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ANNEX VI

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the Multiannual action plan for the NDICI-Global Europe thematic programme Global Challenges (Planet) for 2022-2025

Action Document for Water Security for all

MULTI ANNUAL PLAN

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

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Water Security for All OPSYS number: ACT-61254 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument <u>NDICI-Global Europe</u>
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action is global.
4. Programming document	Global Challenges programme NDICI-Global Europe ‘Global Challenges’ thematic programme Multi-annual indicative programme 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	N/A
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	140
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG (1 only): SDG 6 SDGs 5, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16
8 a) DAC code(s)	14010 (Water sector policy and governance) – 32% 14040 (Rivers basin development) – 19% 14081 (Training in water supply) – 43% 15160 (Human rights) – 6%
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	UN organisation 41100 Other UN 41300

	Donor country-based NGO 22000			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective
Digitalisation @		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
digital connectivity		YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/
digital governance		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
digital entrepreneurship		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
digital skills/literacy		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
digital services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Connectivity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
digital connectivity	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/	

	energy transport health education and research	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @ (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

BUDGET INFORMATION

12. Amounts concerned	<p>Budget line(s) (article, item)</p> <p>14.020241 (EUR 18 476 390) 14.020120 (EUR 3 605 000) 14.020221 (EUR 3 605 000) - 14.020222 (EUR 3 090 000) 14.020230 (EUR 1 000 000) - 14.020231 (EUR 1 000 000) - 14.020232 (EUR 400 000) 14.020140 (EUR 1 300 000)</p> <p>Total estimated cost: EUR 32 476 390</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution : EUR 32 476 390</p> <p>The contribution is for an amount of EUR 9 476 390 (budget line 14.020241) from the general budget of the EU for 2022 and for an amount of EUR 23 000 000 (see details below) from the general budget of the EU for 2024 subject to the availability of appropriation following the relevant annual budget or as provide in the system of provisional twelves.</p> <p><u>Details 2024:</u></p> <p>14.020241 - EUR 9 476 390 14.020120 - EUR 3 605 000 (West Africa) 14.020121 - EUR 3 605 000 (Central/East Africa) 14.020122 - EUR 3 090 000 (Southern Africa/Indian Ocean) 14.020130 - EUR 1 000 000 (Middle East and Central Asia) 14.020131 - EUR 1 000 000 (South and East Asia) 14.020132 - EUR 400 000 (Pacific) 14.020140 - EUR 1 300 000 (Americas)</p>
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MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

13. Type of financing¹	<p>Direct management through:</p> <p>- Grants</p> <p>Indirect management with UN-Habitat and UNECE and with entities to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.2 and 4.3.4</p>
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¹ Art. 27 NDICI

1.2 Summary of the Action

This action aims at accelerating delivery on the SDG 6 (Water and Sanitation for all). Progress on this SDG has been too slow so far. The number of people without access to basic water and sanitation services have increased respectively by 30 and 150 million in Least Developed Countries between 2000-2020, notably in urban areas. At the same time, water resources management is under increased pressure due to the effects of climate change, ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss, demographic dynamics, agriculture needs, urbanisation, and industrialisation, all these further challenge the success of SDG 6 and the 2030 Agenda as a whole. In consequence, the strengthening of Water Security for All constitutes an overarching aim of the action. The recent Council conclusions on Water in the EU's external action are putting forward clearly the sector's challenges, while calling to further support global water governance. Furthermore, the action contributes to the Global Europe Results Framework (GERF) level 2 indicators 2.38: "Number of people with access to improved drinking water source and/or sanitation facility with EU support" and 2.9 "Areas of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under (a) protection, (b) sustainable management with EU support".

To achieve this objective, the action will support the role of the UN system by advocating for and coordinating global action to tackle water challenges and to accelerate the realisation of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. . This dynamic will be backed by work on global exchanges of knowledge and standards aiming at a transformation of water operators (public and private, including through digitalisation) to progressively increase the attractiveness of the sector for investors and young professionals (women and men) and hence mobilize the investments necessary to reach the SDG 6 targets. The action will also look at the interlinked sustainable use and management of water resources by supporting the globalisation of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) and through fostering the development of good practices by supporting global coordination and global exchange of knowledge between basin organisations, countries, and regions/continents. This action will therefore complement the work that will be done in the context of two Team Europe Initiatives (TEI), namely Transboundary Water Management in Africa and Water-Energy-Climate in Central Asia.

Through the globalisation of the UNECE Water Convention and the advocacy for the fulfilment of the Human Right for safe drinking water and sanitation the action will support multilateralism and EU values in various ways (including gender equality). The promotion of the EU Human Right guidelines on safe drinking water and sanitation will contribute to transforming gender relations and supporting women and girls as agents of change to lead healthy lives and participate in social, economic and political activity. The action will particularly focus on the unserved or underserved to ensure full inclusiveness. Moreover, water is a resource that can become a driver of, but also an effective solution to many conflicts worldwide, therefore, by promoting dialogue and conflict resolution mechanisms in the context of water security the action will also contribute to EU objectives for peace and security.

The action will promote EU knowledge and standards, and potential to improve capacities of water operators and organisations targeted according to investments foreseen in the context of MIPs and the EFSD+, hence, ensuring a maximum level of complementarity and leverage between MIP interventions, the EFSD+ and the support offered at global level. It will be part of the Global Gateway overall package to improve connectivity between people while sustainably managing a common resource and public good.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

We are in a state of planetary emergency; climate change and environmental degradation are an existential threat to Europe and the world. The European Green Deal is one of the EU's plans to address these crises by fostering transition to inclusive climate-neutral, green and circular economies, decoupling development from the destruction of nature, and the sustainable use of natural resources, such as water. In February 2021, with the EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change, the EU sets out the pathway to prepare for projected impacts of climate change and committed to step up international action on adaptation to climate change. The EU Gender Action Plan (GAP III) adopted in November 2020 also commits the EU to address the climate and environmental challenges and harness the opportunities offered by the green transition for gender equality and women's empowerment.

By supporting policies and measures listed above, the European Green Deal includes a strong international dimension, which guides and encourages the EU's external action to work with partners around the world to lead and enhance global action to counter the effects of climate change and environmental degradation, also ensuring a fair and just green transition for all. Global action and robust multilateral responses are indeed required to complement and strengthen action at local, country, and regional level. This was re-iterated in November 2021 by a call in the Council conclusions on Water in the EU's external action for urgent action in the water domain with multilateralism and EU values at its core.

As outlined in UN Water's progress report on SDG 6 - water and sanitation for all, billions of people worldwide still live without safely managed drinking water and sanitation, even though the access to both services have long been defined as a human right. In addition, the number of people in LDCs not having access to basic water and sanitation services has been increasing respectively by 30 and 150 million between 2000 and 2020, especially in urban areas (JMP WHO/UNICEF 2021²). In other words, the world is off track in reaching the most fundamental elements of SDG 6 and its related goals. This lack of sufficient progress towards the successful implementation of SDG 6 goes hand in hand with insufficient funding to the water sector (water funding gap), despite a slight increase of official development assistance (ODA) in relative terms. In consequence, it will remain a priority to close the water funding gap through tapping additional financial means beyond public funding. Therefore, the mobilization of private finances will remain of utmost importance, including the promotion of innovative and inclusive instruments (e.g., blending and guarantees under EFSD+). Furthermore, the further mobilization of climate financing will be another promising option to close the water funding gap.

At global level, the architecture of water governance remains fragmented, which includes the UN System. Therefore, we need to strengthen multilateralism and dialogue on water to support water governance with the UN at its core. This support should build on existing key actors and initiatives in the international water arena, namely through enhancing UN Water's role for effective coordination and coherence of the UN's work on water, as well as through the implementation of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework and support to the work of a UN special envoy on water. Processes initiated through the Water Action Decade 2018-2028 spur promising opportunities for the international community to advance SDG 6 progress, with the UN 2023 Water Conference as a unique moment for UN Member States and all relevant stakeholders to review implementation, make agreements and commitments, and bring all relevant sectors together for a common goal – SDG 6.

The Council conclusions on Water in the EU's external action are calling for supporting the UN's work on water, notably by supporting the implementation of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework and by strengthening UN Water. They also welcome the UN 2023 Water Conference as an opportunity to mobilise all stakeholders and define concrete outcomes to reach the SDG 6 targets.

Responding to the need for Water Security for All, around 54 country programmes covered by INTPA include significant activities on water with a good spread along the 3 regions Africa, Asia Pacific and Latin Americas and the Caribbean. 19 country programmes have a specific focus on water at local level. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) is the main entry point for those water programmes, and they cover aspects of both basic WASH services

² This data is not available with disaggregation by gender at regional/global level.

(32 programmes out of 54) and large-scale WASH infrastructures/investments (33 out of 54). Basic WASH is often included as a tool to improve human development. On top, large-scale WASH, often in the form of urban water supply infrastructure which serves to sustainably ease the demographic, environmental and economic pressures in the 21st century city, is strongly linked to the investment agenda.

At larger scale, Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), features strongly in 33 country programmes. An IWRM approach also focuses on the role of water at basin level by considering greater balance between resources through water-energy-food-ecosystem nexus approaches. Among the 54 country programmes with water activities, 29 of them are aiming at enabling resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction action through nature-based solution for climate adaptation, restoration, protection, and sustainable management of water ecosystems.

To improve water management through a regional approach, two Team Europe Initiatives/flagships are being developed in Central Asia and Africa. The Team Europe Initiative on Water-Energy-Climate Change in Central Asia will strengthen the coordination of EU actors and reinforce the basis for a sustainable integrated regional resources management model. As a leading partner in regional water sector cooperation, the EU will accompany Central Asia in enhancing its investment environment for a green transition.

To support the African dynamic in transboundary water management and to account for an increased interest in the UNECE Water Convention, the EU with 8 of its Member States, and the EIB, are preparing with the African Union, a TEI on African transboundary waters. It will reinforce development and regional integration through transboundary water cooperation and management. The Global Gateway will put into practice this vision for water between Africa and the EU by addressing major investment gaps to ensure water security.

In this context, the proposed Action intends to contribute to Specific objective 2 of the MIP Environment and sustainable natural resources management on land and in the ocean and its objectives of: I) Strengthening international environmental governance; ii) Improving global environmental metrics, monitoring, research, knowledge, networks, capacities and international standards for evidence-based policies, programmes, and investment decisions; and iii) Strengthening 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).

It also contributes to objectives of the Sub-Saharan Africa MIP results 5.1 and 5.2; Americas and the Caribbean MIP Priority Area (PA) 1 Specific Objective (SO) 1 Results (R) 3, SO2 R1, PA 3, SO1 R4 et R5 and PA 5 SO3 R1; Central Asia Expected Result (ER) 1.1, South Asia ER 2.1, Southeast Asia ER 5, and Pacific ER 2.3.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Problem one: Global Water Governance

SDG 6 is alarmingly off track, which creates severe consequences for billions of people worldwide. A weak water governance at global level is among the major challenges for achieving water security for all. This weakness complicates coherent and coordinated approaches towards a successful implementation of SDG 6 – although the UN system is not excluded from major water governance challenges among its 30+ organisations working on water related topics. In consequence, the international water governance architecture often remains fragmented. Possible integrated solutions to advance a coherent and coordinated push towards the acceleration of SDG 6 progress – such as the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework – need to be further supported by relevant stakeholders. The essential role of UN Water for the effective coordination of water action within the UN system still remains behind its available potential. The UN system has only a limited ability to provide an integrated and good understanding of water challenges at country, regional and global levels. Hence the UN system is only partially using its capacities to bring knowledge, know-how, policy advice and funding to face water challenges. This hampers the positive effects that a strong international water governance with the UN at its core could have for its Member States, the civil society, the private sector and, ultimately, for people of vulnerable and marginalized communities without secure access to sustainable water and sanitation.

Problem two: Lack of water cooperation

Across the world, 153 countries share rivers, lakes and aquifers. Transboundary basins cover more than half of the Earth's land surface, account for an estimated 60 per cent of global freshwater flow and are home to more than 40 per cent of the world's population. Transboundary water cooperation is therefore not only key for water management but also, more generally, for sustainable development, regional integration and peace. The Council Conclusions on water in the EU's external action adopted in November 2021 reaffirmed the role of transboundary and regional water cooperation as a key driver of sustainable development, green transition and peace. Building on the outcomes of the 2018 Council Conclusions on Water diplomacy, implementing water cooperation requires transboundary agreements, institutional frameworks and is re-enforced by accession to the UN water conventions such as the UNECE Water Convention.

However, the current level of cooperation in many basins is inadequate to tackle the existing problems and upcoming challenges, for a variety of reasons, including weak legal and/or institutional frameworks insufficient implementation of joint policies and regulations, lack of integration of water-related policies at the national and international levels, etc. This includes low political will towards sustainability and transboundary cooperation, in some cases based on the (mis)conception that finding cooperative solutions hinders national interests rather than bringing benefits. It is often an additional challenge to overcome. A number of basin organisations are struggling with internal difficulties and institutionalisation proves still difficult. The consequence is that water security is at risk in many countries, hampering development and threatening national and regional stability. The objective of this action is to support national entities and basin organisations in the implementation of IWRM, arrangements and agreements, and adapted measures to respond to increasing pressures and climate change. This action will target in priority regional actors that are in a position to sustainably put in place the drivers of water sector reforms for efficient water management at basin level.

This action will complement the work led through the two TEIs on Transboundary water management in Africa and on Water, Energy, and Climate in Central Asia.

Problem three: Lack of progress on the Human right for safe drinking water and sanitation

Ensuring universal access to safely managed water and sanitation services is a necessary condition for the realization of the rights to water and sanitation for all (women and men) as well as to achieve many other SDGs. Many countries worldwide have recognized the human rights to drinking water and sanitation in their legislation and/or constitution, and have developed national policies, targets and plans addressing water and sanitation. However, the implementation of these rights is often constrained by: major financing gaps, in particular for rural sanitation and drinking water; lack of information on specific measures targeted to vulnerable populations, including lack of disaggregated and gender sensitive data; weak systems for WASH sector harmonisation and coordination; lack of political prioritization of the sector (especially of sanitation); and insufficient interconnectedness and multidisciplinary approaches to deliver resilient WASH services at scale.

Concrete translation from principles to action demands sustained long-term efforts at all levels and across sectors. The EU has also been continuously strengthening its commitments on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, most recently through the Council conclusions adopting the EU Human Rights Guidelines on Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, in 2019 and the Council Conclusions on Water in the EU's external action adopted late 2021 re-enforcing our mandate for the implementation of these guidelines.

This action wishes to further advocate and progressively translate into practice the human right to water and sanitation with a particular focus on the unserved or underserved to ensure full inclusiveness. Access to WASH will also act as an equaliser for the most marginalised part of the population, women, and girls. Across low-income countries, women and girls have primary responsibility for management of household water supply, sanitation and health. Often, fulfilling these roles precludes any other occupation or participation in education, and their marginalization is compounded by the indignity and insecurity of having nowhere private to go to the toilet. In some places, women and girls face the risk of being physically threatened or assaulted, including subjected to sexual violence, when collecting household water and when accessing sanitation facilities outside of their home or practising open defecation. In many cases girls are not able to go to school because of the time spent in collecting water, or because the school does not have adequate water and sanitation services, hence limiting access to menstrual hygiene. Women have specific hygiene needs during menstruation, pregnancy and child rearing

Addressing the needs of females in relation to water, sanitation and hygiene is a key driver in achieving gender equity and unlocking the potential of half of global society.

Mobilisation of both public and private sector finance is well below needs and is notably hampered by the lack of capacities of Water Operators as well in Africa as in Asia or Latin America. Indeed, many of the water and sanitation service providers counted upon to provide basic services in communities around the world struggle with technical, financial and managerial challenges. Under-performing utilities regularly feature unsafe water, frequent cuts, and very limited coverage within their service area. High water losses, poorly designed tariffs, lack of transparency and weak billing and collection systems contribute to financial problems that worsen infrastructure and services. This creates a vicious circle where investments are degrading, utilities face further difficulties to attract investment to manage and develop its services, staff is ageing and demotivated, and it further exclude those without access. Existing governance, regulatory frameworks and weak regulators are not always adequate and enough robust to accompany the sector. Investments foreseen in the context of MIPs and the EFSD+ are then lagging, hence ensuring a maximum level of complementarity and leverage between the MIPs interventions, the EFSD+ and the support offered at global level is required.

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

The action will be supporting the main stakeholders having dedicated mandates related to the above-described problem analysis. UN-Water has a global mandate to coordinate UN action on water and develop global advocacy while other UN organisations such as UNICEF and UNDP are implementing actions on the ground. Their work needs to be complemented by a strong network of stakeholders, including duty bearers, private sector, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in all its diversity (women organisation, organisation representing rights holders and the rights of those living in the most vulnerable situations, etc.) and research institutions, in order to improve coordination of actions and advocacy for the Human Right for safe drinking water and sanitation.

The Helsinki Water Convention is hosted under the UN Secretariat, within the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). In 2013 the mandate of the Water Convention originally used as a regional instrument was enlarged into a global Convention. The Water Convention is a prominent tool to promote and operationalize the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs. It directly supports implementation of target 6.5, which requests all countries to implement IWRM, including through transboundary cooperation, as appropriate.

Also, the action aims at supporting organisations that promote efficient and effective exchanges of know-how, knowledge, standards and innovation, notably through capacity development actions and peer to peer support. In this regard, global networks and alliance having a related experience will be mobilised to develop North-South and South-South cooperation and build on the learning of Water Operators Partnerships in all regions (Africa, Latin America and Asia). Water Operators´ Partnerships draw on the motivations and natural capacities of effective water and sanitation service providers to help their peers realize sustainable improvements. Strong utilities have shown themselves to be effective mentors to other utilities striving to improve their financial, technical and managerial performance. WOPs make their impact by helping utilities acquire and apply knowledge, establish new practices and implement improved approaches. The resulting capacity and performance improvements can turnaround utilities into a virtuous circle where improved management, social impact and transparency (notably thanks to digitalisation), attract back youth that bring further innovation, offer possibilities to mobilise investments and develop public private partnerships when necessary.

To stimulate and support IWRM, the action will facilitate exchanges and collaboration among transboundary basin organisations stakeholders. Specific attention will be paid to Networks of Basin Organisations at international and regional level for capacity strengthening and knowledge management. By facilitating exchanges between basin organisations on best practices, and as well on failed experiments, twinning of basin organisations will improve their effectiveness. By strengthening peer to peer support, the action will stimulate capacity building and know-how exchange among like-minded partners. This community of practice will also enable European basin organisations contributions to the action while also building on exchanges between basin organisations based in southern countries.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to ensure water security for all

The Specific(s) Objective(s) (Outcomes) of this action are to:

1. Improve multilateral water governance by developing integrated, evidence based and rule of law-based mechanisms to sustainably manage and use the water resources while ensuring peace and security, adapting to climate change and preserving the resource and its biodiversity.
2. Promote the progressive realisation of the human right to access safe drinking water and sanitation for all, notably women and girls, and those living in the most vulnerable situations.
3. Support investments and governance in the water sector by improving the capacities, attractiveness and efficiency of water operators and basin organisations with global exchanges of knowledge, know-how and standards (North-South, South-South).

The indicative outputs contributing to Specific Objective 1 are:

1.1 The capacities of the UN system for effective and coherent multilateral water governance and country coordination are enhanced.

1.2. International, regional, and national policy dialogues on the acceleration of SDG 6 implementation and water-related Goals of the 2030 Agenda are enhanced and embedded in high level discussions.

1.3. The capacities of countries to monitor and report progress on SDG 6 are improved, including disaggregation minimum by sex and age whenever relevant.

1.4 The capacities on accession to and implementation of the UNECE Water Convention at the regional, basin and national level with relevant tools and guidance are strengthened.

The indicative outputs contributing to Specific Objective 2 are:

2.1 Increased global, regional, and national advocacy including through improved public diplomacy and communication tools to elevate political prioritization of the human rights to water and sanitation and work of human rights defenders as a universal priority integral to achieving the SDGs.

2.2 Improved multi sectoral and multi stakeholder spaces with an active participation of, inter alia, civil society (including women's organisations and those organisation representing rights holders and people living in the most vulnerable situations, including indigenous populations) and private sector, to accelerate the coordinated delivery of and accountability for high-impact WASH activities.

2.3 Scaling up water and sanitation's centrality in climate action, policy and financing.

2.4 Improved inequality and rights-based monitoring systems (including sex disaggregation) and use of data for better understanding of water and sanitation systems and dynamics at play.

The indicative outputs contributing to Specific Objective 3 are:

3.1 The capacities of partner countries' water operators in their technical (operations and maintenance), financial, environmental, managerial competences and performance, including on digital competence, gender and human right approaches, are improved.

3.2 The capacities of partner countries' water operators to mobilise and leverage public and private investment finance in the water and sanitation infrastructure are improved.

3.3 Technical, scientific and institutional expertise and capacities of basin organisations are enhanced by peer support.

3.4 Basin organisations capacities to implement Integrated Water Resources Management policies actions involving stakeholders and water related sectors are enhanced.

3.5 Transboundary water cooperation processes at regional, basins and national levels are enhanced and supported by adapted monitoring tools and reporting mechanisms, including with sex disaggregated data whenever relevant.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Indicative activities relating to SO 1, Outputs 1.1 to 1.3 include:

1.1.1 To build capacities within and outside the UN system to accelerate progress towards SDG 6 implementation. This may include activities contributing to the advancement of international, regional, and national water policy through facilitating relevant high-level dialogues, events and processes; the operationalisation of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework;

1.2.1 The enhancement of effective water coordination through the support of multilateral water governance, background work to support the activities of the UN Special envoy, the improvement of country/national expert capacities for SDG 6 monitoring and reporting (including relevant sex disaggregated data);

1.3.1 The promotion of national accession processes related to the UNECE Water Convention through national workshops and processes and encourage women's participation in these processes.

Indicative activities relating to SO 1, Outputs 1.4 include:

1.4.1 Build capacity and support implementation of transboundary water cooperation, international water law and the global Conventions as well as of good practices in transboundary water cooperation, including good practices and political norms for diplomats work around water negotiation, conflict prevention, conciliation and mediation;

1.4.2 Support increased awareness and capacity on the UNECE Water Convention to regional and basin organisation and foster regional processes towards accession to the Convention, exchange of experience between countries at various levels of accession, including between new and perspective Parties;

1.4.3 At the national level, upon request, support will be provided to interested partner countries who requested assistance to accede to the Convention.

Indicative activities relating to SO2 include:

2.1.1 Advance high-level political advocacy to promote the importance of the human rights to water and sanitation as a universal priority integral to achieving the SDGs by mobilizing political will at the highest levels that leads to commitment and action for the sector.

2.2.1 Support key stakeholders and partners from all constituencies (governments, civil society, private sector, external support agencies, research and learning institutions and utilities & regulators) in strengthening coordination and as they work in a multi-sectoral space to secure that everyone, without discrimination, enjoys an equal access to their human rights to water and sanitation. This includes prioritizing support for national and international WASH actors to engage key sectors such as Health, Education, Nutrition, climate adaptation, Humanitarian and Agriculture and vice versa.

2.2.2 Support national multi-stakeholder coordination and mutual accountability spaces by fostering the participation of non-state stakeholders (especially civil society, women organisations and local organisations) to contribute to the creation of an enabling environment and to accelerate the coordinated delivery of high impact activities aimed at realising the human rights to water and sanitation;

2.3.1 De-complexing the funding landscape for climate projects, integrating water and sanitation in key climate policies (ex: National Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans), support national governments in the development of tools/guidelines/models and monitoring frameworks for WASH climate resilience;

2.4.1 Promote and build capacity to integrate the principle of non-discrimination or "leave no one behind" (LNOB) into national policies, strategies, laws, budgets, and other activities in countries that prioritize water in EU programming;

2.4.2 Strengthening the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation and inclusive approaches at national level by supporting human rights assessments and monitoring of the right to water and sanitation (e.g. affordability, acceptability, quality, acceptability, disabilities, and gender) in access to water and sanitation services in homes, schools and healthcare facilities through technical support and within EU funded projects.

2.5.1. Explore the feasibility of increasing the capacities of government officials and local stakeholders to effectively monitor and report IHL violations including using tools such as the Geneva List of Principles on the Protection of Water Infrastructure.

Indicative activities related to SO 3 relating to Output 3.1 and 3.2 include

3.1.1 Establish partnership projects (North-South and South-South) between water utilities/operators aiming at providing technical assistance and capacity building for the sustainable maintenance of water infrastructure and improved gender-responsive and rights-based water and sanitation governance and management. Particular

attention will also be provided to aspects linked to economic viability of water and sanitation services and to digitalisation;

3.2.1 Development of capacity to attract public and private investment finance for water and sanitation infrastructure development; Support water utilities/operators with specific learning platforms and other channels (conferences, etc.) where sharing of good practices, technology transfer and materials will be possible.

Indicative Activities relating to Output 3.4 and 3.5 include

3.4.1 Support development and dissemination of knowledge, practices and tools on water management at basin level, notably through peer to peer support;

3.5.1 Develop and deliver trainings and other capacity development activities for basin organisations and water management partners.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

This action will be pushing for further integration of the Water and Sanitation sectors towards environment and climate resilience, adaptation, and mitigation through improved management and use of the resource, more energy efficiency, less water losses, more water re-use, more nutrient uptake or more water treatment. Improved integrated water resources management, notably at the landscape and transboundary levels, will be supported, taking into account the importance to better understand the impacts of climate change and develop related adaptation strategies. Legal frameworks, agreements and arrangements between countries will improve capacities to handle pollution events. Improved management and use of the resource will have a direct positive impact on biodiversity, while specific conservation objectives will be promoted at the level of IWRM, whenever possible and relevant.

SEA, EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening and CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening are not relevant in the context of this programme that is being done at global level.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that gender questions will be mainstreamed in the implementation of this action. As indicated in the objectives, the gender impact will be mainly attained through a better inclusion of gender aspects in policies, operations and projects, hence developing solutions and actions that are more suitable and in accordance with women and girls needs and aspirations and in line with the Human rights principle of participation in the design of action. This action will build on the strong understanding that partners such as Sanitation and Water for All or UNICEF have built on the understanding of water related gender specific issues, to can upscale advocacy on these issues and better include related guidance in our actions. Advocacy for a universal and equitable access to water and sanitation, including in social and public services such as health centres, schools or prisons, will be in line with GAP III (2021-2025) objectives and ensure the development of a more inclusive society, especially for women and girls. Inclusions of gender considerations when developing peer to peer support for water operators will improve how the gender challenges are taken into consideration in managing and deploying services. Also advocacy for an increased women workforce in water operators and organisations (at all levels, including leaders in water planning, water negotiations, water basin organisation or water operators) will continue to facilitate the consideration of women related challenges in the sector.

Human Rights

As specified under SO2 one of the action's primary focus is to promote the realisation of the human rights to water and sanitation at global and national levels by engaging on high level political advocacy activities and by supporting national and global multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder spaces to secure that everyone enjoys their human rights to water and sanitation. The action will promote the EU guidelines on the Human right for safe drinking water and sanitation, and in particular the five principles of availability, accessibility, quality, affordability and acceptability. These principles will be notably reflected in the guidance for water operators partnership, in the support to global advocacy and in the principles to be applied for the sustainable management and use of water, notably when looking at transboundary collaboration and whenever relevant and possible.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that while disability is not a significant objective, it will however be taken into account in the approach of the action. The promotion of the 2nd principle of the EU human right guidelines for safe drinking water and sanitation, namely accessibility, in global advocacy and in the water operators' partnerships, will positively impact the quality of water services for all vulnerable groups, including disabled people. In addition, this action recognises that Participation by representatives of all concerned including women and girls, persons with disabilities, those affected by caste-based discrimination, persons belonging to minorities, and, indigenous peoples is key to ensuring that water and sanitation solutions answer the actual needs of communities. This will be sought by promoting coordination platforms on water and sanitation at national level that involve CSOs representation, improve transparent decision making and increase access to information on policies in the sector.

Democracy

NA

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

The support to transboundary water management and the globalisation of the UNECE Water Convention will seek to put in place the conditions necessary for stability and peaceful regional development, notably by developing regulatory frameworks, agreements or arrangements allowing to prevent and mediate conflicts. In 2012 the Meeting of the Parties of the Water Convention established a mechanism to support implementation and compliance. The mechanism is to be simple, non-confrontational, non-adversarial, transparent, supportive and cooperative in nature, building on the distinctive collaborative spirit of the Convention. An Implementation Committee was established as part of the mechanism to facilitate dispute prevention and provide practical case-oriented assistance. The mechanism can facilitate a large number of supportive measures (e.g. assistance with establishing transboundary water cooperation agreements, facilitating technical and financial assistance, including information and technology transfer, and capacity-building). Support provided will aim at re-enforcing this type of activities, using a conflict sensitive approach whenever possible and relevant.

Disaster Risk Reduction

By supporting the governance (notably planning and management) of water resources at the landscape or basin level, and by supporting adaptation capacities, this project will improve the capacities of local authorities and water operators to monitor, prevent and reduce disasters risks, notably floods, droughts and storms.

Other considerations if relevant

N/A

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
Financial	Absorption capacities of water organisations	M	M	The size of the contracts will be limited. Specific attention will be given to ensure that appropriate support functions are put in place for an effective management of the funds.
Political	Increased tensions on water resources resulting in tensions blocking progresses on the water convention	H	M	Strong advocacy and outreach coordinated at CODEV level with Member States. Conflict sensitive approaches in ratifications push.
Political	Political risk due to diverging views on UN role on water	M	M	Keep flexibility on actions related to global water governance to can push where opportunities are and keep advocating in parallel. Work at country level on better coordination on water stakeholders
Operational	Lack of capacities and/or interest of local stakeholders to engage in coordination and advocacy	M	H	Support the development of capacities of CSOs to engage on water. Facilitate the creation of exchange platforms. Support advocacy campaigns.
Operational	Lack of monitoring capacities of partners	L	M	Support monitoring capacities of partners and put in place feedback mechanisms
Operational	Lack of mentors offer for peer to peer support	L	H	A good level of interest was proved so far but further mobilisation of mentors will be coordinated with regional networks of operators (Aqua publica Europa, Waterlinks, European Network of Basin Organisations, African Network of Basin Organisations, etc.) and European Development Finance Institutions (EDFIs).
Lessons Learnt:				
<p>Actions are building on the success of existing ones (UNECE and Water Operators Partnerships) confirmed by a positive dynamic of globalisation of the Convention and qualitative results of water operators' partnerships. They intend to complement and consolidate these dynamics with work upstream (at the level of UN coordination on water</p>				

and the Human right for safe drinking water and sanitation) and downstream (on water organisations), in line with gaps identified in the Council Conclusions on Water in EU External Action. There is a risk on absorption capacity of UN organisation and international organisation working on water that still have limited resources and will need support to further implement actions. The other risk is linked to mandates limitation on water linked to under investments in the sector and political tensions. Parallel work on the UN 2023 water conference to identify shared areas of interest and promote EU visions should help mitigating these risks.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The action is putting in place the elements to follow up with concrete action the political orientations given in the Council Conclusions on water in EU external Action adopted in November 2021 and in the NDICI Global Europe. The underlying intervention logic for this action is that the first step towards reaching the SDG6 targets and goals, is to enhance the weak and fragmented overall water governance and the need to upscale advocacy for water (including with a gender and human right based approach) to further build opportunities to work. Improved understanding of the urgent needs to act and the development of coordinated and collaborative approaches will open new opportunities for concrete action by mobilising all stakeholders (duty bearers, rights holders, private sector, government stakeholders, civil society actors and international actors).

This political momentum should facilitate the mobilisation of resource around better-defined capacity development and finance needs. The EU thanks to its strong policy set-up (notably the Water Framework Directive and the UNECE Water Convention), its water diplomacy and its network of water operators and companies can offer a unique expertise and know-how. EU partners, including European Development Financing Institutions (EDFIs), water operators (see the Aqua Publica Europa call for the development of water operators' partnerships) and water basin organisations express an interest in sharing their knowledge and know how.

At the same time, and as we have seen earlier, at regional and national level, EU Delegations identified activities to support the water sector through investments (notably with EDFIs), support to integrated water management or transboundary water collaboration. These activities would gain from a parallel support to water operators or water organisation, notably through peer-to-peer support. Developed on a demand base from EU Delegations, this type of activities will complement other activities, notably Technical Assistance, by bringing in very specific hands-on management capacities, hence increasing attractiveness of the sector, returns on investments and sustainability of investments. Some EU Delegations in all regions (Africa, Americas and Caribbean, Asia and Pacific) have already indicated a potential interest in this type of support and closed consultations will be continued in the preparation of the operations to ensure alignment with clearly defined local needs.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

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

Results	Results chain (e): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (e): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	Contribute to water security for all	1. Number of people with access to improved drinking water source and/or sanitation facility with EU support	1 – 2022 – 2,5 million	1 – 2024 – 5,5 million	1 – Annual Report	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	1. Multilateral water governance is improved by developing integrated, evidence based and rule of law-based mechanism to sustainably manage and use the water resources while ensuring peace and security, adapting to climate change and preserving the resource and its biodiversity	1.1 Number of countries having strengthened their national water sector coordination platforms.	1.1 - 0	1.1 - 10	1.1 – Progress reports	
Outcome 2	2. The progressive realisation of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation for all is improved, notably for women and girls, and those living in the most vulnerable situations	2.1 Additional countries with improved measures targeting women and vulnerable groups for water, sanitation, and hygiene	2.1 - 0	2.1- 10	2.1 – Progress reports	The partner institution has the capacity to measure such progress
Outcome 3	3. The investments and governance in the water sector are supported by improving the capacities, attractiveness and efficiency of water operators and basin organisations with global exchanges of knowledge, know-how and standards (North-South, South-South)	3.1 Proportion of transboundary basin area with improved water cooperation. 3.2 Investments amounts catalysed thanks to EU support	3.1 - 0 3.2 - 0	3.1 – tbc in design 3.2 – tbc in design	3.1 Membership of the Convention and instruments of accession available from the UN Treaty section website. 3.2 Reports of projects	

Outputs related to Outcome 1						
Output 1.1	1.1 The capacities of the UN system for effective and coherent multilateral water governance and country coordination are enhanced	<p>1.1.1. Number, if relevant, of processes followed and events organised in the context of implementing the deliverables of the UN 2023 Water Conference.</p> <p>1.1.2. Number of common policy, guidance, analytical briefings and reports produced on demand.</p>	<p>1.1.1 - 0</p> <p>1.1.2 - 0</p>	<p>1.1.1 to be defined at contract level</p> <p>1.1.2 - 25</p>	<p>1.1.1 Reports on processes followed and events conducted</p> <p>1.1.2 Policies, guidance, briefings produced</p>	
Output 1.2	1.2 International, regional, and national policy dialogues on the acceleration of SDG 6 implementation and water-related Goals of the 2030 Agenda are enhanced and embedded in high level discussions	<p>1.2.1 Number of relevant events/ workshops and/or processes on international level supported to improve policy dialogue.</p> <p>1.2.2 Number of relevant events/ workshops/meetings and/or processes on regional and/or national level supported to improve policy dialogue.</p> <p>1.2.3 Number of countries and/or experts that received support to strengthen the operationalisation of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework (experts disaggregated by sex).</p>	<p>1.2.1 - 0</p> <p>1.2.2 - 0</p> <p>1.2.3 - 0</p>	<p>1.2.1 - 15</p> <p>1.2.2 - 5</p> <p>1.2.3 - 30 countries</p>	<p>1.2.1 Reports on events/workshops conducted</p> <p>1.2.2 Reports on events/workshops conducted and/or processes followed</p> <p>1.2.3 Reports on countries supported and/or trainings conducted</p>	
Output 1.3	1.3. The capacities of countries to monitor and report progress on SDG 6 are improved, including disaggregation minimum by sex and age whenever relevant	<p>1.3.1 Number of countries that received support to improve monitoring, analysis and data use, and reporting capacities on SDG 6.</p> <p>1.3.2. Number of technical experts who received support to develop monitoring and reporting capacities including disaggregation by sex and age.</p>	<p>1.3.1 - 0</p> <p>1.3.2 - 0</p>	<p>1.3.1 to be defined at contract level</p> <p>1.3.2 - 2700</p>	<p>1.3.1 Reports on countries supported</p> <p>1.3.2 Reports on trainings conducted</p>	Readiness of experts and government representatives to contribute

<p>Output 1.4</p>	<p>1.4 The capacities on accession to and implementation of the UNECE Water Convention at the regional, basin and national level with relevant tools and guidance are strengthened</p>	<p>1.4.1 Number of participants to the regional or basin capacity building events organised on the Convention and on transboundary water cooperation, disaggregated by country.</p> <p>1.4.2 Number of national accession processes supported through the provision of technical and legal advice and, if requested, organisation of national workshops</p>	<p>1.4.1 - 0</p> <p>1.4.2 - 8 national processes supported</p>	<p>1.4.1 150</p> <p>1.4.2 Significant advances towards accession in at least 8 countries supported</p>	<p>1.4.1 Regional partners websites, project reports;</p> <p>1.4.2 Membership of the Convention and instruments of accession available from the UN Treaty section website. Website of the Water Convention where all activities are reflected and reports to the Convention's intergovernmental bodies reviewing progress in the programme of work implementation. Convention newsletter</p>	<p>Political stability in the countries concerned</p>
<p>Outputs related to Outcome 2</p>						
<p>Output 2.1</p>	<p>2.1 Increased global, regional, and national advocacy to elevate political prioritization of the human rights to water and sanitation as a universal priority integral to achieving the SDGs</p>	<p>2.1.1 countries with sufficient measures targeting women and vulnerable groups for water, sanitation, and hygiene</p>	<p>2.1.1 - 0</p>	<p>2.1.1</p> <p>25 in 2027</p>	<p>2.1.1 GLAAS report</p>	<p>The action's advocacy will lead to political prioritization. Prioritization will take the form of increased investment in</p>

						WASH and targeted efforts towards reducing inequalities
Output 2.2	2.2 Improved multi sectoral and multi stakeholder spaces with an active participation of, inter alia, civil society (including women’s organisations and those organisation representing rights holders and people living in the most vulnerable situations) and private sector, to accelerate the coordinated delivery of and accountability for high-impact WASH activities	2.2.1 - % Mutual Accountability Mechanism (MAM) commitments achieved 2.2.2 Number of countries with government led joint sector national reviews	2.2.1 - 4% in 2021 2.2.2 - 41 in 2019	2.2.1 - 25% in 2027 2.2.2 – 50 in 2027	2.2.1 GLAAS 2.2.2 SWA mutual accountability mechanism database	Systematic use of multistakeholder approaches will enforce mutual accountability and accelerate progress towards achieving the human rights to water and sanitation for all
Output 2.3	2.3 Water and sanitation's centrality in climate action, policy and financing is scaled up	2.3.1 Number of countries that implement climate resilient WASH frameworks	2.3.1 58 countries in 2021	2.3.1 80 countries in 2027	Climate rational documents, climate resilient frameworks, NAP and NDCs in target countries, project reports	Governments’ interest in aligning the climate and WASH agendas
Output 2.4	2.4 Improved inequality and rights-based monitoring systems (including sex disaggregation) and use of data for better understanding of water and sanitation systems and dynamics at play	2.4.1 Number of countries reporting to JMP disaggregated estimates by wealth quintile, by sex whenever possible and by sub-national region	2.4.1 to be defined at contract level	2.4.1 to be defined at contract level	JMP reports	Governments’ interest in improving national monitoring systems and mechanisms
Outputs related to Outcome 3						

<p>Output 3.1</p>	<p>3.1 The capacities of partner countries' water operators in their technical (operations and maintenance), financial, environmental, managerial competences and performance, including on digital competence, gender and human right approaches, are improved</p>	<p>3.1.1 Number of partnership projects established between water operators with EU support</p> <p>3.1.2 Number of utilities with positive inter-annual progress in at least one of the targeted (and unintended) operational, social or environmental efficiency KPIs to which the EU has contributed (including gender and Human rights)</p>	<p>3.1.1 - 22</p> <p>3.1.2 - 0</p>	<p>3.1.1 - 30</p> <p>3.1.2 - to be defined at contract level – Indicatively 30</p>	<p>Partners report</p>	
<p>Output 3.2</p>	<p>3.2 The capacities of partner countries' water operators to mobilise and leverage public and private investment finance in the water and sanitation infrastructure are improved</p>	<p>3.2.1 Number of utilities with positive inter-annual progress in at least one of the targeted (and unintended) financial efficiency /sustainability related KPIs to which the EU has contributed</p> <p>3.2.2 Number of utilities with improved digital capacities</p>	<p>3.2.1 - 0</p> <p>3.2.2 - 0</p>	<p>3.2.1 to be defined at contract level – Indicatively 15</p> <p>3.2.2 to be defined at contract level – Indicatively 15</p>	<p>Partners report</p>	

Output 3.3	3.3 Technical, scientific and institutional expertise and capacities of basin organisations are enhanced by peer support	3.3.1 Number of partnership projects established between basins organisations	3.3.1.0	3.3.1 to be defined at contract level – Indicatively 10	Partner’s website, project progress reports Websites and reports of the m transboundary basin organisations	Governments and basin organisations representatives participating in twinning projects remain in their posts and have the freedom to apply what they have learned
Output 3.4	3.4 Basin organisations capacities to implement Integrated Water Resources Management policies actions involving stakeholders and sectors are enhanced	3.4.1 Number of people participating in capacity-building for IWRM implementation and improvement 3.4.2 Number of new or improved IWRM plans elaborated and implemented by basin organisations and riparian countries	3.4.1 - 0 3.4.2 - 0	3.4.1 to be defined at contract level – Indicatively 200 3.4.2 to be defined at contract level – indicatively 10	Websites of the ministries of concerned countries	All sectors and stakeholders are able to design and implement inclusive IWRM plans
Output 3.5	3.5 Transboundary water cooperation processes at regional, basins and national levels are enhanced and supported by adapted monitoring tools and reporting mechanisms, including with sex disaggregated data whenever relevant	3.5.1 Number of basin organisations and participants accessing best practices and learning documents exchanged in a dedicated platform, disaggregated by country / basin and by sex	3.5.1- 0	3.5.1 to be defined at contract level	Websites of the ministries of concerned countries	Readiness of experts and government representatives to contribute

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

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

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 90 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures³.

4.3.1 Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

A grant will be attributed to contribute to achieving the specific objective 3 and the related outputs 3.3 and 3.4.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to an international organisation or an NGO selected using the following criteria: i) capacity to mobilise international networks of water basin organisations across all regions; ii) capacity to create exchanges of experience between water basin organisations across all regions; iii) human and organisational capacities to manage contracts and to support the development of capacities to manage IWRM and complex transboundary water cooperation issues at technical level.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because the action has specific characteristics requiring a specific type of beneficiary (a worldwide network of water basin organisation) for its technical competence, specialisation (capacity to support the development of capacities to manage complex transboundary water cooperation issues and organise exchanges of experience between water basin organisation globally) or administrative power or nature of the action with regard to Article 27(3) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

4.3.2 Indirect Management with a pillar assessed entity

A part of this action under Specific objective 1 – outputs 1.1 and 1.2. may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: i) capacity to mobilise partners and coordinate UN actions on water; ii) capacity in terms of human resources and organisational set-up to collect data, analyse and report on results related to SDG 6 and its acceleration framework; iii) capacity to support high level policy dialogues on water.

The implementation by this entity entails activities to implement specific objective 1 and its related outputs 1.1 and 1.2.

³ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

4.3.3 Indirect management with the United Nations Secretariat

A part of this action under Specific objective 1- outputs 1.3 and 1.4. may be implemented in indirect management with the United Nations Secretariat, which includes in its structure the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

This implementation entails to implement specific objective 1 and its related outputs 1.3 and 1.4. The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria: i) its previous experience on transboundary water cooperation; ii) it is ensuring the secretariat of the Water Convention; iii) the Council Conclusions on water in EU external action call on the EU to support the globalisation of the Water Convention; iv) the foreseen activities are part of the Convention work programme.

In case the envisaged entity would need to be replaced, the Commission's services may select a replacement entity using the same criteria. If the entity is replaced, the decision to replace it needs to be justified.

4.3.4 Indirect management with a pillar assessed entity

A part of this action under Specific objective 2 may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: i) capacity to mobilise partners in the water sector, at global level and in countries worldwide, including at high level (ministerial); ii) understanding of the Human Right for water and sanitation and its monitoring; iii) identified role in implementing coordination mechanism at regional and country level; iv) Global advocacy role on the Human right for water and sanitation.

The implementation by this entity entails activities to implement specific objective 2 and its related outputs.

4.3.5 Indirect management with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

A part of this action under specific objective 3, outputs 3.1 and 3.2. may be implemented in indirect management with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). This implementation entails activities to implement Specific Objective number 3 and its related outputs 3.1 and 3.2.

It will also contribute to Specific objective 3 and output 3.5. The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria: i) it hosts the Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA) that has the specific mandate to promote, support and coordinate Water Operators' Partnerships worldwide; ii) it has successful experience in managing the deployment of Water Operators Partnerships worldwide; iii) it has built a specific capacity to support knowledge building and know-how exchanges in the context of Water Operators Partnerships.

In case the envisaged entity would need to be replaced, the Commission's services may select a replacement entity using the same criteria. If the entity is replaced, the decision to replace it needs to be justified.

4.3.6 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

With reference to 4.3.1, following negotiations results and in case of exceptional circumstances outside the Commission's control, indirect management may be considered along the defined criteria of the same section. With reference to 4.3.2, 4.3.3, 4.3.4 and 4.3.5, following negotiations results and in case of exceptional circumstances outside the Commission's control, direct management through grants or procurement may be considered along the defined criteria of the same sections.

4.5. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

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

4.4 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components⁴	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3	
Specific Objective 1 composed of	
Indirect management with International organisation - cf. section 4.3.2	5,000,000
Indirect management with UN Secretariat / UNECE - cf. Section 4.3.3	3,000,000
Specific Objective 2	
Indirect management with an International Organisation – cf. Section 4.3.4	4,476,390
Specific Objective 3 , composed of	
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	6,000,000
Indirect management with UN Habitat – cf. Section 4.3.5	14,000,000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2	May be covered by another Decision
Audit – cf. section 5.3	
Totals	32,476,390

4.5 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

In the context of the programmes, adequate steering mechanisms will be put in place to ensure a good level of coordination. When existing coordination mechanisms are in place (e.g. UN-Water donors meetings, UNECE water convention working groups and programme of work, GWOPA steering mechanism), they will be used to the extent possible.

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

⁴ N.B: The final text on audit/verification depends on the outcome of ongoing discussions on pooling of funding in (one or a limited number of) Decision(s) and the subsequent financial management, i.e. for the conclusion of audit contracts and payments.

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support). Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by sex, whenever relevant. All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach and gender equality.

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

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

- Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring will be established within the implementing partners organisations
- Annual reports will be presented summarising the main activities and the values of outputs' and direct/intermediate Outcomes' indicators
- Stakeholders, notably youth, will be consulted regularly by the implementers of the three components. Innovative features such as youth-led monitoring or reporting might be foreseen.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, mid-term or final evaluations may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission or implementing partners.

A mid-term evaluation may be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to the possibility to develop the activity or identify another phase in continuation with previous ones. Final evaluations may be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that some activities envisioned are innovative in their nature and/or require a deep understanding of stakeholders interactions.

Where an evaluation is planned and is to be contracted by the Commission, the Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 6 months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities. All evaluation shall assess to what extent the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach as well as how it contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment. Expertise on human rights and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination⁵. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments. The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

⁵ See best [practice of evaluation dissemination](#)

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

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

Action documents for specific sector programmes are no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned.

However, in line with Article 46 and subject to Article 47 of the NDICI Regulation, all entities implementing EU-funded external actions shall take all reasonable measures to publicise the European Union support. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

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

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

The present Action identifies as:

Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	Global Water Governance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	Globalisation of the UNECE water Convention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 3	The voice of the Right for Water
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 4	Water Operators Partnerships
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 5	Water Basin Organisations Capacity support and partnerships