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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX VI

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan for the Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Crisis Preparedness part of the thematic programme Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention for 2023

Action Document for strengthening peace mediation practice for inclusive ceasefires and in crime-affected contexts

ANNUAL PLAN

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

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Strengthening Peace Mediation Practice for Inclusive Ceasefires and in Crime-affected Contexts OPSYS number: ACT-61706; JAD.1158009. Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)/ Overseas Association Decision/European Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation Regulation
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out globally.
4. Programming document	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for the Thematic Programme on Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Priority 2: Promote conflict prevention and conflict resolution measures, including by facilitating and building capacity in confidence-building, mediation, dialogue and reconciliation processes; Priority 3: Supporting peace processes and transitions of conflict-affected societies/ communities, including stabilisation and peacebuilding efforts.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: SDG 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies. Other significant SDGs: SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for

	sustainable development			
8 a) DAC code(s)	15220 Civilian peace-building, conflict prevention and resolution			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	21000 International non-governmental organisations (NGO)			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective
Digitalisation @		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
digital connectivity		YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/
digital governance		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
digital entrepreneurship		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
digital skills/literacy		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
digital services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
digital connectivity	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/	

	energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/
	transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	education and research			
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line: BGUE – B2023-14.020230-C1 – STABILITY AND PEACE			
	Total estimated cost: EUR 2 000 000.			
	Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 2 000 000.			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management through grants.			

1.2 Summary of the Action

Preserving peace, preventing conflict and strengthening international security are core aims of the European Union. The last decade has been a challenging environment for conflict resolution, with an increased intricacy of conflict, a multiplicity of conflict parties and conflict resolution being more complex. Fewer comprehensive peace processes and peace agreements have been signed and there has been an increased focus on achieving ceasefires and on violence reduction strategies. In line with the EU's Global Strategy and the Council conclusions on EU Peace Mediation of 7 December 2020¹, this action will strengthen peace mediation practice for inclusive ceasefires and in crime-affected contexts.

The action will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16: promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies. SDG 16 aims to “*significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere*” and “*by 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime*”. It also calls to “*strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime*”.

The action will also provide crosscutting support to the achievement of other SDG's, in particular SDG 5 to “*achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*”. The project will notably contribute to ensuring “*women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.*”

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

According to the Global Peace Index 2022², the average level of global peacefulness has deteriorated for eleven of the past 14 years and the gap between the least and the most peaceful countries continues to grow. The largest deteriorations in 2022 relative to the previous year occurred in indicators related to: political instability, political violence and terror, neighbouring country relations and refugees and internally displaced persons. These indicators

¹ Council of the European Union. 2020a. “Council Conclusions on EU Peace Mediation”. 13573/20, Brussels, 7 December 2020

² <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/GPI-2022-web.pdf>

have reached their worst levels since the inception of the index in 2008 and are likely to deteriorate further. The last decade has been a challenging environment for conflict resolution, with intra-state conflicts on the rise, a growing number of non-state actors involved and more recently a return of inter-state conflict and growing geopolitical polarisation. There have been fewer comprehensive peace processes and peace agreements and an increased focus on achieving ceasefires, on violence reduction strategies – and on continuously adapting and improving peacemaking: e.g. by integrating digital technologies, social media and the effects of climate change into the analysis and resolution of conflicts.

Peace mediation can be used to prevent, contain or resolve conflict and to reduce the risk of its recurrence. In its conclusions on EU Peace Mediation of 7 December 2020, the Council of the European Union underlined that peace mediation is part of the EU's Integrated Approach to External Conflicts and Crises. Peace mediation forms part of a politically and operationally coherent EU response based on a shared conflict analysis in the context of the EU's Global Strategy. In its conclusions the Council also stressed that continued capacity building and training as well as practical mediation guidance – including to the EU's partners – will be important to ensure the continued evolution of EU mediation practice. The Thematic Programme on Peace, Stability and Conflict prevention of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) – Global Europe specifically mentions the facilitation and building of capacity in confidence-building, mediation, dialogue and reconciliation measures, including at community level, as an area of intervention.

Ceasefires can reduce or stop fighting between conflict parties, enable humanitarian access, help protect civilians and can be an opportunity for comprehensive and inclusive peace negotiations. Ceasefires can also be used by parties to rearm, can lead to a subsequent escalation of violence or freeze a conflict rather than resolve it. Knowledge, skills and resources are required to prepare, mediate and monitor ceasefires.

Another complex topic for peace builders is conflict resolution in crime-affected contexts. The peace mediation guidelines developed by the European External Action Service in 2020³ underline the importance to consider the role of illicit business actors benefiting from the war economy and the role they potentially play in sustaining the conflict. While there has been a recognition of the destructive effects of organised crime on states and societies in fragile contexts, there is a need to better understand the linkages between crime and conflict, build an accessible body of knowledge and tailored practice interventions to strengthen peace-making in crime-affected contexts.

2.2 Problem Analysis

As outlined above, conflict resolution has become more complex. The field of peace mediation has adapted and reacted to these changes. Over the last two decades it has also gradually professionalised to become a distinguishable field of practice and expertise in the field of conflict resolution and conflict prevention. Continued capacity building, training as well as practical mediation guidance is important to ensure the continued evolution of mediation practice.

It is nevertheless important to acknowledge, that peacebuilding and particularly mediation as a intervention concept faces a number of challenges. In order to advance the chances of successful peacebuilding, mediation of ceasefires and mediation in crime affected contexts have been identified as fields where more attention, improvement and engagement is needed.

One of the main reasons for that is, that there have been fewer comprehensive peace processes and peace agreements. Partially as a result of this current landscape, ceasefires and violence reduction strategies have regained prominence. Ceasefires are less ambitious compared to full peace agreements, normally part of a broader political context and rarely stand-alone processes. Because ceasefires can also have negative consequences, the UN guidance on the mediation of ceasefires, published by the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)⁴, provides an important set of tools and approaches to strengthen agreements to support more sustainable peace processes. It is critical for mediators to avoid doing harm and identify appropriate options for the given context. Systematically inclusive mediation strategies are more likely to generate ownership and support for a

³ Peace Mediation Guidelines, European External Action Service, December 2020; [eeas_mediation_guidelines_14122020.pdf](https://eeas.europa.eu/eeas/mediation_guidelines_14122020.pdf) (europa.eu)

⁴ Guidance on mediation of ceasefires, United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs September 2022, <https://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/Ceasefire-Guidance-2022.pdf>

negotiated settlement and thus contribute to more sustainable peace. This also applies for inclusive ceasefire processes. However, there is a knowledge and experience gap on preparing, mediating, monitoring and implementing inclusive ceasefires.

Conflicts in contexts which are affected by crime pose a different challenge. The way how organised crime manifests itself – e.g. as part of intra-state conflict, in a process of state formation, as a response to exclusion, as a livelihood strategy – is highly context-specific. In situations of weak state institutions, criminal organisations can infiltrate political systems to serve their needs, accumulate political power and exploit or disrupt peacebuilding and affect development efforts. Organised crime rarely stays within the state boundaries and there is need to coordinate policies across institutions and states. The distinction between political, business and criminal actors can be blurred. Actors in organised crime may play multiple roles, may not define themselves as criminals and enjoy some legitimacy as alternative service providers. Competition between organised crime actors can be a key driver of instability and source of violence. The context may confront peacemakers with a significant number of political, reputational and security risks. At the same time, peacemakers – who can help shape political processes and transitions – have a role to play in addressing organised crime and influencing how it evolves. Peacebuilding and mediation in criminal contexts does face a dilemma situation. On the one hand it might be needed to negotiate with criminal actors for the sake of e.g. prevention of further escalation and violence reduction. On the other hand this bares the risk of enabling these actors to carry on and therefore putting additional hurdles for peacemaking and justice in the longer run. This dilemma produces ethical challenges which have not been addressed enough so far.

To navigate the complexities and before designing interventions, peacemakers need a solid understanding of the respective context, linkages and actors in crime-affected contexts. Targeted intervention may encourage multidisciplinary exchange on the topic, prevent the causes and alleviate the consequences of organised crime, incentivise disengagement from illicit activities or try to open space for negotiation. Guidance, tools and lessons learned by others can help steer the design of interventions.

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

- Mediators and mediation support actors: The Concept on EU Peace Mediation defines mediation in a broad sense that includes facilitation, dialogue and the advisory side of mediation support. Mediators enable parties in conflict to reach agreements they find satisfactory and are willing to implement. Facilitation also draws on third party assistance to support communication between conflict parties but is less directive and less aimed at shaping the substance of the negotiations than mediation. Mediation support involves activities that assist and improve mediation practices, e.g. advising of mediators and mediation teams, training and coaching activities and developing guidance on thematic and geographically specific issues. The specific goals depend on the nature of the conflict and the expectations of the parties. In order to ensure peace and stability in the long-term, mediation should aim at a process that is inclusive of peace constituencies and be cognisant of and, as appropriate, address the underlying causes of conflict, which might have not been sufficiently addressed. Mediation is usually based on a formal mandate from the parties to a conflict, and the parties retain ownership of the outcome of the talks. This action will target mediators in international and regional organisations, in national mediation structures as well as in non-governmental organisations.
- Conflict parties: Parties in conflict have their respective positions, interests and needs which determine their behaviour and engagement strategy in a conflict. Key considerations also include their resources, structures and modus operandi. Building capacity of conflict parties on relevant technical and thematic issues – particularly when done on all sides – is a useful tool to identify and discuss options.
- Crime actors: The way how organised crime manifests itself in conflict-affected settings, varies considerably. Actors in organised crime may play multiple roles, may infiltrate political systems, accumulate political power and may exploit conflict and disrupt or exploit peacebuilding. Criminal actors may not define themselves as criminal or enjoy some legitimacy amongst the population. Conflict can fuel crime and organised crime - and competition amongst organised crime actors - can be a key driver of instability and significant source of violence.
- Civil society, including women and youth groups: The EU favours all-of-society approaches to sustaining

peace that focuses on giving voice to all groups and leaving no-one behind. The EU promotes and supports multi-track mediation approaches. Civil society actors play an important role in representing those most directly affected by conflict. They play a key role in opening up space for mediation, in generating incentives for actors to stay engaged in talks, in liaising with proscribed actors and in monitoring, verifying and implementing agreements. They often inform, complement and support mediation activities by state and international actors.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to reduce violence and build peace by strengthening peace mediation practice in inclusive ceasefires and in crime-affected contexts.

The Specific Objectives of this action are to:

1. Strengthen local, national and international peace mediation actors to prepare, mediate, monitor and implement inclusive ceasefires;
2. Strengthen local, national and international actors to design and implement peace mediation interventions in crime affected contexts.

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the Specific Objective 1 are:

- 1.1 Increased knowledge on conditions, methods and monitoring of inclusive ceasefires amongst local, national and international peace mediators;
- 1.2 Increased tools, capacities and expertise for local, national and international peace mediation actors on inclusive ceasefires.

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the Specific Objective 2 are:

- 2.1 Increased knowledge, guidance and tools for peace mediation actors on the linkages between crime and conflict drivers and peace-making in contexts affected by organised crime and illicit economies;
- 2.2 Increased number of interventions addressing linkages between conflict drivers and peacemaking in contexts affected by organised crime;

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities relating to Output 1.1

- Production and dissemination of analysis and policy briefs on inclusive ceasefire mediation;
- Production and dissemination of in-depth case studies on ceasefire mediation in priority countries and contexts.

Activities related to Output 1.2

- Conduct capacity assessments of identified peace mediation practitioners on inclusive ceasefire mediation.
- Conduct training courses for selected peace mediation actors on inclusive ceasefire mediation;
- Develop e-learning on inclusive ceasefire mediation;
- Organise conferences for policy makers and peace mediation actors on inclusive ceasefire mediation;
- Provide expertise on inclusive ceasefire mediation on a case-by-case basis.

Activities relating to Output 2.1:

- Production and dissemination of context specific research and analysis on the linkages of crime and conflict;
- Development of guidance material and online tools;
- Organise multidisciplinary workshops;
- Design and implement tailored peace interventions in conflict-affected settings, impacted by organised crime and illicit economies.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

The effects of climate change are an increasingly present factor exacerbating existing pressures on natural resources and the environment. Environmental degradation, including biodiversity loss, pollution, and natural resources depletion, can be drivers of insecurity and instability in fragile contexts. EU supported mediation should therefore systematically consider climate and environmental factors and risks and conduct related conflict analysis. Mediators should continuously enhance their understanding of the interface between the effects of climate change, natural resources and peace.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girl

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, (Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment) this action is labelled as G1 (significant objective). The UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda affirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building initiatives as well as the need to systematically integrate a gender perspective in all matters related to peace and security. Increasing the participation of women in all matters related to peace and security is a priority for the EU. In December 2018, the European Council adopted the first Conclusions on Women, Peace and Security and welcomed the EU Strategic Approach to WPS. It was complemented by an Action Plan ratified in July 2019. In November 2020, a new EEAS and EC Gender Action Plan III for 2021-2025 was adopted which includes the EU policy framework on WPS. The concept on EU peace mediation underlines that EU engagement in mediation should be based on the core values of inclusion, human rights, conflict sensitivity and 'do no harm' as well as the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. Mediation strategies that systematically include women – and civil society – are more likely to generate wide national ownership and support for a negotiated settlement and thus contribute to a more sustainable peace. The action will contribute to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1888 on Women, Peace and Security, and to the improvement of gender mainstreaming in mediation at institutional and operational levels, in line with the EU Strategic Approach to Women, Peace and Security.

This will include: providing analysis with an integrated gender perspective on conflict situations; advising mediators on how to effectively implement WPS priorities and objectives in the areas of this action; share comparative examples and best practices on how to promote women's leadership and participation in negotiations and the broader political process and provide trainings and coaching on gender-responsive mediation in ceasefires and in crime-affected contexts.

Human Rights

The Concept on EU peace mediation underlines the EU's role as a value-based actor and stresses, that EU engagement in mediation should be based on the core values of inclusion, human rights, conflict sensitivity and 'do no harm' as well as the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. The UN Guidance on Effective Mediation which played a significant role in influencing the normative trajectory of EU mediation practice, equally stresses that mediators frequently have to grapple with the urgency of ending violence in contexts where there is also a clear need to address human rights violations and other international crimes. The Guidance underlines that mediators cannot endorse peace agreements that provide for amnesties for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes or gross violations of human rights, as well as sexual and gender-based violence. Projects implemented by this action will abide by this guidance.

Disability

As highlighted in the UN Security Council Resolution 2475 (2019), armed conflict has a disproportionate impact on persons with disabilities which includes abandonment, violence, and lack of access to basic services. The resolution stresses the protection and assistance needs of all affected civilian populations, and emphasises the need to consider the particular needs of persons with disabilities⁵. Also with a view to conflict prevention, special attention needs to be paid to population groups and individuals who have been made particularly vulnerable by the crisis, including, persons with disabilities. As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that project activities should aim to tackle challenges relating to disability and enhance the participation of people with disabilities when appropriate and relevant for the objectives of each project.

Reduction of inequalities

⁵ Security Council resolution 2475 (2019) [on protection of persons with disabilities in armed conflict].

The EU favours all-of-society approaches to creating and sustaining peace that focuses on giving voice to all groups and leaving no-one behind. Peace mediation which is supported through this action aims to create an environment conducive to reduction of inequalities.

Democracy

Mediators have a critical role in linking processes at different levels. Dialogue mechanisms can help to improve participatory and democratic processes that open the way for decisions and actions consistent with the needs and expectations of involved parties. This action builds on the approach to strengthen dispute resolution capacity at different levels and to foster a culture of democratic dialogue across society.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

In line with the Concept on EU Peace Mediation – which outlines conflict sensitivity as a guiding principle for EU mediation – this action will apply conflict sensitivity consistently throughout the engagement cycle. Mediation of ceasefires and in crime-affected contexts are extremely sensitive. Security of mediators may be compromised and there is a risk of doing harm if engagements are not designed and managed effectively. Ongoing risk assessment and risk management will have to be ensured. It will be implemented through a Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus approach, ensuring coordination, coherence and collaboration in order to reduce overall vulnerability of unmet needs, strengthen risk management capacities, build resilience and address root causes of conflict.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Projects to be funded in the framework of this action should take into account any risks of environmental degradation, climate change and natural disasters overall and aim to reduce those risks, especially when constituting an opportunity to strengthen state, societal or community resilience or achieving peacebuilding and security objectives.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
1, 3	High levels of insecurity and instability affecting staff, and partners, safety and implementing partners operations.	H	H	Implementing partners will regularly assess risks and will build in the necessary contingency plans as well as the necessary coping measures to ensure effective and timely implementation
2,3	Resistance from- or non-constructive intervention of- state and non-state actors, security apparatus or spoilers that may impede projects' activities.	M	H	Transparent communication strategy and honest exchanges on projects activities and objectives with difficult actors to ensure their buy-in. Establishing dialogue with, and listening to, those resistant. Mobilising political support from state actors.
1,2	Crowded mediation support field preventing implementing partners to engage	M	M	Project implementing partners to fully assess the operational context and which synergies can be built with other mediation initiatives and capacities. Putting special emphasis on being

	with relevant mediation actors and processes.			inclusive and not contributing to further fragmentation of this field of practice
3	Mediators are exposed to an increased risks as a result of their participation in the action.	M	H	Continuous conflict analysis and do-no-harm analysis as well as pro-active information and communication by implementing partners. Training, identification of risks and plans on how to mitigate those.
1,2	Women, youth and minorities face social and cultural barriers preventing them from meaningful participation.	M	H	All implementation require context-context specific and gender analysis, inclusive participatory project design and implementation. Regular review of gender-responsive methodologies
1,2	External support fails to have a positive or sustained impact on the activities of targeted stakeholders.	M	H	Engagement will be designed and delivered with a long-term approach to enable follow-up and regular engagement when appropriate with targeted stakeholders

Lessons Learnt:

Research on ceasefires has highlighted that there is no single definition of a ceasefire. What a ceasefire entails is for the parties to agree in their context. They may be preliminary or definitive and vary significantly in their scope. Ceasefires are however usually part of a broader political context. Better understanding the potential implications and objectives can help mediators to avoid doing harm and develop appropriate options for discussion. A well designed and mediated ceasefire can minimize the probability of an un-intentional return to fighting. The mediation process of supporting parties to reach a ceasefire can also be part of first trust building and concrete collaboration. Systematically inclusive mediation strategies are more likely to generate ownership and support for a negotiated settlement and thus contribute to more sustainable peace. This also applies for inclusive ceasefire processes.

It has been highlighted for many years already that there is a need for peacebuilding actors to better integrate the issue of organised crime and illicit economies into their analysis, planning and interventions. However, a knowledge gap and a gap in a multi-disciplinary community of practice on the topic remains. Mediation alone is a narrow tool when it comes to crime actors. With the exception of Latin America, relatively few peacebuilding interventions have experimented in terms of dialogue and negotiated responses in crime-affected contexts. Negotiating with criminals remains controversial from a legal and political perspective. Research on the topic has highlighted that there is an opportunity to increase synergies between disciplines, between repressive and empowering approaches, to make use of existing instruments and lessons learnt in other domains and also underlined the need for discreet and long term support, including for local initiatives.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that

IF mediation and conflict resolution capacities on inclusive ceasefire mediation and in crime affected-contexts is strengthened

THEN mediators will contribute more effectively to transform conflicts and build peace by providing the required support, accompaniment, advice and leadership

BECAUSE mediators are capable and active in preparing, mediating and monitoring ceasefires and

BECAUSE mediators understand the linkages between crime and conflict and the risks for peacebuilding in contexts affected by organised crime and implement targeted interventions.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

Results	Results chain (a): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (a): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	Reduce violence and build peace by strengthening peace mediation practice in inclusive ceasefires and in crime-affected contexts.	<p>1 The intervention contributes to a multilateral approach to conflict prevention, peacebuilding and stabilisation in the given context of the action (not at all, limited degree, medium, significant, fully)</p> <p>2 The intervention minimised risks and maximised positive outcomes on peace and security (Y/N)</p> <p>3 Number of persons directly benefiting from the intervention (M/W/B/G)</p> <p>4 The project scores 'High' or 'Medium' on the conflict-sensitivity index? (Y/N)</p>	To be defined	To be defined	Qualitative assessments; World Bank Political Stability and/or Absence of Violence Index and Global Peace Index scores; Heidelberg Institute for Conflict Research Conflict Barometer	<i>Not applicable</i>

<p>Outcome 1</p>	<p>Strengthen local, national and international peace mediation actors to prepare, mediate, monitor and implement inclusive ceasefires.</p>	<p>1.1 Number of reports/joint press releases made by one party to the conflict or the other, stating agreement and/or support for other party's proposal</p> <p>1.2 A gender perspective was mainstreamed throughout the implementation of the intervention. (not at all, limited degree, medium, significant , fully)</p> <p>1.3 The intervention envisages information sharing and coordination with (other) multilateral institutions. (Y/N)</p> <p>1.4 Number of trained or supported entities acting to prevent conflict and build peace (M/W)</p> <p>1.5 Number of civil society organisations engaging in the formal or informal peace architecture</p>	<p>To be defined</p>	<p>To be defined</p>	<p>Final report(s)</p>	
<p>Outcome 2</p>	<p>Strengthen local, national and international actors to design and implement peace mediation interventions in crime-affected contexts.</p>	<p>2.1 The intervention was implemented using a conflict sensitive – do no harm approach. (not at all, limited degree, medium, significant , fully)</p>	<p>To be defined</p>	<p>To be defined</p>	<p>Final report(s)</p>	
<p>Output 1 relating to Outcome 1</p>	<p>Increased knowledge on conditions, methods and monitoring of inclusive ceasefires amongst local, national and international peace mediators.</p>	<p>1.1.1 Number of knowledge-based products developed</p> <p>1.1.2 Number of meetings with national, regional and international bodies.</p>	<p>To be defined</p>	<p>To be defined</p>	<p>Final report(s)</p>	

<p>Output 2 relating to Outcome 1</p>	<p>Increased tools, capacities and expertise for local, national and international peace mediation actors on inclusive ceasefires.</p>	<p>1.2.1 Number of people trained on reconciliation/mediation/conflict management/ conflict transformation/stabilisation (M/W)</p> <p>1.2.2 Number of learning tools on reconciliation/mediation/conflict management/ conflict transformation/stabilisation developed</p> <p>1.2.3 Number of gender-sensitive conflict and resilience analyses undertaken to underpin responses to conflict/crises situations</p> <p>1.2.4 Number of women's organizations engaging in the formal or informal peace architecture</p>	<p>To be defined</p>	<p>To be defined</p>	<p>Final report(s)</p>	
<p>Output 1 relating to Outcome 2</p>	<p>Increased knowledge, guidance and tools for peace mediation actors on the linkages between crime-conflict and crime-peace-making.</p>	<p>2.1.1 Number of knowledge-based products developed</p> <p>2.1.2 Number of meetings with national, regional and international bodies</p> <p>2.1.3 Number of multi-stakeholder platforms created to promote peace at national and provincial levels</p>	<p>To be defined</p>	<p>To be defined</p>	<p>Final report(s)</p>	
<p>Output 2 relating to Outcome 2</p>	<p>Increased number of interventions addressing linkages between crime-conflict-crime and peace-making.</p>	<p>2.2.1 Number of multi-stakeholder platforms created to promote peace at national and provincial levels</p> <p>2.2.2 Number of gender-sensitive conflict and resilience analyses undertaken to underpin responses to conflict/crises situations</p> <p>2.2.3 Number of advocacy initiatives targeting policy makers</p>	<p>To be defined</p>	<p>To be defined</p>	<p>Final report(s)</p>	

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with a partner country regional organisation/territory.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

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

4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures.⁶

4.3.1 Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The grants will contribute to achieving specific objectives in section 3.1.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

The type of applicants targeted for these direct awards are non-governmental and not for profit organisations.

(c) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to non-governmental and not for profit organisations selected using the following criteria respectively: specific expertise on peace mediation in the domain of inclusive ceasefire mediation; capacity and credibility to foster collaborations with local, national and international actors on inclusive ceasefire mediation; expertise on linkages between criminal actors and peacebuilding combined with long-standing field presence to implement targeted interventions in priority countries.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because the objective pursued under this action requires specific specialisation and expertise in peacebuilding and a good knowledge of and experience working on inclusive ceasefires and in crime-affected contexts, as per article 195, paragraph f) of the Financial Regulation.

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

In case the selection of implementing partners as per the criteria and conditions set out above might not prove successful, changes from direct to indirect management mode will provide the possibility to identify other types of applicants according to the same criteria. Respectively, the following will be used as identification criteria to identify partners for either direct or indirect management: specific expertise on peace mediation in the domain of inclusive ceasefire mediation; expertise on linkages between criminal actors and peacebuilding

⁶ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

combined with field presence to implement targeted interventions in priority countries.

4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

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

4.5. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Specific Objective 1 – Inclusive ceasefires	1 500 000
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	
Specific Objective 2 – Mediation in crime-affected contexts	500 000
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	
Grants – total envelope under section 4.3.1	2 000 000
Totals	2 000 000

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The action is managed by the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) as contracting authority, in collaboration with the European External Action Service (EEAS) and relevant EU Delegations. In order to promote synergies with other actions, other relevant Commission services will be regularly updated.

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

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

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

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

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

Data collection, analysis and monitoring will be the responsibility of, and carried out by, each project's

implementing partner(s) and will be financed under the regular budget of each project. In the case of multi-country projects, implementing partners will be requested to present how monitoring and data collection will be operated. Baseline studies may be required.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, an evaluation will not be carried out for this action or its components.

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

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 30 days in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

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

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

5.3 Audit and Verifications

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

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

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

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

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

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

The intervention level for the present Action identifies as

Action level (i.e. Budget Support, blending)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Group of actions level (i.e. top-up cases, different phases of a single programme)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	
Contract level		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	
	(...)	
Group of contracts level (i.e. series of programme estimates, cases in which an Action includes for example four contracts and two of them, a technical assistance contract and a contribution agreement, aim at the same objectives and complement each other)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of contracts 1	