical assistance and support facilities may be established to ensure access to international expertise and EU know-how for the effective implementation of EU commitments in all thematic areas under the 'prosperity' pillar. The knowledge, innovation and assistance work will also benefit from and foster synergies between the pillars and all thematic areas.

3.4 The EU strategy for PARTNERSHIPS under the programme

The EU's commitment to multilateralism is enshrined in the treaties. The promotion and protection of the multilateral rules-based order is a fundamental goal of the EU's external action and is at the core of its strategy to project its interests and values more effectively. However, as the EU tries to promote global cooperation, it has to take into account the more competitive and transactional nature of the current multilateral ecosystem. With the emergence of new illiberal powers and competing institutions, competition around standards and the dismissal of universal values, the space for consensual multilateralism has narrowed.

A more complex global environment calls us to be more united, coherent and focused, and better leverage our collective strength. Multilateralism must be effective and fair, and deliver results that serve both EU and global interests and values. This is a transversal threat across all 'Ps', but of specific relevance to the 'Partnerships' pillar. The EU's multilateral strategy has the twin ambition of:

- promoting deeper cooperation with partners, institutions and countries around EU priorities and values, which are profoundly inspired and anchored in universal agendas, such as the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, and therefore particularly dependent on alliances; and
- revitalising multilateral institutions and ensuring that they are fit for purpose. This includes investing in new areas of cooperation, new formats, and promoting inclusive multilateralism that generates legitimacy and accountability.

While the EU will seek coordination on global public goods with as wide a circle of partners as possible (be they institutions, countries or regional groupings), it will have to face the reality of divergent political or policy agendas. Therefore, successful global engagement for the EU will mean deepening partnerships and alliances, especially with those with whom it shares democratic values and priorities, and seeking common ground issue by issue. In the pursuit of these objectives, EU unity and Team Europe approach will be paramount.

Multilateral organisations are the cornerstone of the multilateral system and fulfil an essential role for sustainable development and the governance of the global commons. The EU has a longstanding

partnership with the UN and its various funds and agencies, the World Bank and the IMF, and other organisations such as the Council of Europe, the OECD and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), to name but a few. They can be reinforced with a view to achieving the above objectives and acting as aligned strategic partners, important international norm- and standard-setters (as per their mandates), and key implementers of EU actions and priorities.

The EU will engage at various levels to determine the best forms of cooperation by leveraging its financial and regulatory power to shape strategic partnerships, global norms and standards, and work at implementation level. Where relevant, this might involve contributing to global trust funds and initiatives managed by international organisations and supporting the production of global public goods and an integrated approach combining economic and investment-climate improvements and trade integration.

At the same time, multilateral organisations must remain effective in delivering global public goods. Therefore, to ensure the relevance of the multilateral system and preserve its legitimacy, it will be necessary to reinvigorate them through effective reform and more efficient coordination mechanisms.

Good economic governance and strong institutions are crucial for reaping the benefits of globalisation and the EU has traditionally been a strong partner in supporting relevant activities in tandem with multilateral institutions. This includes promoting the rule of law, effective, strong, accountable and inclusive public institutions, sustainable financial markets, macroeconomic stability, sustainable debt, efficient public finance management, good economic governance (including of natural resources) and fair and effective domestic revenue mobilisation based on coherent and integrated long-term financing, with green, fair, digital and resilient financing systems and policies.

Truly inclusive multilateralism also involves joining forces on global challenges through effective and practical public, public-private and civil society partnership arrangements that are collaborative, transparent and open to stakeholders. By engaging in partnerships and bringing private and public stakeholders together, the EU helps to avoid the duplication of interventions, support innovation and solutions, and reduce the fragmentation of global action. Broadened participation in sustainable development and global governance efforts needs to be accompanied by enhanced capacity to measure such efforts, beyond traditional Official Development Assistance.

A more strategic partnership between the EU and its partner countries requires dialogue and activities geared to 'bilateralising' the multilateral and 'multilateralising' the bilateral relationships. Moreover, it involves enhancing peer-to-peer exchanges, e.g. by mobilising the public sector in the Member States to create institutional partnerships and nurture the policy dialogue.

EU citizens' opinions and participation on global and multilateral matters are also key to ensuring the legitimacy of decisions and actions. Consideration could therefore be given to dedicated public diplomacy initiatives to build trust and common understanding around our shared global challenges.

Global associations of local authorities support democratic representation at international level and are uniquely placed to promote advocacy, coordination experience and knowledge sharing among local authorities and local development plans in response to global challenges. Thanks to their mandate, responsibilities and proximity to their constituencies, local authorities can promote sustainable development and other global issues effectively, closer to the general public, and foster effective multi-stakeholder cooperation between the local and global levels, thus promoting 'global citizenship'. The EU will continue to support the improvement of multi-level governance through partnerships with global associations of local authorities, while working to increase their transparency, accountability, capacity-building and empowerment. It will also support processes that help people interact effectively with local and regional governments at all stages of policy planning and implementation, and will do more to promote partnerships among EU and partner countries' sub-national authorities.

Robust knowledge, innovation and technical assistance will be required to support transformative action in all the above areas, supporting international policy and normative work, and providing partner countries and EU Delegations with expertise, knowledge and capacity development. Global technical assistance and support facilities may be established to ensure access to international expertise and EU know-how for the effective implementation of EU commitments under the ‘partnerships’ pillar. The knowledge, innovation and assistance work will also benefit from and foster synergies between the pillars and all thematic areas.

4 Priorities selected for financing by the EU

4.1 PEOPLE

The overall objective of the ‘people’ pillar is to strengthen the EU as a leading global actor in supporting and pushing forward the global agenda for inclusive and equal societies, and human development for all, with a specific focus on women and girls, children, young people and individuals in vulnerable situations, including migrants and forcibly displaced people. In line with EU and international commitments and priorities, it will support global transformative action around seven specific objectives, as outlined below. As human development is closely dependent on a healthy environment and stable climate, EU global action in the People area will systematically integrate environment and climate change considerations.

Specific objective 1: Health

EU action at global level will strengthen EU leadership in global health and contribute to ending the COVID pandemic, the achievement of SDG 3 to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, and address key enablers best tackled at global level (such as pooled procurement, knowledge sharing and the control of communicable diseases that cross borders). A specific focus will be support for global initiatives that promote universal health coverage, access to basic health services, health security under a One Health Approach, and communicable diseases, and sexual and reproductive health and rights as agreed in accordance with the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the outcomes of their review conferences such as the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, GAVI - the vaccine alliance and the COVAX Facility.

Expected results include:

1. reinforced global initiatives, including support for global funds that are key enablers of universal health coverage, to improve financial risk protection and access to quality essential healthcare services and safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all;
2. improved global health security through communicable disease surveillance, research and control, translating knowledge into policies that tackle the changing disease burden; and
3. accelerated progress towards universal access to basic health services, including immunisation and sexual and reproductive healthcare.

Performance indicators³²

1. universal health coverage index;
2. adolescent birth rate per 1 000 adolescents aged 15-19;
3. number of women of reproductive age using modern contraception methods with EU support;

³² All performance indicators referring to individuals shall be disaggregated, whenever possible, by sex and age.

4. proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care
5. number of 1-year-olds immunised with EU support;
6. number of people on antiretroviral therapy for HIV with EU support;
7. number of people with tuberculosis treated with EU support; and
8. number of mosquito nets distributed with EU support.
9. number of people immunised with COVID vaccines in low and lower middle income countries with EU support.

Specific objective 2: Education

EU action at global level will contribute to SDG 4 and strengthen EU political leadership in shaping the global education agenda and promoting the alignment of global actors and partner countries around a common set of education priorities. Global initiatives will help to leverage funds that reinforce delivery on the EU's priorities on education and have a greater impact such as the Global Partnership for Education and Education Cannot Wait.

Expected results include:

1. improved access to inclusive, quality education for all, including children and young people living in countries affected by conflict or natural disasters, *inter alia* through support for global funds; and
2. gaps in education data and analysis are addressed.

*Performance indicators*³³

1. number of students enrolled with EU support in:
 - a) early childhood education and care;
 - b) primary education;
 - c) secondary education; and
 - d) tertiary education.

2. Access/gender equality

2a SDG 4.1.3: Gross intake ratio to the last grade (primary education, lower secondary education), by sex

2b SDG 4.1.4: Out of school rate of (a) primary school age; (b) lower secondary school age; (c) upper-secondary school age, by sex, location and socio-economic status

3. Quality/learning

SDG 4.1.1: Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex

Specific objective 3: Gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment

³³ Ibidem footnote 33.

EU action at global level will help to advance the gender equality agenda in line with the EU gender action plan for EU external action. It will give a prominent place in international forums to sexual and gender-based violence, strengthening the international approach to gender equality and increasing dedicated investments.

Expected results include:

1. more EU external actions that are gender-responsive or gender-targeted³⁴;
2. increased prevention of gender-based violence and protection of women and girls through better legislation, stronger institutions, prevention, the provision of comprehensive quality services, data collection and support for women's organisations;
3. increased global advocacy, awareness, knowledge sharing and networking; and
4. strengthened global knowledge and expertise covering gender equality and the human rights-based approach and its dissemination and use in partner countries.

*Performance indicators*³⁵:

1. number of people benefitting from EU-funded programmes to counter sexual and gender-based violence; and
2. status of the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative Global Platform.

Specific objective 4: Children and youth

In synergy with programmes at regional level and EU public diplomacy initiatives, EU action at global level will contribute to SDG 4, strengthen the participation of children and young people in decision-making and create bridges between children and young people in the EU and in partner countries.

Expected results include:

1. global outreach on children and youth participation and engagement;
2. a 'youth sounding board' at HQ level is established and its functions supported; and
3. innovative pilot actions are implemented to kickstart the implementation of the youth action plan, including programmes aimed at knowledge sharing, building leadership skills and capacities, and cross-country mentoring opportunities in partnership with the Member States and global youth actors and networks.

*Performance indicators*³⁶:

1. number of initiatives on which there is a meaningful participation and consultation of the 'youth sounding board'; and
2. number of young people benefitting from capacity building, mentoring or other support.

Specific objective 5: Migration and forced displacement

EU action at global level will strengthen the EU as a global actor in the area of migration and forced displacement, and contribute to the implementation of the external dimension of EU migration policy priorities, as embedded in the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum proposed by the European Commission, and in the Joint Valetta Action Plan. It will contribute to comprehensive, sustainable and balanced migration partnerships and improved cooperation, at global and intra-continental level, in

³⁴ At least 85 % of new actions implemented under the Instrument should have gender equality as a principal or a significant objective. At least 5 % of those actions should have gender equality and women's and girls' rights and empowerment as a principal objective.

³⁵ Ibidem footnote 33

³⁶ Ibidem footnote 33.

support of SDG 10.7. Actions will support the delivery of EU political commitments, promote the positive impact of migration on development and enhance the EU's influence, voice and visibility in multilateral frameworks.

Expected results include:

1. increased support for global migration partnerships and processes, contributing to improved global governance, shared solidarity and responsibility on all aspects of migration, in line with national competences, asylum and forced displacement at multilateral level, and an enhanced cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination based on the whole of route approach, and on the needs of all partners, and promoting the positive impact of migration on development; and
2. reinforced capacity in partner countries' administrations and strengthened global knowledge on specific aspects of migration management, such as the fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, the protection of the human rights of migrants — with a focus on children on the move and migrant workers, remittances and diaspora, labour migration, in line with national competences, the development of modern asylum systems, support for refugees and IDP protection and self-reliance, and the collection and analysis of quality data on migration.

Performance indicators³⁷:

1. Increased EU presence in multilateral and global dialogues on migration and forced displacement;
2. EU global commitments on migration and forced displacement supported.

Specific objective 6: Social protection, inequality and inclusion

EU action at global level will support EU leadership at multilateral level and in multilateral forums, and help to implement EU commitments on universal social protection and fighting inequalities (including for persons with disabilities), in line with SDGs 1 and 10. The reduction of inequalities is a crosscutting issue, which can be addressed through access to social protection, health and education, among other things. For achieving sustainable development that leaves no one behind, the reduction of inequality should be approached with suitable measures, including supporting universal social protection and progressive tax systems and fiscal policies for redistribution.

Expected results include:

1. standards on social protection developed and agreed;
2. improved interoperability between social protection and other social policies, including public financial management;
3. a crosscutting approach to address inequalities that makes sure no one is left behind; and
4. increased capacity of development actors and partner countries to implement the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities globally and at country level.

Performance indicators:

1. number of partner countries' social protection implementation plans supported under the programme which refer to the standardisation of social protection processes and data formats.
2. proportion of EU funded cooperation and development initiatives promoting disability inclusion.

³⁷ Ibidem footnote 33

Specific objective 7: Culture

EU action at global level will support culture as an engine for sustainable social and economic development and reinforce cooperation on and preservation of cultural heritage, in line with SDGs 4.7 and 8.9.

Expected results include:

1. greater contribution of culture to inclusive societies, human rights and gender equality, jobs and growth.

Performance indicators:

1. increase in cultural and creative industries' share of GDP in partner countries; and
2. number of EU-supported actions in support of culture and creative industries.

4.2 PLANET

The programme will support global transformative actions around three inter-related specific objectives, contributing to EU priorities, in particular the Green Deal and international commitments, in particular the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework, the Convention on Biological Diversity and other multilateral environment agreements.

In view of their cross-cutting nature, these objectives will also be pursued through actions under the other priority areas of this MIP, ensuring that economic and human development objectives are aligned with the ambition of the Green Deal; in particular, actions on sustainable agri-food systems, circular economy and sustainable finance cut across the 'planet' and 'prosperity' components and will be financed under the latter.

The EU will promote an inclusive and just green transition, with a strong focus on poverty reduction, leaving no-one behind. Promoting sustainability must go hand in hand with the fight against inequality. Women and girls in developing countries play a key role in natural resource management and are particularly affected by the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, such as natural disasters, ecosystem loss, limited access to scarce natural resources, malnutrition, and respiratory and water-related diseases: the programme will therefore pay particular attention to promoting gender-responsive solutions and to empowering women and girls as important agents of change.

Specific objective 1: Climate action and disaster risk reduction

EU action will aim to tackle climate change, progress towards climate neutrality and enhance climate resilience and disaster risk reduction (SDG 13).

Expected results include:

1. a) enhanced participation of developing countries in international climate negotiations and b) development of selected initiatives, including those stemming from Paris Agreement negotiations, *inter alia* through support for their implementation via global funds promoting innovative climate investments; and
2. strengthened regulatory and policy frameworks for climate action, such as nationally determined contributions (NDCs), national adaptation plans (NAPs) and long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies (LTSs).

Performance indicators

1. amount (EUR) of EU international cooperation and development assistance for:
 - (a) developing countries' participation in climate negotiations; and
 - (b) global climate funds and initiatives; and

2. number of partner countries supported by the EU in drafting, reviewing and/or implementing their NDCs, NAPs and LTSs;

Specific objective 2: Environment and sustainable natural resources management on land and in the ocean

EU action will aim to strengthen international environmental governance and address global environmental challenges, including halting/reversing biodiversity loss, promoting the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, land, forests, water and oceans, tackling pollution and ensuring a healthy environment (SDG 6 on water, SDG 14 on life below water and SDG 15 on life on land).

Expected results include:

1. strengthened international environmental governance and implementation of key multilateral environment agreements, notably the conventions on biodiversity, desertification, oceans, chemicals, waste and water;
2. improved global environmental metrics, monitoring, research, knowledge, networks, capacities and international standards for evidence-based policies, programmes and investment decisions;
3. enhanced international cooperation to halt biodiversity loss, promote and incentivise the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems of global value, and combat wildlife and timber trafficking;
4. effective international action to strengthen forest governance, tackle illegal logging and the associated trade, combat deforestation (including through supply- and demand-side measures for deforestation-free supply chains) and promote sustainable land management;
5. strengthened international water governance and international action to promote the integrated management of transboundary water resources and accelerate progress on access to clean water and sanitation for all (SDG 6);
6. improved ocean governance and international cooperation for the conservation and sustainable use of marine ecosystems and resources, including by enhancing the global system of marine protection and conservation area networks in areas beyond national jurisdictions, and combatting overfishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; and
7. enhanced international action to tackle pollution, ensure a healthy environment and the sound management of chemicals, plastic and waste.

Performance indicators³⁸:

1. number of international environmental governance processes, including multilateral processes, promoted with EU support;
2. number of countries with access to improved environmental data and knowledge with EU support;
3. Amount (EUR) of EU international cooperation and development assistance directed towards (a) support to developing countries in participating in biodiversity negotiations
4. areas of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems (km²) with EU support under:
 - (a) protection; and

³⁸ Ibidem footnote 33.

- (b) sustainable management;
- 5. rate of illegal timber harvesting and trade decrease, and global rate of deforestation and land degradation decrease;
- 6.a number of countries and water basins with an improved regulatory framework for transboundary water basin collaboration developed with EU support;
- 6.b number of people with access to improved drinking water sources and/or sanitation facilities with EU support;
- 7. marine areas (km²) with EU support under:
 - (a) protection;
 - (b) sustainable management; and
- 8. number of countries strengthening their policy and regulatory frameworks on pollution, chemicals and waste with the support of EU-funded global initiatives.

Specific objective 3: Supporting the green transition in key areas

EU action will aim to drive the global transition to inclusive, climate-neutral, resilient, circular and sustainable economies, promoting the decoupling of economic development from resource use, greenhouse gas emissions and environmental degradation, in particular through enhanced knowledge, innovation, capacities, coordination and guidance. Support will focus on five inter-related areas that are central to the green transition and to prosperous and resilient economies and societies: sustainable energy (SDG 7); smart and green cities and sustainable mobility (SDG 11); sustainable agri-food systems (SDG 2) and circular economy (SDG 12)³⁹. The EU will also promote the mainstreaming of climate, environment and DRR in policies, programmes and investments across all policy areas.

Expected results include:

1. strengthened international cooperation for a just and inclusive transition to green energy, leaving no-one behind, including higher energy efficiency and lower greenhouse gas emissions, in line with the EU's climate and energy diplomacy approach, by promoting EU experience, technological leadership and industry;
2. strengthened global knowledge and normative work on sustainable urban development, advancing integrated urban development with a view to fostering cities that deliver better on green transformation, prosperity and inclusiveness, and on smart, sustainable and safe mobility in cities and beyond;
3. effective integration of environmental, biodiversity, climate-change and DRR objectives in EU cooperation and partner countries' policies, plans and investments;
4. increased international financial flows towards climate, environmental and green transition objectives in line with the Paris Agreement, the future post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the EU's renewed sustainable finance strategy (building on and promoting the International Platform on Sustainable Finance);
5. enhanced partner countries' ability to engage in fiscal and macroeconomic policy reforms and implement concrete actions before 2030 in support of international climate and environmental objectives (e.g. phasing-out of fossil fuels, environmentally harmful subsidies, carbon pricing, environmental fiscal reforms, sustainable finance and taxonomy, and disaster risk financing);

³⁹ Sustainable agri-food systems and circular economy cut across the 'planet' and the 'prosperity' strategic areas: global action on these matters will be financed from the 'prosperity' area and budget line of the programme.

6. targeted support, including technical assistance, to partner countries for developing and implementing policies conducive to a green transition through global facilities (EU Green Deal Knowledge and Expertise Hub).

Performance indicators:

1. greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes CO₂eq/year) avoided with EU support;
2. number of countries adopting just energy transition policies and plans with EU support;
3. number of countries with:
 - (a) enhanced urban and/or smart and sustainable mobility planning frameworks, integrating EU high-level objectives; and
 - (b) strengthened framework for urban finance and investments;
3. amount (EUR) and share (%) of EU-funded international cooperation and development assistance contributing to:
 - (a) the protection of biodiversity;
 - (b) climate change adaptation and mitigation;
 - (c) combatting desertification; and
 - (d) protecting the environment;
4. number of partner countries supported by the EU in view of fiscal and macroeconomic policy reforms and concrete actions before 2030 in support of international climate and environmental objectives; and
5. number of countries receiving EU assistance in support of international climate, sustainable energy and environmental objectives.

4.3 PROSPERITY

The programme will be the global component of support for sustainable and inclusive economic recovery and growth. It will strive for progress in human development and advance the Green Deal ambition to promote climate-neutral, climate-resilient and sustainable economic development across the SDG framework. It will also complement the EU's efforts to lead the transition to a human-centric digital world, supporting global or trans-regional actions to build a global, open, stable and secure cyber space, grounded in the rule of law, human rights and democratic values that leave no-one behind, through an inclusive multi-stakeholder approach. The pillar prosperity will contribute to SDG 1, End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

The programme will support five specific objectives:

Specific objective 1: Investment climate, private sector, decent work, employment and trade

An EU that is strong and visible at global level will promote sustainable and inclusive growth that will target poverty reduction, the creation of decent jobs, support for labour rights for men and women, the fight against inequalities, a more sustainable and inclusive investment climate, and the development of a socially and ecologically responsible private sector. These actions will contribute in particular to SDGs 8 and 10.

Expected results include:

1. EU support for global knowledge initiatives will promote innovative and impactful solutions on sustainable and inclusive private-sector development and trade, and decent job creation and

social economy, with emphasis on digital financial inclusion (i.e. financial inclusion, the development of local financial markets, secure and sustainable and resilient global value chains, employment and skills, lifelong learning systems, improved occupational safety and health at work, promoting freedom of association, social dialogue, conflict-sensitive business practices);

2. greater access for partner countries to global public goods, especially international standards, that contribute to poverty reduction by promoting sustainable trade, decent work and labour standards, private-sector development, responsible business conduct and economies that work for people and the planet. This includes support for related public-private and social dialogue, and for accompanying measures to help partner countries and the private sector to implement due diligence requirements;
3. the EU delivers on its international commitments by supporting global flagship initiatives on private-sector development, sustainable and responsible value chains and trade (i.e. women's economic empowerment, aid for trade, trade facilitation, due diligence in sustainable value chains and trade in green goods and services with a global dimension of the 'Trade for Decent Work' or similar programmes); and
4. targeted and harmonised EU support and engagement on investment climate, trade and private-sector development, particularly with a view to achieve SDG 8 through the effective implementation of a global policy approach to investment attraction under the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+).

Performance indicators:

1. number of countries to strengthen investment climate through global initiatives supported by the EU; and
2. number of countries adopting international standardisation conventions and initiatives through global initiatives supported by the EU.

Specific objective 2: Circular economy

In line with the Green Deal and the Circular Economy Action Plan⁴⁰, global EU action on prosperity will aim to have a transformative effect in promoting sustainable consumption and production, through a carbon-neutral resource-efficient circular economy, and foster sustainable development and poverty reduction, while decoupling economic development from the unsustainable use of natural resources,. These actions will contribute in particular to SDG12.

Expected results include:

1. increased global advocacy, policy support and knowledge sharing for the just transition to an inclusive carbon-neutral resource efficient circular economy through knowledge development, awareness raising, multilateral dialogues and partnerships; and
2. increased adoption of circular economy policies and regulations in partner countries;
3. increased global support for the greening of global value chains and the promotion of improved international standards.

Performance indicators:

1. number of countries participating in global policy and knowledge platforms/initiatives on green and circular economy with EU support; and

⁴⁰ COM(2020) 98 and SWD(2020) 100.

2. Number of countries having adopted national carbon-neutral resource-efficient circular economy policy or regulatory frameworks through global initiatives supported by the EU.

Specific objective 3: Quality infrastructure and connectivity

The EU will support global efforts to promote quality infrastructure investments, regional integration and connectivity in the context of the transition to inclusive, climate-neutral, resilient and sustainable economies. These actions will guide the implementation of the Global Gateway strategy, and they will contribute to achieve SDG 9.

Expected results include:

1. global-level EU commitments on quality infrastructure investments are embedded in the projects and programmes funded in partner countries;
2. partner countries' legislative reforms to enhance the use of quality infrastructure principles in national planning and programmes/projects are supported; and
3. the EU's worldwide role as a strategic player in promoting sustainable, comprehensive, safe, smart and rules-based connectivity (including road safety) based on EU values and interests is bolstered.

Performance indicators:

1. number of partner countries that adhere to internationally promoted quality infrastructure schemes;
2. number of legislative acts drafted with EU support that provide for the respect of quality infrastructure principles in the planning and implementation of national programmes/projects;
3. number of global policy and knowledge platforms/initiatives on sustainable, safe and smart connectivity supported by the EU, considering the number of partner countries participating in them; and
4. number of partner countries participating in global policy and knowledge platforms/initiatives on sustainable, safe and smart connectivity supported by the EU.

Specific objective 4: Global action to eradicate child labour

An EU that is strong and visible at global level will fight against child labour and forced labour and the related main causes rooted in poverty and thus contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth. The eradication of child labour is also a priority in the global dimension of the EU strategy on the rights of the child⁴¹. Given the multi-dimensional nature of child labour, several programmes (e.g. in the areas of education, agriculture, economic and governance) will need to help address the root causes of the problem. These actions will contribute to the fight against inequalities and forced labour and the achievement of SDGs 1, 5, 8 and 10.

Expected results include:

1. child labour and forced labour gradually eradicated, or at least significantly reduced, through global flagship initiatives and pilot projects on decent work, compliance with international labour and environmental standards, and the enforcement of the sustainable development aspects of EU trade policy in particular for the effective implementation of child labour and forced labour ILO Conventions under the Generalised Scheme of Preferences;

⁴¹ COM(2021) 142 final.

2. increased knowledge, data and best practice dissemination, awareness raising and global advocacy;
3. EU and partner countries' companies are supported to comply with the upcoming EU due diligence legislation;
4. Reinforced capacity in the administrations of partner countries and strengthened global coverage covering specific aspects of child labour and the collection and analysis of quality data on child labour and forced labour.

Performance indicators⁴²:

1. number of value chain sectors where the EU has been active in eradicating child and/or forced labour; and
2. number of children removed from child labour with EU support.

Specific objective 5: Digital transformation

The programme will support global efforts to promote digital transformation with appropriate digital and data technologies, including space data from Copernicus and Galileo, with a view to the transition to inclusive, climate-neutral, resilient and sustainable economies. It will support the ambitions of the Global Gateway, including with regards to digital infrastructure. The role of non-infrastructure obstacles to inclusive digitalisation including skills and education, gender and business environment, cybersecurity and cybercrime will be addressed by this objective. These actions will contribute in particular to SDGs 9 and 10.

Expected results include:

1. international digital partnerships⁴³ are established with international players, notably by shaping and supporting key multilateral governance processes (such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, data economy and Internet) and enhancing multi-stakeholder dialogues;
2. the EU's role in shaping global policy processes and international normative frameworks is underpinned by targeted support (including technical assistance) also in support of the Global Gateway for knowledge creation, awareness raising and advocacy to reinforce the global capacities of partner countries, civil society organisations and the private sector, in creating a global environment that is in line with the EU's human-centric approach to digitalisation;
3. reinforced multi-stakeholder partnerships/alliances (with CSO, private sector, international actors, etc.) to advance a global and open internet with strong safeguards to protect people's data privacy and security (including through cybersecurity), and fundamental rights; and
4. enhanced role of the EU (and the Member States) in relevant multilateral forums to promote a human-centric and rules-based vision of the digital economy and society including bridging digital divide and addressing data economy through the Global Gateway.

Performance indicators:

⁴² Ibidem footnote 33

⁴³ *2030 Digital Compass: the European way for the Digital Decade*, see chapter 6 (International partnerships for the digital decade): *'For Europe's Digital Decade to be successful, we will build strong international digital partnerships matching the four pillars of our Compass: skills, infrastructures, transformation of business and of public services. These will strengthen the EU's capacity to assert its own interests and deliver global solutions while fighting against unfair and abusive practices and ensuring the security and resilience of EU digital supply chains'*.

1. number of international entities in a digital partnership with EU entities (including through support contracts, co-creation of content, organisation of events, etc.);
2. number of international entities in a space-related partnership with EU entities (including through support contracts, co-creation of content, organisation of events, etc.);
3. number of entities (partner countries, international organisations, civil society organisations) benefitting from / involved in knowledge-creation, awareness-raising and advocacy activities supported by the EU;
4. number of collective approaches and/or practices to address digital transformation challenges that have been developed/implemented with EU support; and
5. the D4D hubs are operational and established as a global EU-led alliance for digitalisation, mobilising the EU, the Member States, financial institutions, industry, experts and civil society.

Specific objective 6: Transition towards resilient and sustainable agri-food systems

The programme will support global efforts to promote the transition to inclusive, climate-neutral, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems, with a particular focus on sustainable agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, nutrition, food security and poverty reduction. These actions will contribute in particular to SDG 2, as well as to SDGs 1, 12, 13, 14 and 15).

Expected results include:

1. improved global governance of food systems, leading to increased resilience to crises, enhanced food security, reduced malnutrition and more equitable, inclusive and sustainable agri-food and fish value chains and poverty reduction ;
2. increased EU leadership on global knowledge development and standards for sustainable food systems, including sustainable value chains, while providing partner countries with enhanced access to global public goods relating to food systems; and
3. enhanced international research and innovation, global knowledge and standard-setting in support of sustainable agri-food systems (including agro-ecology and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture) that preserve natural resources, ecosystems and biodiversity, and enhance resilience to climate change, with a particular focus on poverty reduction and support to smallholder farmers, workers and artisans, including women's entrepreneurship and employment in the green and circular economy.

Performance indicators:

1. number of global services, platforms and networks improved with EU assistance to enhance knowledge and evidence-based policy-making on sustainable food systems and/or to prevent and respond to food crises;
2. number of partner countries accessing global public goods, including knowledge platforms, relating to sustainable agriculture (including fisheries and aquaculture), food security and/or nutrition supported by the EU; and
3. number of initiatives undertaken with EU support to enhance the place of agro-ecology and agro-ecological transitions in global and trans-regional research and innovation networks.

4.4 PARTNERSHIPS

The 'Partnerships' pillar will support concrete actions to promote rules-based multilateralism and global governance, with the UN at its core. A key priority will be the projection of EU interests and values in a multilateral setting, complementing and supporting the activities under the other 'P's of

the programme and the 2030 Agenda. This includes reinforcing inclusive multilateralism and expanding multilateral networks, partnerships and actions with partners across the globe, including from the private sector, financial institutions, civil society, academia, diasporas and other relevant stakeholders, and continuing to support capacity building for these actors, to encourage high levels of engagement and strong ambitions for sustainable development.

The pillar will also support the implementation of key international frameworks that are aligned with EU priorities or to which the EU is a party, in particular the EU's commitments under multilateral and regional partnership arrangements with UN entities, international financial institutions (IFIs) and regional organisations. In particular, the programme will contribute to SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions and SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals.

The programme will contribute to following specific objectives:

Specific objective 1: Enhanced global and multilateral partnerships

Bearing in mind the EU's interests and values, and universal agendas, EU action will promote a stronger Europe in the world by strengthening dialogue, partnerships and strategic cooperation with global and multilateral organisations on global governance, tackling global challenges, delivering global public goods and supporting the implementation of international commitments and the assessment and documentation of progress, so as to contribute to the reform of multilateral institutions. The EU will use its political capital to encourage its partners' work on its priorities, support universal agendas and address global challenges.

Expected results include:

1. sustainable partnerships are built with IFIs, the UN and other multilateral partners around EU priorities;
2. the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development is enhanced, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilise and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the SDGs, in particular developing countries (SDG 17.16);
3. inclusive and effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships with the EU on addressing global challenges are encouraged and promoted, building on partnerships' experience and resourcing strategies;
4. existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement GDP are built upon and greater statistical capacity-building in developing countries is supported (SDG 17.19), particularly in least developed countries and small island developing states, in order to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data needed for evidence-based decision and policy making, broken down by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts (SDG 17.18).

Performance indicators:

1. number of specific partnerships around EU priorities - including those implemented in a Team Europe approach - in which multilaterals (IFIs, UN, etc.) have participated at global, regional or national level;
2. number of reform processes supported in multilateral organisations with a view to greater transparency, efficiency and accountability;
3. number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the SDGs (SDG 17.16.1); and

4. number of countries with a national or regional statistical plan (SDG 17.18.3) for evidence-based formulation and implementation of public policies, decision making, assessment and monitoring of development plans and government programs and the dissemination of data through national or regional open data portals that is fully funded and under implementation.

Specific objective 2: Stronger economic governance and inclusive societies

Inclusive societies and good economic governance will be strengthened through multi-stakeholder initiatives at international level. Actions will include support for the global coherence of fair and inclusive domestic revenue mobilisation, especially in the context of international tax cooperation, through global measures on tax avoidance and evasion, transparent public finance management and effective and inclusive public spending in line with fundamental values, human rights and principles of good governance, including on natural resources. These actions will help to reduce corruption, in particular illicit financial flows. Actions may also promote partner countries' participation in the global tax debate on an equal footing. Actions will include support for the global coherence of sustainable financial markets.

Expected results include:

1. global partnerships, dialogues and initiatives on improved global economic governance and shared responsibility, in particular with international organisations (UN/WB/IMF/OECD), are reinforced to promote effective, strong, accountable and inclusive public institutions, macroeconomic stability, sustainable financial markets, sustainable debt, efficient public finance management, good economic governance, and fair and effective domestic revenue mobilisation, based on coherent and integrated long-term financing with green, fair, digital and resilient financing systems and policies;
2. All possible means of implementation are mobilised to finance national strategies in order to achieve the SDGs. Partner countries are supported with global instruments and methodology to effectively mobilise and channel financing to achieve sustainable development priorities, e.g. through innovative and sustainable financial instruments (such as green bonds), Integrated National Financing Frameworks and the 'Collect More, Spend Better 2.0' approach.
3. partner countries' administrative capacity will be reinforced through global EU expertise and knowledge transfer, in particular through the unique expertise provided through peer-to-peer instruments, organised globally.

Performance indicators:

1. number of countries receiving EU support to strengthen revenue mobilisation, public financial management and/or budget transparency;
- 2.1 number of partner countries that develop Integrated National Financing Frameworks with common methodology with EU support; and
- 2.2 number of countries receiving EU support to develop sustainable financial instruments.

Specific objective 3: Strengthened local authorities at global level

The EU will seek to increase local authority associations' institutional and operational capacity (as development policy-making and implementing actors), to enable them to play their role in favour of enhanced governance and more effective development outcomes at local level (SDG 11). The programme will seek to improve the coordination between associations of local authorities operating at national, regional and global level to promote policy dialogue among development actors and the adoption of the Territorial Approach to Local Development and to improve local authorities' and their associations' access to funding. They will raise public awareness and active engagement of European citizens, especially among young people, with regard to sustainable development and global challenges such as climate change and local and global inequalities.

Expected results include:

1. local authority associations' institutional and financial sustainability is increased; their capacities and those of their members are strengthened; coordination between them is enhanced; TALD, including the development of roadmaps for local authorities, is promoted in partner countries; access to funding for local authorities and their associations is facilitated; and partnerships between EU and partner countries' local authorities are promoted; and
2. local authorities and their associations receive support for development education and awareness-raising activities targeting EU citizens, especially young people. EU citizens' knowledge of sustainable development and their skills in promoting it and addressing global challenges at local and global level are strengthened. Opportunities are increased for EU citizens, in particular young people, to engage actively in promoting sustainable development and addressing global challenges at local and global level. Activities aimed at integrating global issues and global citizenship education are organised in formal and non-formal education facilities.

Performance indicators⁴⁴:

- 1.a number of local authorities and their associations supported directly or indirectly by the EU at national, regional and international levels;
- 1.b number of roadmaps and action documents on decentralisation reforms or empowerment of local authorities drafted globally with EU support following a territorial approach to local development;
- 1.c number of partnerships among local authorities of EU and partner countries promoted at global level;
- 1.d number of local authorities receiving EU support to strengthening budget transparency and accountability;
- 2.a number of citizens actively engaged by local authorities in initiatives launched under the programme; and
- 2.b number of schools and non-formal education facilities that have organised activities supported by the programme.

⁴⁴ Ibidem footnote 33

5 Financial overview

<i>Priority area</i>	<i>Indicative amount (€ million)</i>	<i>Proportion of total (%)</i>
People	1 835	50.3%
Planet	793	21.7%
Prosperity	697	19.1%
Partnerships	304	8.3%
Support measures ⁴⁵	19	0.5%
TOTAL allocated for 2021-2027⁴⁶	3 648	100%

⁴⁵ These involve ancillary activities to support the core actions under the programme, e.g. to improve its efficiency, performance and impact. They may facilitate preparation, follow-up, monitoring, audit and evaluation activities, and other relevant activities directly linked to its specific objectives, such as studies, meetings and consultations, exchanges of best practices, training, information sessions, communication activities and publications. The estimate is based on historical data related to the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) Programme under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) of the 2014-2020 MFF (below 0.5%).

⁴⁶ This amount includes: NDICI allocation as per article 6.2.(b) of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation 2021/947 (after deduction of administrative expenditure) for 2.624M, guaranteed amount of 600M from the cushion as per recital 70 of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation 2021/947, and budget transfers from geographic lines (INTPA for EUR 371M and tentatively NEAR for 53M) for horizontal thematic support in the form of technical assistance.

Note on technical assistance: Specific technical assistance facilities and hubs will be managed under the programme. Dedicated funding for such facilities will be fundamental to ensure quick and flexible access to highly specialised technical assistance in all the areas that that it covers. This will be critical in the delivery of politically relevant activities of high technical quality.