REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR

Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027

1. The overall lines of the EU international cooperation in the country

1.1. Basis for programming

The fourth National Development Plan (NDP) 2017-2021 - known as "Toda una Vida" - defines a set of development policies and goals and is the basis for programming. The NDP has been elaborated through an inclusive participatory process that ensures broad country ownership of the priorities and is structured around three programmatic axes: i. Rights for all throughout life; ii. Economy at the service of society, and iii. More participation, a better State. The main pillars of the plan are environmental sustainability and a balanced territorial development. The NDP is complemented by a National Territorial Strategy for territorial cohesion, equitable access to infrastructure and multilevel governance.

Priorities and objectives of the NDP, aligned to the Agenda 2030, are also consistent with the main challenges of the country as confirmed in the "2019 EU country assessment" elaborated by the EU Delegation and EU member States, namely productivity and competitiveness, institution building, fight against corruption and organized crime, climate change and migration. The NDP is also in line with the mutual interests of the European Union and its Member States identified with Ecuador in the same assessment: political and economic stability, adequate management of migration flows in the country, trade and investment, climate change and security. In its first part, the NDP plans to build a society that respects, protects and exercises its human rights in all dimensions, ensuring a decent life regardless of group or social classes. It also considers the eradication of gender violence as one of the main priorities. Relevant to the Covid-19 crisis, the NDP also includes a policy objective on the right to health, education and comprehensive care during the life cycle of citizens, in particular through the consolidation of the National Health System with a family, community and intercultural approach based on social and territorial equity.

National budgeting decisions and allocations by the government usually consider the priorities established by the NDP. The investments to achieve NDP's targets are prioritised by the Technical Secretariat Planifica Ecuador (ex-SENPLADES) and included in the General Budget of the State and in the four-year fiscal planning. The 2018-2021 multi-year budget is currently in force and constitutes Ecuador's medium-term fiscal framework. In normal circumstances this scheme would ensure the availability of funds for implementing the NDP. However, the current austerity strategy of the government and the coronavirus crisis does not allow a convincing financing strategy to guarantee NDP's full implementation, which is reflected in fewer resources assigned to the national investment plan in the last two years. The Lasso government is developing the next NDP 2021-24, which would contain these MIP's priority areas as for preliminary consultations held in May 2021, to be presented to the Assembly for approval in September 2021.

The development policies and goals of the NDP are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, this planning document does not reflect specific actions focused on achieving the SDGs. Policy makers are engaging selectively on those SDG goals and targets that resonate with national priorities. Likewise, in a context of decentralization, there is a local response to the SDGs that depends on policy makers' preferences and their location in the structure of the central or local Government. A consultation process supported by the United Nations System with various actors from civil society, academia, private sector, local authorities and others on the progress and challenges in the implementation of SDGs, sets SDG 1, 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17 as the priority for Ecuador. While SDGs 6, 7, 11, 13 and 14 are on track, according to the UN SDG 2020 report other SDGs show insufficient progress to attain the goals by 2030, among which SDGs 2, 3, 10 and 16 present the major challenges.

All actions taken under this programming exercise shall comply with EU legislation, in particular EU restrictive measures (sanctions) adopted pursuant to Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

1.2. Status of joint programming

Between 2019 and 2020, the EU Delegation and the European Member States operating in the country (DE, FR, ES, HU, IT, BE) elaborated a joint programming document, "Documento de Programación Conjunta (PC) 2020-2023 y visión conjunta 2027 de la Unión Europea y de sus Estados Miembros en Ecuador". In June 2020, the EU Heads of Missions discussed the document at country level and transmitted it to their respective capitals and EU central services, The JP document was signed in March 2021 by EU Heads of Missions and serves as general framework for EU cooperation in the country. It also guides bilateral cooperation of Member States in order to increase efficiency and coherence of EU cooperation with Ecuador. This first joint programming document establishes a coherent, inclusive and coordinated response to the country priorities by the European partners. It is considered as a transition framework document, constituting a step towards the adoption of a single document of "country strategy" by European partners, in alignment with the 2021-24 National Development Plan of Ecuador.

1.3. Priority areas of the EU's cooperation with Ecuador

In the past years, Ecuador has seen high socio-economic growth, mainly driven by its export-led economic model which is highly dependent on commodities, namely petroleum and agricultural products, becoming an upper-middle income economy but still struggling today with an undiversified economy and structural inequalities (in 2017 more than 50 % of the income generated in Ecuador was held by the richest 20 % of its population).

In the last programming period 2014-20, EU cooperation has been supporting sustainable and inclusive economic growth strategies that have contributed to economic diversification, export promotion and poverty reduction efforts by the Government. Through its programmes, the EU has contributed to strengthen local capacities (with an emphasis on provincial governments) for effective and transparent public administration and financial management and sustainable economic activities, and to strengthen Ecuadorian firms' ability to comply with international commitments in the trade area, improving international export of SMEs. It is opportune to mention some lessons learnt from the implementation of our MIP 2014-2020, as the importance of managing assistance programs incorporating local authorities and academies in the process; the need of accessing finance for the internationalization of SMEs; the requisite of strengthening horizontal and vertical associativity to facilitate the insertion of all productive actors in value chains.

According to the results of the bilateral political dialogue, Ecuador considers the EU as a partner with which to trade, from which to attract investments and to receive assistance to adapt quickly to new regulations issuing from the Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy, among other innovative policies, and good governance for the benefit of vulnerable population. The EU and its Member States may strategically support this request of partnership by: i) promoting trade openness and trade facilitation; ii) promoting private and public investments; iii) stimulating innovation and productivity by using EU expertise in fields like circular economy, research and innovation and digitalization; and iv) supporting good governance, in particular public administration decentralization and public finance management for development, with special attention to vulnerable groups of the Ecuadorian society, including indigenous people, and responsible and transparent management of natural resources like oil and gas, oceans, fresh water and forests.

Following our joint assessment of Ecuador with the EU Member States and the European development banks, and subsequent consultations with national authorities, civil society, private sector, and other

national actors, this MIP identifies three priority areas as the main areas where the European cooperation can make a substantive impact:

- Priority area 1: Support to sustainable trade and investments (EU trade agreement, Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, EU Bilateral Investment Treaties (BIT). Indicative DAC sectors: Business and other services (250); Fishing (313); Trade Policies & Regulations (331); contributing to SDGs 1, 2,5 8 9,12, 14 and 17.

Ecuador looks towards the EU as a major market partner and provider of technology and innovation. The EU is also a major provider of technical and financial support aimed at helping Ecuador to adapt domestic regulations to EU legislation in several fields including: i)intellectual property; ii) quality and traceability of the exportable offer (notably on organic production), and iii) sustainable food systems, including the elimination of dangerous chemicals in agro-industrial products and the fight against IUU fishing, deforestation-free supply chains.On the other hand, the country needs to increase its productivity and competitiveness to be able to compete with neighbouring countries, and to attract national and foreign direct investments, which can bring innovation and technology transfers, generate employment and contribute to the country's economic stability, in order to reduce socio-economic inequalities. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the health sector will also open opportunities to transfer European know-how and high-quality European medical devices to the Ecuadorian market.

- **Priority area 2:** Enhance climate and environment action on green innovation and productivity (circular economy and bio-economy). Indicative DAC sectors: Agriculture (311), Industry (321), contributing to SDGs 5 6 7 8 9, 12, 13, 14, 15.

Ecuador is a country of great natural riches and a growing economy, facing the challenges that come with the intensification of industrial activity and changing consumption patterns. For instance, only 6% of the produced waste is recycled nationwide. Despite a number of initiatives aiming at improving resource extraction and use, sustainable consumption, reuse of waste materials to manufacture new products, and energy efficiency over the last decade, green innovation and productivity have until recently been very rarely successful in the country. In the context of Ecuador climate change action, circular economy and bio-economy provide a framework for a transition to a more diversified, post-oil economy, based on responsible management of natural resources, like oceans, fresh water and forests, increasing the share of production with high technological intensity and incorporated value added, including digitalization, private export-oriented research in benefit of youth and future generations. However, for the latter, it is necessary to have a close relation as well as targeted investments with the higher education sector and academia for generating skills for innovation, as well as labour force training programs.

- **Priority area 3: Good governance (decentralization, fiscal reforms). I**ndicative DAC sector: Government & Civil Society-general (151), contributing to SDGs 4, 5 and 16.

The quality of public administration is important for economic competitiveness and societal wellbeing. Ecuador's institutions remain fragile, they would benefit from EU assistance, in order to build a more credible, and efficient institutional framework embedded in a more inclusive and cohesive society. Especially the COVID-19 crisis demonstrated through corruption scandals, as well to several un-timely institutional reactions from national institutions, the difficulties related to implement a proper response for the population during the crisis. Institutional strengthening, entailing also the respect of the rule of law and the separation of powers would help to increase the citizens' confidence and have a positive impact on the country's political stability. Areas of intervention may include public finance management (PFM), decentralization and support to subnational government, anti-corruption and transparency, domestic revenue mobilization, macroeconomic policy, democratic participation and civil society, social protection and welfare services policy, planning and ad-ministration, statistical capacity building and training of public administration employees. In conclusion, there is a smooth shift from the previous MIP to the new priority areas of cooperation, without necessity of any important adjustments from one phase to the next one, as external trade and sustainable growth were already present in the previous programming period 2014-20. Priority areas 1 and 3 will meet NDICI target on social inclusion and human development and priority area 2 will comply with NDICI target on climate change. Priority area 2 and 3 will contribute to migration related actions target, while all the priority areas will reach the 85% target on gender scoring G1 or G2 at the DAC gender equality marker.

1.4. Justification and context

Ecuador has achieved significant socio-economic progress in the past twenty years, in particular in important areas such as reduction of poverty, better access to public services, health and education, and the inclusion in the economy of vulnerable groups including women. During the last two administrations of presidents Correa and Moreno, areas such as social inclusion, respect for cultural diversity and sustainable use of natural resources have been central to the development process, with the objective to achieve a reasonable level of welfare for all. However, the levels of poverty has aggravated in the last years with an increase of the percentage of poverty, especially in rural areas, and an increase of the gap that people need to overpass to cross the poverty threshold. Accordingly to UNICEF, multidimensional extreme poverty would increase by 2,1% in 2021 due to the impact of COVID-19. Access to quality public services is still limited, depending on socio-economic status. Informality rates in the economy are still high, with a large share of the population without access to social protection. Despite improvements in citizen participation and transparency in public management, corruption, instability of public institutions and weak policy decision-making, also hamper more advancements in terms of inclusiveness.

According to the OECD Multidimensional Study for Ecuador, there are longstanding weaknesses that are limiting further progress in the region and in particular in Ecuador: stagnant levels of productivity; the persistent and increasing vulnerability of large segments of the population, with unequal access to public services across socio-economic groups; the growing dissatisfaction of citizens with public institutions; and the visible impact of climate change. One further OECD reason why progress has not been sufficiently strong and inclusive is Ecuador's vulnerability to shocks and high dependence on external conditions. The dependence from the oil sector combined with low levels of productivity and an economic structure dominated by small firms undermines the resilience of the economy to external shocks. In addition, public finances are mostly dependent on external sources of finance, tied to the evolution of oil prices, limiting its capacity to invest resources to maintain the right pace of implementation of public policies over time.

The COVID-19 crisis has further aggravated development challenges, with Ecuador being one of the countries hardest hit worldwide. Health crisis affected in particular women, indigenous, afrodescendent, and people with disabilities. In order to counteract the devastating social and economic effects of the current socio-economic crisis, according to the Government Post-Disaster Need Assessment, the Voluntary National SDGs Review Ecuador 2020 and the initial assessment of the multidimensional review of Ecuador by OECD, the government should orient its actions towards economic recovery and social policies on health, education, social security and care systems in the medium term. In the same way, the government should seek to build long-term policies for strengthening the productive sector, developing the industrial sector, tackle informality, overcoming employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value. In this fragile and uncertain context, and considering previous regional and national development patterns, the country's political and economic stability should stand as one of the main objectives of the EU partnership with Ecuador. This requires strengthening public institutions and promoting the rule of law to reduce internal political instability, and supporting the change of the productive matrix and the full implementation of the Trade Agreement with the EU to reduce the country's external economic vulnerability.

The EU actions will have a focus on vulnerable groups, in particular women, youth, sexual minorities, indigenous people, migrants and others, which are particularly suffering from the economic deterioration of the last years and the impact of the pandemic. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be at the centre of actions, embodying a sustainable to leave no one behind. Support measures will also help to mainstream environment, gender equality and human mobility in the three priorities areas and support the role of civil society organizations, human rights defenders and social movements in protecting and promoting human rights within the country. Gender equality is a human right. Fulfilling this right is the best chance we have in meeting some of the most pressing challenges of this current economic crisis and lack of health care, to climate change, violence against women and social tensions.

The promotion of trade and investments (Priority area 1: Support to sustainable trade and **investments**) will help the country to diversify its exportable offer and to attract a sizable volume of FDI, which is crucial to support the dollarization of the economy and guarantee the necessary economic stability. The EU is Ecuador's second trading partner, behind the US and ahead of China (the majority of Chinese aid consists of commercial credit, loans extended by the China Development Bank), and is the most important market for non-petrol products. The EU is the main provider of FDI although volumes remain low compared with FDI in Colombia and Peru. The EU is committed not only to use its trade policy to generate growth and decent jobs in Europe, but also to support countries worldwide to achieve sustainable development goals. For instance, the EU has opened its markets fully to imports from the world's poorest countries, and assists in building capacities and the skills needed to trade successfully. EU imports from developing countries are worth €860 billion a year. Moreover, EU trade policy also promotes European principles and values in the world. These include good governance, environmental protection, human and labour rights, health and consumer protection, transparency and protection of cultural diversity. Women represent the highest percentage of agriculture workers and this first priority will involve women in entrepreneurship that will help to drive and create economic growth. This approach will contribute to remove socioeconomic barriers to women in business and allow a large portion of the population to make even greater contributions to country's GDP.

Supporting green research, technological development and innovation (**Priority area 2: Enhance climate and environment action on green innovation and productivity**) will increase the share of production with high technological intensity and incorporated value added, strengthening productivity in both basic products and those with potential to export, contributing to economic sustainability and the sustainable management of natural resources. This priority area is aligned with the EU's new common policy of the "Green Deal", which under its external dimension seeks to encourage third countries to develop and implement coherent policies in this area, contributing to global climate change action. The transfer of technology and knowledge would make it possible to promote a more productive, sustainable and environmentally friendly industrial, agricultural and fisheries policies, contributing to the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. In particular, enabling framework across areas such as finance, capacity, research, innovation and technology, fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources linked to biodiversity, and respect for the rights and the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities. With regards to advancing the rights of indigenous peoples in the Amazon region, Ecuador will also benefit from the Regional Team

Europe Initiative to support indigenous peoples' and local communities' rights for inclusive and sustainable development in the Amazon region.

Support to fiscal reforms and decentralization process (**Priority area 3: Good governance**) will facilitate effective implementation of social policies and access to better-quality basic services, improving social cohesion, inclusiveness and ultimately internal political stability. Areas of intervention may include public finance management, decentralization and support to subnational government, anti-corruption organisations and institutions, domestic revenue mobilization, democratic participation and civil society, social protection and welfare services policy, planning and administration, statistical capacity building. Institutional and capacity building to tackle security threats, in particular, the ones caused by transnational organized crime as well as topics related to cybersecurity are another area of interest for the government of Ecuador. Ecuadorian authorities have recommended continuing to work on these topics through EU regional cooperation, which has been highly appreciated. EU will also give particular attention to transparency and access to justice for gender based violence victims and human right defenders, complementing if necessary the activities currently ensured by the Spotlight initiative.

Civil society organizations that have the most significant potential for collaborating in the proposed priority areas are environmental organizations, especially those related to extractive activities such as mining and oil extraction, and indigenous communities and nationalities, which historically acted in defence of nature and its resources. EU will facilitate an open dialogue between human right organization, indigenous and afro communities with Government. Civil society may also contribute in the design and monitoring of fiscal reforms aimed at strengthening the tax culture based on the principle of fiscal co-responsibility and solidarity, improving efficiency and progressivity in domestic revenue mobilisation, fighting evasion and tax avoidance and optimizing the quality of spending.

Ecuador is one of the countries hardest hit worldwide by the COVID-19 crisis. The recovery of the health system and the implementation of international health agreements will be facilitated by Member States, in particular Spain, Italy and Germany, in line with good practice on division of labour among European partners, in the framework of the Joint Programming agreements.

1.5. Duration of the MIP and option for synchronisation

The total duration of the MIP will be of seven years 2021-2027 split in two phases. This country MIP will follow the government NDP cycle. Through the EU Joint Programming process, the EU Member States will seek to progressively move towards the adoption of a single "EU country strategy" in alignment with future national programming cycles of Ecuador's. A synchronized review of the post-2020 programming and Joint Programming documents would likely happen in 2025, when the country's next NDP (2021-2025) and political cycle will finalize (next presidential elections in 2025).

2. EU support per priority area and proposals of Team Europe Initiatives

2.1. Priority area 1 Support to sustainable trade and investments

The multiparty Trade Agreement between the EU and its Member States and Colombia, Peru and Ecuador has produced significant and concrete results since its implementation on 1 January 2017. However, the implementation of the Trade Agreement remains problematic in a few areas where the potential for mutual benefits is large but remains unfulfilled. One of the challenges is to diversify the offer and destination of Ecuadorian agricultural products, improve their quality, traceability and added-value through agro-industrial processes. Most Ecuadorian exports to the EU are agricultural commodities (mainly bananas, shrimps, cocoa, coffee and flowers). Remarkable progress has been

achieved in the last years with the cocoa value chain in term of transformation, production and quality, but much more remains to be done, particularly as regards traceability.

Another challenge is adapting to international standards on sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and keeping pace with EU policies and regulations as regards public health. EU cooperation should be strategic in supporting the competent authorities (Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Trade) to better adapt to EU SPS regulations, and to the EU Green Deal and the Farm to Fork strategy, notably in the area of pesticides, in order to work towards a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system, with special measures to strengthen the regulation and development of organic production, and to improve the safety of products.

Regarding the fishing sector, Ecuador received in October 2019 a "yellow card" from the EU, which identified several shortcomings on the country's ability to comply with agreed standards under international law of the sea as a flag, port, and market state. Providing support to the authorities to comply with the IUU Action Plan will increase the chances of the country to comply with regulation on illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUU) and ton increase the sustainability of fishing. Despite the high importance of its fishing sector, Ecuador has yet to ratify the ILO Work in Fishing Convention (C188).

Almost the totality of companies, representing 60% of employment, are SMEs, cooperative and small producer's organization. The support to SMEs and small producer's organizations successfully carried out in MIP 2014-2020 should also been continued within this present programming. This can be done involving central government, private sector, academy as well provincial authorities (GAD) that have special competencies in productive development. The support to SMEs to improve their access to external market is crucial to influence positively on poverty reduction and decent job creation, in particular in rural areas. Agriculture is a critical source of livelihoods for women in Ecuador, and a key pathway out of poverty. Women play a critical role in agricultural production, making up a substantial majority of the agricultural workforce and produce most of the food that is consumed locally. Enabling women farmers to serve as direct suppliers to modern food markets for exportation will be a vital factor in eliminating the troublesome poverty that persists in rural areas.

Moreover, in a dollarized economy such as that of Ecuador, it is essential to promote the competitiveness and the productivity of the private sector in particular of the SMEs. The EU will support national competitiveness policies following the triple helix model as a mechanism of coordination that brings together government, industry and universities to the same purpose of a knowledge economy more innovative and inclusive. The EU will also promote e-commerce and a fair and inclusive digital economy such as e-commerce that ensure local businesses can reap the benefits of the digital revolution.

Foreign Direct Investment (less than 1% of GDP) is still very low and the business climate must improve (Ecuador ranked 129th out of 190 in the World Bank's 2020 Doing Business report). Ecuador has an enormous potential to receive more FDI in key sectors in which the EU and its Member States have strong interest (agroindustry, renewable energies, telecommunications, etc.), in line with Paris Agreement objectives of pursuing 'net-zero carbon' and 'climate-resilient' economies as well as 'aligning financial flows' to that effect. The EU and its member states have valued the economic program incorporated in the Law on "Promotion of the productive sector and attraction of investments", approved in 2018 by the government, which includes a series of tax benefits and regulatory flexibility with greater guarantees and facilities for national and FDI. Although this new legal context (as well as a follow-up Law), the EU-Ecuador Trade Agreement and the IMF Agreement signed in September 2020 are beneficial in attracting FDI, the EU and its Member States are interested in obtaining more guarantees for foreign investors, and a better business environment in general.

The digitalization of processes that reduces red tape and facilitates the application of public policies of investment and trade as well the service access to the private sector users will be strongly encouraged. Other important issues that are part of the FTA such as the protection of Intellectual Property Rights as well as the respect of international labour standards will be supported in coordination with AL INVEST VERDE and other EU regional initiatives. In particular, it is in the EU's interest to support efforts by Ecuador to eradicate child labour, effectively implement international labour conventions¹.

Civil society that will directly benefit of public policies for trade and investment as well of the actions support to SMEs will be informed of the progress and opportunities on a regular basis. These efforts should lead to strengthening the role and participation of social partners, ensuring their active participation.

This priority area will also benefit from the implementation of our regional MIP, in particular Priority area 3: Sustainable and inclusive economic recovery. This regional priority area will ensure the link with the multilateral level, promoting compliance with international rules and standards (EU, UN, WTO, OECD, ILO) while supporting EU-LAC cooperation on WTO reform.

Possible major risks	Possible mitigating measures
Limited ability and financial resources to	Provide special technical assistance for trade,
implement public policies in trade and	programmes implemented with public and local
investment	private sector entities.
Difficult or incomplete application of the	Implementing aid for trade programmes, policy
commitments set in the trade agreement	dialogue for the correct application of the trade
	agreement with the EU.

2.1.1. Specific objectives related to the priority area

The indicative DAC sectors are Business and other services (250); Trade Policies & Regulations (331); Fishing (313), contributing to SDGs 5 8 9 and 12.

The proposed specific objectives are:

SO1.1: Promote sustainable supply chains and strengthen the business and investment climate, in particular the application of the Multi-Party Trade Agreement between the EU and Ecuador.

SO1.2: Improve the productivity and competitiveness of SMEs and cooperatives with a special focus on sectors with high social impact and export development promoting public-private partnership.

SO1.3: Minorities and vulnerable groups, in all their diversity, fully enjoy and exercise their equal economic, labour and social rights.

2.1.2. Expected results per specific objective

Expected Results for SO1.1:

R 1.1.1 Increased sustainable trade and green investment flows between Ecuador and the EU, possibly contributing to Nationally Determined Contributions territorial implementation through local authorities and their long-Term Strategies and Climate Adaptation Plans.

- R 1.1.2 Improved investment framework for doing business.
- R 1.1.3 Increased exports capacities of SMEs and cooperatives.

¹ the fundamental ILO conventions on freedom of association C87 and collective bargaining C98), and tackle informality.

R 1.1.4 Increased diversification of the exportable offer.

Expected Results for SO1.2:

R 1.2.1 Increased competitiveness and productivity of SMEs and cooperatives.

R 1.2.2 Increased sustainable inclusive economic growth with improved livelihoods and decent employments (more and better jobs)

Expected Results for SO1.3:

R 1.3.1 Improved inclusive access and use of diversified financial services, including from innovative financial instruments (for M&SMEs, women, youth and rural populations)

2.1.3. Indicators (including baseline and targets) per expected result

Please, see logical framework in annex I.

2.1.4. Possible use of blending and guarantees for investment under EFSD+

Part of this priority area such as the support to SMEs, cooperatives and small producer organizations could be financed through private credit and then supported through blending or private guarantees. For example, in the case of the cocoa value chain, important public and private investments are required to industrialize and transform cocoa beans. A standard cocoa production unit can manufacture 20,000 MT/year and requires around 20 million to transform cocoa beans into semi-processed products (liquor, butter and powder). While the small-producers needs to improve their access to credit and technical assistant in order to modernize their production process. All these investments are foreseen to implement the cocoa competitiveness's plan supported by UE and its target for 2030.

2.2. Priority area 2 Enhance climate and environment action on green productivity and innovation

Ecuador is an upper-middle-income country with a developing economy that is highly dependent on commodities, namely petroleum and agricultural products. During the last decade, the export of products with high, medium or low technological intensity, based on renewable natural resources, reached an average share of 35.7% of total non-oil exports; that is, the country's economy still focuses strongly on the production of primary goods. Although progress has been made in the agroindustry sector in recent years (i.e. cocoa value chain), there is still low productivity in both basic products and those with potential to export. Therefore, it is necessary to increase productivity in alignment with environmental and social standards and ecosystems of innovation and entrepreneurship to increase the share of production with high technological intensity and incorporated value added, including digitalization, private export-oriented research and labor force training programs.

Demand for agricultural commodities is changing rapidly, generating new opportunities for both men and women producers. These opportunities may well represent new entry points from which to address gender disparities and to empower women. As demonstrated by current EU funded projects membership in water user associations, producer credit organizations, and community-based natural resource management groups often are more durable and sustainable if leaded by women.

There are estimates that 5% of national pollution is caused by the industry sector which is characterized by low technological development and little innovation industries that pollute air, water and land. In addition, around 4 million tons of non-hazardous solid waste are generated annually nationwide. In 2017, 49% of the Autonomous Municipal Decentralized Governments (GADM) continued to throw their waste in open dumps. The problematic situation of the solid waste and the pollution caused by industries is therefore one of the main environmental concerns among the public institutions with their specific environmental and industrial management mandates.

In this context, the National Strategy for the Change of the Productive Matrix promotes the country's transition to a more diversified post-oil economy based on the potentialities of natural resources. Currently, there are some dispersed initiatives, which are mainly directed at energy efficiency, waste management and recycling, but the country would benefit from a more comprehensive carbon neutral, circular and bio-economy approach taking into consideration other important elements such as eco-design, re-use, economics based on services, and linkage between companies. This is an area of particular comparative advantage for European cooperation in Ecuador, taking into account the extensive experience of Europeans on the subject of bio-economy and circular economy within their own borders.

With the establishment of the National Solid Waste Management Working Group (2014), circular economy considerations were duly integrated into Ecuador's debates on the Agenda 2030 and on the Action Plan of the National Biodiversity Strategy (2015-2030). In 2015, Ecuador adopted a National Strategy for the Change of the Productive Matrix that aims at a more responsible management of resources, and the adoption of regulations and incentives for higher environmental standards, eco-efficiency and environmentally friendly practices contributing to climate change.

In 2019 the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of production and trade jointly initiated a participative process aiming at the elaboration of a national strategy on circular economy with the support of the EU Delegation and both public and private institutions. The preliminary White Book on circular economy mentions four pillars in which circular economy rests for Ecuador: i. Sustainable Production; ii. Sustainable Consumption; iii. Integral Solid Waste Management; and iv. Policies and Financing for Sustainability. It identifies the most relevant legal mechanisms to support a circular strategy, and identifies five priority sectors (manufacturing, agriculture, commerce, construction, and oil & mining) for the circular economy transition. When finalised, the White Book will include concrete lines of action within the priority sectors, as well as measures to further develop and implement the necessary policy and regulatory framework and to secure appropriate financing for all actions, considering local authorities.

Commitment to the Circular Economy was endorsed with the National Pact for a Circular Economy (2019), signed by over 330 supporting parties who drive the country's transition to a circular economy, along nine strategic axes, including (among others) industrialisation and use of waste, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, eco-design, sustainable business, progressive substitution of plastics and development of CE indicators.

This process represents a first step in the implementation of a circular economy policy for Ecuador. Such policy will be a powerful instrument benefiting both the economy (and its main actors) and the environment avoiding air, water, and soil pollution. With regard to bio economy and agrarian value chains, in 2020 Ecuador launched its sustainability initiative "Ecuador Premium & Sustainable", including inter alia deforestation-free practices in the agricultural sector as well as the promotion of productivity, quality and traceability. This in combination with a new intersectoral bio economy approach. Both initiatives are crucial for the mega-biodiverse and export-oriented country to align its agroindustry sector with increasing environmental and social standard expectations from import markets, in particular the EU, and to promote the potential of bio economy products internationally.

Ecuador also has taken great steps in improving its higher education institutions, as well as made important investments during the last 15 years. Consequently, the country is in possession of a number of significant assets, which may lead to the development of a strong and dynamic Knowledge Transfer system in the medium-to-long term. It is a resource-rich country, which has developed an important knowledge based around historically important sectors of the economy such as agriculture, energy, environment and life sciences. It has an important researcher community, much of which is hosted in universities who are increasingly investing in research activities; as well as in public research institutes,

which have historically acted as bridges between science, the private sector, and the public sector. Over the previous years, the EU has supported Ecuador in the area of knowledge transfer through its dedicated research and innovation policy advice facility. An independent study commissioned by the EU, and which was later used by Ecuador in the creation of its "National plan for Science, Technology, Innovation and Ancestral Knowledge 2030 ('National Plan')", found that in spite of recent efforts to increase the competitiveness and resiliency of the national economy, Ecuador still faces significant bottlenecks when it comes to ensuring research is translated into practical and marketable green solutions. Many of these are directly tied to the key framework conditions, which are characteristic of strong KT systems: institutional capacities, availability of financing, a sound regulatory environment, the existence of strong and mature intermediary organizations, and a relevant and coherent policy mix. Based on the above, it is necessary a more systemic approach to promote public-private innovation networks, human capital mobility from universities to firms (and vice versa), and a reorientation of universities' as well as the vocational education system's agenda towards the needs of industry and society. To this end, the EU and several Member States already offer a number of scholarship programs for Ecuadorian students that also help improve the country's scientific and economic development.

Further collaboration with Ecuador on knowledge transfer can be based on the findings and recommendations of the report, which due to its influence on Ecuador's 'National Plan' can serve as a common base for collaboration on this topic.

Thus, this priority area will promote research, technological development and innovation to support the change of the productive matrix by linking public and private sectors with academia. In this framework, the promotion of circular economy and eco-business must be compatible with the maintenance of the country's biodiversity and requires implementation of a coherent public policy considering investigation, innovation and technological solutions encouraging producer responsibility in areas such as biotechnologies, packaging, agricultural and electronic waste, organic production, glass and plastic, and others. Using participatory approaches to involve women in the design of products that are intended for their use and in the planning of services that are intended to reach them can inform technology development and the targeting of services, making them more demand-driven and relevant to prospective adopters and clients. This priority area will coordinate with activities implemented through our regional MIP, in particular Priority area 3: Sustainable and inclusive economic recovery, in order to increase coherence and sustainability.

The EU is already implementing an action document on circular economy, which includes mechanisms, such as round tables and internet portals, for multiply stakeholders participation, not only public entities and industrial enterprises but also members of the civil society. The promotion of the concept of circular economy with the Ecuadorian society and consumers is a cooperation priority; hence, the coordination with the civil society and its organizations is quite important.

Possible major risks	Possible mitigating measures		
Lack of political interest with change of	High-level policy dialogue support the		
authorities and high turnover of public officials	implementation of circular economy concepts.		
Difficult or incomplete application of	Awareness and information campaign about		
commitments by local authorities	circular economy, green innovation and climate		
	change		
Difficult or incomplete application of	Support central and local authorities for fine-		
commitments by industries	tuning "incentives and penalties" regulation on		
	circular economy		

2.1.1. Specific objectives related to the priority area

SO2.1: Increase implementation of circular economy and bio-economy policies with the participation

of main public and private actors with a social and gender balanced approach.

SO2.2: Increase the implementation of green innovation and circular economy practices with the private sector, local authorities and higher education system.

SO2.3: Improve long-Term Strategies and Climate Adaptation Plans through local authorities.

SO2.4 Increase women in all their diversity influence decision-making processes on environmental conservation and climate change policies and actions

2.1.2. Expected results per specific objective

Expected Results for SO2.1:

R 2.1.1 Increased industries with sustainable production policies and practices

R 2.1.2 Increased number pilot projects in circular economy and bio-economy

R 2.1.3 Increased awareness about sustainable consumption

Expected Results for SO2.2:

R 2.2.1 Increased number of industries with eco-designed products and with energy efficient production plants

R2.2.2 Increased number of people who have a basic understanding of concepts of climate change, green innovation and circular economy.

R2.2.3 Increased higher education and research institutions curricula in the implementation of green innovation and circular economy projects

Expected Results for SO2.3:

R 2.3.1 Increased number of territorial initiatives through LAs supporting Nationally Determined Contributions and Adaption plans.

Expected Results for SO2.4:

R 2.4.1 Improved access of women in all their diversity to entrepreneurship, alternative livelihoods and strengthened participation in the green and circular economy.

2.1.3. Indicators (including baseline and targets), per expected result

Please, see logical framework in annex I.

2.1.4. Possible use of blending and guarantees for investment under EFSD+

Public private conformation of circular economy public initiatives with medium size industries may benefit from private investments and could be financed through private credit and then supported through blending. In the case of solid waste management, a public investment with the support of blending may finance Mechanical Biological Treatment plants, serving several municipalities (for example, a plant with 600 tons capacity per day - approx. 650 000 habitants - with 15 years of life could cost about 50 million euros).

2.3. Priority area 3 Good governance

In the last years, the socio-economic situation of Ecuador has deteriorated considerably, with the COVID-19 pandemic and the Venezuelan migration crisis exacerbating an already fragile state of affairs. In order to recover fast from the recession and build back better through an inclusive and sustainable socio-economic transformation, it is important for the country to dispose of a better governance framework, which promotes sound public finance management, administrative decentralization and widespread private and public ethic practices.

Transparent, efficient and sustainable public finance management is necessary to generate the necessary fiscal space to address poverty, inequalities, and social vulnerabilities, including gender equality and migration issues. The sustainability of public finances has been largely conditioned by Ecuador's high dependence on oil for fiscal revenues and economic growth. Ecuador's fiscal deficit had already started to increase in 2013, but the economic slowdown and the fall in oil prices contributed to accelerate the deterioration of fiscal accounts. It is critical that Ecuador finds a well-paced and credible fiscal adjustment path that helps mitigate risks and safeguards the country dollarization regime. A recent agreement with the IMF has ratified the authority's commitment to fiscal consolidation and has helped mobilize additional funds. It is also essential to strengthen financing for development², or domestic revenue mobilization, in order to activate greater resources from public and private sources.

Unlike other Latin American countries, where there is a profusion of scattered laws, decrees and regulations, in Ecuador the decentralization legal framework stipulates various forms of intergovernmental co-ordination, with an enormous potential to promote development from the actions of these autonomous governments³. EU interventions should therefore use current laws in order to foster the participation of the subnational governments for the implementation of future public policies, strengthen and adapt the national statistical systems to international standards for political and technical decision-making, and decrease its dependence on central government resources by increasing its revenues recollection.

Despite efforts made by the current government to fight fraud, Ecuador still presents high levels of corruption (114th position out of 180 countries in the TI-transparency index in 2018). During the COVID-19 crisis, new episodes of corruption have further exacerbated citizens' frustration and contributed to lower levels of trust in the government and public entities. EU interventions in this sector should target structural reforms on public accountability and oversight through the implementation of international best practices with the legislative and justice systems and the comptroller's office. Specific actions may target areas such as public institutions work independent of economic and political interests. The use of new technologies for the digitalization of government processes could guarantee more open and transparent public practices. If requested by the government, migration and security issues such as illicit trafficking, transnational crime, and cybercrime may be also supported in order to complement at the national level the implementation of the regional MIP, priority area 4 on Democratic Governance, Security and Migration.

Ecuador's planning capacities have showed a remarkable progress over the last 15 years, developing three national development plans in a row that guided the country's public institutions. However, planning and statistical measurement for political decision-making still remain within government's responsibility due to structural institutional fragility. Thus, EU interventions in this area should also consider strengthening the national planning and statistical systems to international standards. Recently, Ecuador has been accepted as an EITI country, which will most likely contribute to increase governance on the exploitation of extractive industries.

The EU and MSs have become in recent years one of the main supporters of civil society participation through the process called "Road Map", bringing together relevant political leaders from the public and private sectors, universities and civil society. It is important for the EU to recognize that there is an enormous human potential in civil society, typical of an upper-middle-income country, for

² DRM is one of the three priority areas identified by OECD within its Multi-Dimensional Review of Ecuador.

³ In 2019 EUDEL hired a TALD Study, which concluded that the country has all the elements needed for a territorial approach for local development.

positively influencing political decision-making processes with the creation of active coordination mechanisms, communication strategies and to insist on the need to establish alliances with other sectors. In collaboration with civil society, EU will promote legitimacy and representativeness where all men and women will have a say in decisions and about what is in the best interests of the community or group.

Possible major risks	Possible mitigating measures	
Limited ability and financial resources to implement ambitious agenda for the recovery of the productive sector	Clearly identified and financed investment programmes with external financing in the annual investment programme 2021 and the multi-annual fiscal framework 2021-25	
Government does not finish its term because of	High-Level Policy Dialogue on National	
the social impact of its economic and fiscal	Implementation of a social and economic	
reform agenda	reform agenda	

2.1.1. Specific objectives related to the priority area

SO3.1: Increase the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of public administration

- SO3.2: Decentralise public management and decision-making processes
- SO3.3: Enhance independent work of oversight bodies to undertake effective technical evaluations or inspections of the executive and conduct performance monitoring available to the public.
- SO3.4 Increase the equal participation of women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, in decisionmaking processes, in all spheres and at all levels of political and public life, including online, taking on leadership roles, to enjoy and exercise their human rights and seek redress if these rights are denied.

2.1.2. Expected results per specific objective

Expected Results for SO3.1:

R 3.1.1 Increased budget of National Development Plan to reduce poverty, inequalities, and social vulnerabilities.

R 3.1.2 Improved trust in government accountability

Expected Results for SO3.2:

R 3.2.1 Increased local governments implement and adapt national and international good practices for decentralized management and financial practices for local decision-making.

R 3.2.2 Increased local organizational structures, approaches and regulations are better suited for democratic local governance processes.

Expected Results for SO3.3:

R 3.3.1 Increased public institutions with oversight functions counts with the adequate

institutionalization and prepared and actualized public officials to perform its duties

R 3.3.2 Reformed public accountability processes of national institutions, available to the public and CSOs.

R 3.3.3 Increased use of new technologies for bidding processes by local governments and national institutions.

Expected Results for SO3.4:

R.3.4.1 Created enabling conditions for equal participation of women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, in decision-making.

2.1.3. Indicators (including baseline and targets), per expected result

Please, see logical framework in annex I.

2.1.4. Possible use of blending and guarantees for investment under EFSD+

The use blending or guarantees under EFSD are not foreseen under this priority area.

2.4. Proposals of country Team Europe Initiatives

Economic green recovery through circular and bio-economy, contributing to Sustainable Growth and Jobs and Green Deal EU policies.

The current economic crisis and the increasing influx of Venezuelan migrants has had a serious impact on the country's ability to continue providing basic services. The COVID-19 pandemic aggravated the problematic economic and social situation in Ecuador, worsening the living conditions of vulnerable groups with an increase in the level of poverty. The country should build its economic recovery through long-term policies to strengthen the productive sector, create the conditions to ensure a more sustainable growth and overcome structural inequalities. In this context, promoting structural transformations in order to reduce the country's external vulnerability and go beyond the export of primary unprocessed products is a clear priority of the country.

Following the joint assessment with the EU Member States and subsequent consultations with national authorities/DFIs/private sector, the development of an inclusive and sustainable economy, in coherence with Ecuador's climate commitments, has been identified as the main area where European partners can make a substantive impact by joining forces. The EU and its Member States will strategically support the economic recovery and green transformation of the country by facilitating sustainable private and public investments and stimulating green innovation and productivity, using our expertise in circular and bio-economy. In this fragile and uncertain situation, circular and bio-economy provide a concrete framework for a green transition to a more diversified, post-oil economy, based on responsible management of natural resources, like water and forests. Additionally, this approach would also increase the share of production with high technological intensity and incorporated value added in benefit of youth groups and future generations.

As regards circular economy, there are some dispersed initiatives which are mainly directed at energy efficiency, waste management and recycling, but the country would benefit from a more comprehensive approach taking into consideration other important elements such as eco-design, re-use, economics based on services, and linkage between companies. This is an area of particular comparative advantage for European cooperation in Ecuador, taking into account the extensive experience of Europeans on the subject of circular economy within their own borders.

Regarding bio-economy and agrarian value chains, it is crucial for this mega-biodiverse and exportoriented country to align its agroindustry sector with increasing environmental and social standard expectations from import markets, in particular the EU, and to promote the potential of bio-economy products internationally. The EU and its Member States will also jointly promote research, technological development and innovation to support the change of the productive matrix by linking public and private sectors with academia.

In the past years, public investment was the main engine of the economy. However, while public investment is still necessary to promote a sustainable and equitable development, it requires fiscal space and a positive domestic context, elements that are quite far from the current economic conditions dramatically worsened by the global recession due to the COVID-19. In addition to strengthen and optimize public investment, it would also be necessary to promote private investment through a predictable business environment that allows companies to overcome major impediments to

investment. The EU and MSs in partnership with civil society will continue to support the government in implementing the necessary fiscal reforms aimed at promoting private and public investments, strengthening the tax culture based on the principle of fiscal co-responsibility and solidarity, improving efficiency and progressivity in domestic revenue mobilisation, fighting evasion and tax avoidance and optimizing the quality of spending.

This Team Europe Initiative (TEI) will not only assisting Ecuador citizens but also stimulating cooperation between Ecuadorian and European actors, supporting European business investments in Ecuador and benefiting European citizens in general through two components:

1. The first component of *stimulating green innovation and productivity* will promote sound public policies and regulatory framework on research, skills and education for innovation and technology transfer, in particular supporting the industrial circular economy transition towards carbon neutrality with clean technology and eco-business, as well as bioeconomy approaches within the environmental and agrarian sector. It will also encourage international cooperation and international research networks with different European universities and research centers, promoting innovation HUBs and technology transfer.

The second priority area of this MIP of enhance green innovation and productivity (circular economy and bio-economy) will provide EU contribution to implement the first component of the TEI, in addition to no-reimbursable funds from member states presents in Ecuador.

2. The second component of the TEI of *facilitating private and public investments* will support the development of new (green) financing tools with local public banks and will provide funding for public investments, prioritizing decarbonisation and climate mitigation and adaptation credits, in coherence with the new European Green Deal approach. It is also expected to accelerate and leverage sustainable private sector investments for MSMEs and cooperatives in key sectors in which the EU and its Member States have strong interest and that are aligned with social and environmental standards (sustainable and deforestation-free agroindustry commodities/value chains, in line with the objectives of the future EU instrument to combat global deforestation, water and sanitation and hygiene, renewable energies, telecommunications, etc.), including in the fields of green economy and digitalization.

The implementation of this second component of the TEI will receive EU support from the first and second priority areas of this MIP, in addition to reimbursable and/or no reimbursable funds from Member States present in the country.

Priorities areas 2 and 3 of this current MIP will contribute to TEI with a minimum estimated contribution of EUR 24 M for the period 2021-2024.

In line with the priority areas defined above, a percentage of the financial allocations defined under section 5 could be mobilised from the present MIP for the participation of the country in the EFSD+.

The EU's indicative contribution to this TEI (EUR 24 million) is subject to the confirmation of the Team Europe partners' indicative meaningful contribution as early as possible. In the absence thereof, the EU's indicative contribution may be redirected in accordance with the priority areas of the MIP and their allocations. The obligation of the Union and the Member States to coordinate their development policies following initiatives by the Commission to this effect, as per article 210 TFEU, always applies.

Also relevant in the Ecuadorian context is the regional TEI on security and Justice in Latin America and the Caribbean.

2.5. Support to investments under the EFSD+

External debt of Ecuador is currently around 63% of GDP. According to the IMF (CR No.20/286 – October 2020), Ecuador's debt is sustainable with high probability and its capacity to repay is deemed adequate. However, there is little room for deviations, and slippages could severely strain Ecuador's capacity to repay, including through delayed capital market re-access. With policy levers being limited to fiscal policy in dollarized economies, any downside shocks such as a loss of confidence, a drop in oil prices, or shortfalls in financing would put an additional burden on fiscal policy to adjust.

Subject to confirmation during the implementation phase, it is expected that an indicative amount of up to 28% of the resources of this MIP may be used to provision EFSD+ guarantees and to finance bilateral and regional blending operations to which the country will be eligible. From this indicative amount about one third would be dedicated to EFSD+ provisioning, representing 4 million euros for 2021-2024 under the priority areas 1 and 2.

Sustainable finance represents a real potential in the region and could help accelerate financial flows towards green, inclusive and resilient transitions, e.g. through green bonds and other relevant sustainable finance instruments.

Priorities areas 1 and 2 will contribute to the implementation of the Team Europe Initiative for facilitating private and public investments and stimulating innovation and productivity, in particular through EFSD+ using blending, guarantees and technical assistance (see below tentative TEI investment plan, May 2021). The financing structure for green investment projects will depend on the borrower entity, and the Ministry of Economy of Finance (MEF) can provide sovereign guarantees on behalf of the Republic of Ecuador for entities that are at least 70% state-owned. Ecuador is also interested in considering options to issue sovereign green bonds, if market conditions are favourable. Sub-sovereign governmental entities (GADs) in Ecuador historically have not issued bonds.

Member States' financial institutions (AFD and KfW) along with EIB will provide funding for public investments, prioritizing decarbonisation and climate mitigation and adaptation credits, in coherence with the new European Green Deal approach. These financial institutions will also support sustainable private sector development through investments for MSMEs and cooperatives in key sectors in which the EU and its Member States have strong interest. They will also promote innovation and technology transfer, in particular supporting the industrial circular economy transition towards carbon neutrality with clean technology and eco-business. Potential EFSD+ support is illustrated in the following table from the last version of the TEI Ecuador (May 2021), that will be reviewed in September 2021 based on the approval of this MIP.

TEI components	Activities	EU IFIs projects	Loans	EFSD+ potential contribution		
				Blend	Guaran	TA
					tees	
Facilitating	Develop new green financing tools	FR (AFD) 2021-23	100,00		20,00	
private and	with local public banks	DE (KfW) Sustainable	16,60			
public	_	urban mobility via BDE				
development	Financing public investments,	FR (AFD) 2021-23	200,00	10,00		
investments	prioritizing decarbonisation and climate	EIB $loans^4$	400,00	20,00	30,00	
	mitigation and adaptation					
	Accelerate and leverage sustainable	DE (KfW): SME via CFN	21,50			
	private sector investments (focus on	FR (AFD) Proparc 2021-23	150,00	10,00		
	MSMEs and cooperatives)	EIB loans	100,00		50,00	
	• •					

⁴ EIB loan amounts provided are purely indicative and based on the existing track-record and mandate.

Stimulating	Promote investment and sound public	FR (AFD) 2021-23	100,00			2,00
innovation and	1 2 5					Í
productivity	research, innovation and technology					
		Total MEUR	1 088,10	40,00	100,005	2,00

3. Support measures

3.1. Measures in favor of civil society

The EU is committed to implementing series of actions to secure the important role of civil society organizations, human rights defenders and social movements in protecting and promoting human rights within the country. Civil Society in Ecuador is strong and has a solid background of advocacy that brought to significant changes in political decisions.

The aim of the MIP, together with the thematic and regional EU instruments, will be to uphold the role that civil society plays to defend and promote the values enshrined in Article 2 of the EU Treaty, which include, respect for human dignity, human rights, equality, democracy and the rule of law; to ensure an open, transparent and regular dialogue. Ensure that organizations can contribute in a timely and informed manner to EU policy making; to keep a regular and comprehensive monitoring and analysis of the situation in the country/region, in particular freedom of association, to understand the challenges faced by civil society and adapt the EU cooperation framework.

Supporting CSOs to play an effective role in the implementation of the TSD chapter of the EU-Ecuador FTA will also be considered. Within CSO road map working groups, Delegation together with EU member states will ensure to strengthen CSO internal capacity and support the advocacy role to promote rule of law in democracy. The EU will engage part of support measure to strengthen the dialogue and initiatives with the above-mentioned objectives in coordination with other EU global and regional CSO initiatives.

3.2. Cooperation facility

- He EU foreseen to use cooperation facility through a specific allocation, which aim to design and support the EU effort for the following two points:
 - 1. Supporting capacity development and institutional building on gender equality, Nexus and human mobility, including former Partnership Instrument purposes.

<u>Gender</u>. The Cooperation facility will help to mainstream gender in all priorities areas to reinforce gender knowledge and expertise within all sectors, to support consultation with national stakeholders, develop communication strategies on gender equality objectives and results at country level. It will also help to implement the GAP III country implementation plan (CLIP) for the years 2021-25 by relevant member states.

<u>Nexus.</u> Ecuador being a disaster-prone country, the European Union and its Member States have an interest in strengthening its natural disasters and climate change resilience, where responsible management of natural resources like oceans, fresh water and forests is key. Cooperation facility will help to re-enforce the importance of developing longer-term interventions that address humanitarian needs as well as development and peacebuilding challenges as disaster risk reduction. In this sense, the collaboration with ECHO would be essential to create the link between humanitarian and development

⁵ This amount could be indicatively soft earmarked.

perspective, the NEXUS approach. This could include strengthen of capacity in disaster risk reduction at central and local level through technical assistance.

<u>Human mobility.</u> This facility will also support the government and the Delegation in strengthen capacity to ensure coordination on social protection and socio-economic integration of human mobility at national and local level and mainstreaming the issue in all priorities areas.

2. Communication and visibility, including strategic communication and fight against disinformation.

Part of support measures will support public diplomacy, in particular communication and visibility activities to raise awareness of various EU programs like Horizon 2020, Erasmus+, LIFE etc. and CSOs activities. They can also support thematic studies, support to CSO in the formulation of public policies and policy dialogue, and short-term technical assistance, including assistance in monitoring the level of implementation of social protection policy, eradication and prevention of gender based violence among others. Building on current good practices, Public Diplomacy initiatives could also reinforce the 'Team Europe' approach and joined-up public diplomacy initiatives could be organised across EU services, EU institutions and with Member States.

4. Financial overview (in MEUR)

Although the duration of this MIP is seven years, the indicative allocations for Ecuador and for each of the priority areas and support measures laid down in the table below are provided for the 2021-2024 period only. The indicative allocations for 2025-2027, as well as the possible modification of other substantial elements of this MIP, will be subject to a decision by the EU. This decision should be preceded by a review of the implementation of this MIP, which should include a dialogue with the authorities and other stakeholders of Ecuador.

The mid-term review of this and other multiannual indicative programmes is planned for 2024. Without prejudice to the mid-term review, an ad-hoc review is foreseen in year 2025 when the country's next NDP (2021-2025) and political cycle will finalize.

Priority areas	MEUR	% of total
Priority area 1: Support to sustainable trade and investments	10	25%
<i>Priority area 2:</i> Enhance climate and environment action on green innovation and productivity	20	50%
Priority area 3: Good governance	8	20%
Support measures	2	5%
Initial period 2021-24 allocation	40	100%

Annex I: MIP Ecuador - Intervention Framework

Priority area 1: Support to sustainable trade and investments

Specific objective 1: Strengthen the business and investment climate, in particular the application of the Multi-Party Trade Agreement between the EU and Ecuador.

Specific objective 2: Improve the productivity and competiveness of SMEs and cooperative with a special focus on sectors with high social impact and export development promoting public-private partnership. **Specific Objective 3:** Minorities and vulnerable groups, in all their diversity, fully enjoy and exercise their equal economic, labour and social rights.

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets
R 1.1.1 Increased trade and green investment flows between Ecuador and the EU.		Source of Data: EIB and Members States Development Banks
R 1.1.2 Improved investment framework for doing business in Ecuador		Baseline: (2020) Ecuador Doing Business Rank: 129 out of 190 economies Source of Data: WB comparing Business Regulation in 190 economies. Target: Rank between 80 to 90
		(Estrategia Inclusión Financiera
R 1.1.3 Increased exports capacities of SMEs and cooperatives		Baseline: (2020) 7% of SME export products at regional and international level Source of Data: Ministry of Trade, Central Bank of Ecuador. Target: 12 %

R 1.1.4 Increased diversification of the exportable offer	A	Baseline: 340 products currently exported to UE between 2017- 2019.
		Source: EU Analysis on the EUTA impact, Ministry of Trade, Central Bank of Ecuador.
		Target: 100 new products
	I 1.1.4.2 % of GDP of positive trade balance not related to oil trade	Baseline: (2020) 0.66 % of GDP (USD 641 million) – Positive balance no related to oil trade.
		Source: Ministry of Trade, Central Bank of Ecuador.
		Target: 1.5% of GDP
R 1.2.1 Increased competitiveness and productivity of SMEs and cooperatives.	I 1.2.1 Number of smallholders reached with EU supported interventions aimed to increase their sustainable production, access to markets and/or security of land. #1 Green Deal Alliances (SDG 2 /EURF).	supported (2021)
		Target: 10.000 smallholders
R 1.2.2 Increased sustainable inclusive economic growth with improved livelihoods and decent employments (more and better jobs)	I 1.2.2.1 household income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population (SDG 10.1.1).	

R 1.3.1 Improved inclusive access and use of diversified financial services, including from innovative financial instruments (for M&SMEs, women, youth and rural populations)	digital financial services with EU support.	Baseline: 0 Source: Central Bank, progress reports of EU funded interventions Target: 9 million
	I 1.3.1.2 Percentage of relevant actors (private sector companies, ministries, etc.) influenced to adopt processes to improve women's economic empowerment /to remove barriers to market access for women in a given sector (FPI RF)	Baseline: 0 Source : Ecuador Central Bank 2020 Target: TBD based on national target Development Plan 2021- 2025 to be published in October 2021 and gender law
	I 1.3.1.3 Number of individuals directly benefiting from EU supported interventions that aim to reduce social and economic inequality. (EURF #39 Governance, Peace and Security, Human Development (SDG 10)	implementation plan. The information will be provided through a TA contract for MIP support measure in 2022. The missing information should be provided by the end of 2022. The information will be approved and communicated by the EU delegation.
	Development (SDG 10)	Baseline : 0 Source: EU Delegation Target: 5 million

Priority area 2 Enhance climate and environment action on green innovation and productivity.

Specific objective 1: Increase implementation of circular economy and bio-economy policies with the participation of main public and private actors with a social and gender balanced approach.

Specific objective 2: Increase the implementation of green innovation and circular economy practices with the private sector, local authorities and higher education system.

Specific objective 3: Improve long-Term Strategies and Climate Adaptation Plans through local authorities. **Specific objective 4:** Increase women in all their diversity influence decision-making processes on environmental conservation and climate change policies and actions

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets
R 2.1.1 Increased industries with sustainable production policies and practices	I 2.1.1. Number of Enterprises applying Sustainable Consumption and Productior practices with EU support #12 - Green Dea Alliances (SDGs: 9 and 12) (EURF)	

R 2.1.2 Increased number pilot projects in circular economy and bio-economy	I 2.1.2 Number of industries which have initiated projects using new green innovation technologies (SDGs 6 and 9)	Baseline: 2 industries (11 pilots industrial plants in the food sectors and 4 participating plants in the wood sector) Source : Ministry of Production 2019/2020) Target: 02 additional industries
	I 2.1.2.2 Number of gender-responsive policies approved by partner government in the circular economy sector	
		Target : 1 national gender responsive policy to be included in Libro Blanco.
R 2.1.3 Increased awareness about sustainable consumption	I 2.1.3 Number of individuals informed about positive aspects of sustainable consumption	Baseline: 6 million through 10 national awareness campaign in the last 2 years
		Source : Ecuador Central University
		Target: 15 million new individuals through 15 annual awareness campaign at national and local level
R 2.2.1 Increased number of industries with eco-designed products and with energy efficient production plants	I 2.2.1 Number of companies which have initiated projects using new green innovation technologies in designing and production (SDGs 6 and 9)	Baseline: 37 companies have initiated projects using new green innovation technologies in designing and production. (received Ecuadorean Environmental Certification Punto Verde, 14 of which are 'Eco- Efficient Companies')
		Source: Ministry of the Environment (MAE)- Environmental Certification Punto Verde, Target: 55 new companies
	I 2.2.1.2 Number of women who registered their own business, including social enterprises in the circular economy sector and received green certification.	Baseline: 4 women (president of green enterprises) registered their companies in the circular economy sector and received punto verde circular economy certification.
		Source: Ministry of Environment Target: 20 women in addition to 4 of the baseline

R2.2.2 Increased understanding of concepts of climate change, green innovation and circular economy.		Officials of Subnational Governments 20%
		Target : Public officials 40%, subnational government 40%, university students 45% secondary schools 25%, workers 10%
R2.2.3 Increased higher education and research institutions curricula in the implementation of green innovation and circular economy projects		
initiatives through supporting Nationally	reduction strategies: a) developed, b) under implementation with EU support (EURF)	
R 2.4.1 Improved access of women in all their diversity to entrepreneurship opportunities, including social entrepreneurship, alternative livelihoods and strengthened participation in the green and circular economy	positions in enterprises in the green economy and the circular economy	Baseline: 9% of women in in managerial positions in enterprises in the green economy and the circular economy Source: Gender Perspective report in the management positions of Ecuadorian companies 2013- 2018,(2020) Target : 19%

Strategic objectives/priority area 3: Good governance

Specific objective 1: Increase the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of public administration
Specific objective 2: Decentralise public management and decision-making processes
Specific objective 3: Enhance independent work of oversight bodies to undertake effective technical evaluations or inspections of the executive and conduct performance monitoring available to the public
Specific objective 4: Increase the equal participation of women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, in decision-making processes, in all spheres and at all levels of political and public life, including online, taking on leadership roles, to enjoy and exercise their human rights and seek redress if these rights are denied.

Development Plan to reduce poverty, inequalities, and social vulnerabilities.	benefiting from EU supported	Baseline: 0 Source: PDNA 2021 Target: 5.681.185 persons
R 3.1.2 Improved government accountability		Baseline : 0, Source : EUD reporting Target: 1
	I 3. 1.2.2 Number of EU funded initiatives supporting the implementation of political economic and social reforms and joint agreements in partner countries (EURF)	Baseline: 0 Source: EU Delegation Target: 16 initiatives
R 3.2.1 Increased local government's capacity for implementing and adapting national and international good practices for decentralized management and financial practices for local decision-making	revenue retained by local governments	Baseline: 23% of GADs budget corresponds to its own tax collection over total budget transfers. Source: Ministry of Finance and Planning Secretariat. Target: increase up to 35%
	institutions, security forces or justice institutions recognize and integrate a	Baseline: 3 Source: Human Right Secretary Target: 10 institutions from law enforcement, security forces or justice institutions
	that reached independence using central government financial transfers	Baseline: 0 Source: Ministry of Finance, Secretariat of Planning, National Council of Competences, Association of Municipalities of Ecuador

		1	
		Target: 20 GADs	
	I 3.2.2 .2 Number of policies or actions contributing at increasing the number of women in decision-making positions in municipal, cantonal or provincial GADs	Baseline: 1 electoral national law Source: National Electoral Consilium Target: 24 local policies for	
		mandatory rotation between women and men at decision making position.	
R 3.3.1 Public institutions with oversight functions have adequate institutionalization, as well as prepared and actualized public officials to	I 3.3.1Number of public institutions strengthened in its oversight functions	Baseline: 0 Source: Ministry of Telecommunication	
perform its duties		Target: 3 public institutions with oversight functions	
R 3.3.2Reformed public accountability processes of national institutions, available to the public and CSOs	I 3.3.2 Number of countries supported by the EU to a) develop and/or revise, b) implement digital-related policies/strategies/laws/regulations (SDG 9 – EURF)	Baseline: 0 Source: Ministry of Telecommunication, Secretary of Planning, Association of Municipalities of Ecuador	
R 3.3.3 Increased use of new technologies for bidding processes by	I 3.3.3 Number of digital monitoring processes, service data and results on	Target: 1 Baseline: 0	
local governments and national institutions	bidding processes available to public	Source: Presidency of the Republic Target: 16 monitoring processes	
R.3.4.1 Created enabling conditions for equal participation of women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, in decision-making	I 3.4.1 Number of reforms and specific measures taken by government monitoring bodies to monitor the implementation of existing policy	Baseline: 1 national law Source: Consejo de Igualdad, Secretaría de DDHH	
	commitments on women's and girls' participation in decision-making	Target: 3 reforms to monitor the 3 human right and financial national institutions	

Annex II: MIP Ecuador – Donor Matrix

EU Action						
features/components Other actions			Priority Area 1	Prioritiy Area 2	Priority area 3	
Title	Funding entity	Duration	Budget (EUR)*			
Aumento de la Resiliencia frente al Cambio Climático a través de la Protección y el Uso Sostenible de Ecosistemas Frágiles (ProCamBío II)	GERMANY	ONGOING	9.000.000€		Climate	
Las Organizaciones Rurales y los mecanismos de producción y comercialización asociativa	GERMANY	ONGOING	1.500.000€	Sustainable trade		
Conservación y Uso Sostenible del Patrimonio Natural	GERMANY	ONGOING	10.000.000€		Climate	
Cooperación Científica	GERMANY	ONGOING	3.000.000€		Innovation and Research	
Ciudades Intermedias Sostenibles (CIS)	GERMANY	ONGOING	11.000.000€		Sustainable development	
Fondo de Innovación	GERMANY	ONGOING	1.000.000€		Innovation and Research	
Ampliación Fondo de Innovación II	GERMANY	ONGOING	2.000.000€		Innovation and Research	
Prevención de la Violencia contra las Mujeres	GERMANY	ONGOING	1.000.000€	Gender	Gender	Gender
Ampliación Prevención de la Violencia contra las Mujeres	GERMANY	ONGOING	2.000.000€	Gender	Gender	Gender
Apoyo a Zonas Fronterizas de Acogida en Colombia y Ecuador Ampliación Apoyo a Zonas Fronterizas de	GERMANY	ONGOING	3.000.000€			Migration
Acogida en Colombia y Ecuador 2019	GERMANY	ONGOING	2.000.000€			Migration
Anticorrupción, Transparencia y participación ciudadana (En planificacción)	GERMANY	ONGOING	6.000.000€			Anti corruption
Protección y manejo sostenible de los ecosistemas en Los Andes (En planificacción)	GERMANY	ONGOING	6.000.000€		Climate	
Cooperación Financiera-KfW Programa de Apoyo al Sistema Nacional de	GERMANY	ONGOING				
Áreas Protegidas-PASNAP	GERMANY	ONGOING	20.500.000€		Climate	
Fondo para el Control de Especies Invasoras de Galápagos-FEIG	GERMANY	ONGOING	2.500.000€		Climate	
Programa de Conservación de Bosques (Socio Bosque) y REDD	GERMANY	ONGOING	21.500.000€		Climate	
Programa Amazonía Norte (ex Yasuni) Conservación de Bosques (Socio Bosque)	GERMANY	ONGOING	6.500.000€		Climate	
Programa Amazonía Norte (ex Yasuni) – Gestión de áreas protegidas-SNAP (BMUB) Programa Amazonia Norte (ex Yasuni) –	GERMANY	ONGOING	5.500.000€		Climate	
Fortalecimiento al Sistema Nacional de Monitoreo BEDD-REM para Eany Movers / Ecuador –	GERMANY	ONGOING	5.500.000€		Climate	
por resultados REDD (Contrato de Aporte REDD-REM para Eany Movers / Ecuador – Pagos	GERMANY	ONGOING	11.000.000€		Climate	
Pagos por resultados REDD (Contrato de Aporte	GERMANY	ONGOING	30.800.000€		Climate	
Proyecto Galapagos "Hibrido Isabela" Frograma de Apoyo al Sistema Nacional de Areas	GERMANY	ONGOING	15.857.272€		Climate	
Areas Protegidas-PASNAP II con enfoqueen áreas Programa proteccion de la Biodiversidad en los	GERMANY	ONGOING	14.000.000€		Climate	
andes Tropicales en Ecuador-Critical Ecosystem	GERMANY	ONGOING	7.000.000€		Climate	
Programa de Agua y Cuencas de Tungurahua - PACT-FASE II	GERMANY	ONGOING	19.000.000€		Climate	
Programa Green Recovery	GERMANY	ONGOING	21.500.000€		Climate	
Programa Nacional de la Gestión de la Biodiversidad y Recursos Hídricos	GERMANY	ONGOING	12.400.000€		Climate	
Programa de Protección de la Biodiversidad en las Islas Galápagos (control de especies invasoras)	GERMANY	ONGOING	15.000.000€		Climate	
Programa de Restaruración de Paisajes Forestales (ventanilla Ecuador)	GERMANY	ONGOING	9.000.000€		Climate	
Programa de Desarrollo Urbano Sostenible (BDE- GAD Cuenca)	GERMANY	ONGOING	16.600.000 €		Sustainable development	
Fortalecimiento de la Infraestructura de la Calidad para Eficiencia Energética Eléctrica (impl. por PTB)	GERMANY	ONGOING	500.000€		Climate	
Utilización de gas asociado de petróleo en Ecuador para reducir el	GERMANY	ONGOING	1.000.000€		Energy and climate	
Áreas protegidas y otras medidas de conservación de los gobiernos locales	GERMANY	ONGOING	6.700.000€		Energy and climate	
Migración para el Desarrollo (PME II)	GERMANY	ONGOING	1.500.000€			Migration
Agenda 2030 Transformation Fund	GERMANY	ONGOING	125.000€			SDG

Cities Finance Facility- CFF		1				Decentralization
-	GERMANY	ONGOING	500.000€			Decentralization
EUROCLIMA+	GERMANY	ONGOING	500.000€		Climate	
Cooperación Regional para la Gestión Sustentable de los Recursos Mineros (MINSUS)	GERMANY	ONGOING	3.000.000€		Climate	
Concurso Cities Challenge 2030 (En planificacción)	GERMANY	ONGOING	93.000€		Climate adn ODS	
Specific agreement to improve the management of Amazonian agroforestry systems	HUNGARY	ONGOING	100.000,00 €		Responsible management of forests	
Improving water supply through construction of drinking water treatment plants		ONGOING			Improvement of drinking water supply	
Scholarship programme Stipendium Hungaricum	HUNGARY	ONGOING	205.000,00 € 2.153.000,00 €		Scholarship programme	
2021-2023 Programme for the support of the popular finance in the provinces of Carchi, Sucumbíos, El Oro and Loja.	AICS – ITALY	ONGOING	3.000.000,00 €	Support sustainable trade and investment – Financial inclusion		
Strengthening the coffee and cocoa value chain in the provinces of Carchi, Imbabura and Esmeraldas	FIEDS -	ONGOING	1.148.697,99€	Support sustainable trade and investment – value chains		
Consolidation of the livelihoods of 668 families affected by the 2016 earthquake in two rural parishes of the Portoviejo and Sucre cantons, Manabí province - Manabí Convida	FIEDS - ITALY	ONGOING	1.010.375,91 €	Support sustainable trade and investment		
The legacy of cocoa: quality, equity and cultural identity to strengthen the production chain of fine aroma national cocoa	FIEDS -			Support sustainable trade and investment		
Seal of Family Agriculture: associative and inclusive marketing in the Northern Border of Ecuador	FIEDS -	ONGOING	860.359,78 € 1.620.181,62 €	Support sustainable trade and investment		
Improvement of the productive, commercial, ecological, sociocultural and institutional processes of the fruit value chain in the provinces of Imbabura and Carchi	ITALY FIEDS -	ONGOING	1.094.232,39 €	Support sustainable trade and investment		
Reactivation of rural economies through the sustainable agriculture of coffee and cocoa production chains, with the insertion in formal markets of nine peasant business centers in 108 rural communities in the province of Sucumbios	FIEDS -	ONGOING	2.153.457,83€	Support sustainable trade and investment		
Food as an engine of transformation: promoting the comprehensive territorial development of northern Manabi through the first joint route of gastronomic tourism in Ecuador	FIEDS -	ONGOING	939.338,04 €	Support sustainable trade and investment		
Improvement of the competitiveness of the milk	ITALY FIEDS – ITALY	ONGOING	1.643.954,03€	Support sustainable trade and investment		
value chain of the Carchi province Improvement of access to health services and income generation alternatives for the Venezuelan and recipient population in the province of Esmeraldas	FIEDS - ITALY	ONGOING	840.656,88 €	Support sustainable trade and investment		
Strengthening of the comprehensive support network for the Venezuelan migrant and host population with a focus on generating skills and employment through the incubation of ventures through access to seed capital	FIEDS – ITALY	ONGOING		Support sustainable trade and investment		
Strengthening the health and family and community economy of the mobile and receiving population on the southern border of Ecuador - "Prosalud Frontera Sur	FIEDS - ITALY	ONGOING	668.408.30€	Support sustainable trade and investment		
Building resilient and inclusive communities in cities receiving migrant population in Ecuador	FIEDS – ITALY	ONGOING	556.753,36€	Support sustainable trade and investment		
Post pandemic social and economic reactivation	FIEDS – ITALY	To be defined	4.965.428,40 €	Support sustainable trade and investment		
Manabí Resiliente: consolidation of livelihoods by promoting peasant production, processing and marketing systems linked to a Community Ecotourism Corridor	FIEDS – ITALY	ONGOING	442.636,99€	Support sustainable trade and investment		
Circular economy projects, waste management	FIEDS – ITALY	To be defined		Boost innovation and green productivity –		
JUNTOS – small farmers network for the sustainable production of coffee, cocoa and quinoa in Ecuador	AICS – ITALY	ONGOING	1.800.000,00 €	Support sustainable trade and investment		
Amazon without fire (1st phase)	AICS - ITALY	ONGOING	1.303.613,00€		Boost innovation and green productivity	
Amazon without fire (2nd phase)	FIEDS – ITALY	To be defined	1.655.142,80€		Boost innovation and green productivity	
"Investment program in medical equipment,						

		1				
health infrastructure and training of healthcare professionals focusing on						Gender – Health
maternal health care strategies in Planning						Gender Ticanu
zone 6 of Ecuador", mainly financed through						
a 12-million euros soft loan.	AICS -	ONGOING	12.000.000,00€			
a 12-minor euros son loan.	ITALY					
Coop Bilateral- Programa de Desarrollo						
Económico Sostenible	SPAIN	ONGOING	5.512.912,00 €		Economic	
					development	
Coop Bilateral-Programa Hábitat	SPAIN	ONGOING	940.000,00€			
Coop Bilateral-Programa I+D+i	SPAIN	ONGOING	2,428,839,78€		Economic	
	3F AIN	ONGOING	2.428.839,786		development	
Cooperacion Financiera : Programa de					development	
Cooperación Financiera : Desarrollo						
Económico Sostenible - FONPRODE	SPAIN	ONGOING	20.671.565,72€		Economic	
		011001110	20.071.303,72 0		development	
Programa Hábitat - FONPRODE					development	
riograma nashar rioni nobe	SPAIN	ONGOING	50.087.719,30 €			
Programa Hábitat - Fondo de Agua y						
Programa Habitat - Fondo de Agua y Saneamiento	SPAIN	ONGOING	15.322.525,00€			
Programa I+D+i - Intercoonecta	SPAIN	ONGOING	90.000.00€	Digital	Digital	Digital
	0 AIN	oncomo	30.000,00 0		Digital	
Otros Sectores - Arauclima	SPAIN	ONGOING	700 440 00 0		Climate	
	SPAIN	UNGUING	720.143,00 €		Climate	
Programa de Desarrollo Económico						
Sostenible -	SPAIN	ONGOING	8.000.000,00€		Economic	
LAIF UE					development	
Programa de Igualdad e Inclusión Social -						Social inclusion
Multilateral	SPAIN	ONGOING	289.285,71€			
Programa de Igualdad e Inclusión Social -						Social inclusion
Financiacion Europea BtG	SPAIN	ONGOING	765.075,00€			boolin menusion
Programa I+D+i - Delegada UE	SPAIN	ONGOING	494.290,00€		Innovation and	
					Research	
Programa I+D+i - Multilateral	SPAIN	01000100				
č	SPAIN	ONGOING	239.800,00 €		Innovation and	
				No refoundable funds	Research	
Promover la inversión, la cultura empresarial	FRANCE	2021-23 (from	0,32€	(ODA)		
y 		JP)	-,	(ODA)		
creación de cadenas de valor			l	1	l	1