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ANNEX III

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2022 for the Conflict prevention, peacebuilding and crisis preparedness part of the Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention Thematic Programme

Action Document for the Inclusivity in peace and security

ANNUAL MEASURE

This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and action plans in the sense of Article 23 of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1. SYNOPSIS

1.1. Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Inclusivity in peace and security OPSYS number: ACT-60776 ; JAD.965351 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) – Global Europe
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out globally
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 1: Continuing to enhance capabilities relating to analytical tools, methodologies, and mechanisms to better detect early signs of conflicts, monitor conflict and design appropriate responses; 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: 16 Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies Other significant SDG: 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, 10 reducing inequality within and among countries
8 a) DAC code(s)	15220 - Civilian peace building, conflict prevention and resolution
8 b) Main Delivery Channel @	13000 – Third Country Government (Delegated co-operation) 21000 – International NGO 41000 – United Nations agency, fund or commission (UN)

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 girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input 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	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @ Tags: digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship job creation digital skills/literacy digital services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity @ Tags: transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	(methodology for tagging under development)			
	Reduction of Inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line: BGUE – B2022-14.020230-C1 – STABILITY AND PEACE Total estimated cost: EUR 11 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 11 000 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management through: - Grants Indirect management with the entities to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.2.			

1.2. Summary of the Action

Addressing gender equality, as well as inequality, discrimination and exclusion more broadly, is essential to preventing conflict and in peacebuilding. Studies have shown that exclusion and gender inequality are aggravating risk factors in conflict and instability, increasing the likelihood of prolonged violence and/or a return to violence when and if peace processes are exclusive and gender-blind. Gender inequality, notably women's security, is also a key predictor of conflict and instability. In recent years, there has been an alarming surge in gender-based violence (GBV) and in targeted violence against women, because of their engagement in peace and security processes. This poses a threat to women's full, equal and meaningful participation in conflict prevention and in all stages of peace processes.

The first objective of the Action is therefore to both accelerate achievements in the domain of gender equality and to provide an in-depth focus on youth, the elderly and other groups' inclusive participation for more effective conflict prevention and peacebuilding processes and initiatives. If well understood and addressed in specific contexts, gender, age and diversity can help address systemic discrimination and root causes of exclusion and support populations in conflict-related settings more effectively. This is also to apply the "do no harm" principles, avoiding adverse impacts and ensuring that no one is left behind. A second focus is given to protection of specific groups. The Action document will focus on GBV in conflict settings in particular. Addressing GBV is an integral aspect of the overall Women, Peace and Security agenda, as it gives attention to the incidence and prevalence of violence against women in conflict and post-conflict settings. GBV affects the health and safety of women, and also has significant impact on economic and social stability. The focus would be put on mechanisms to address the needs of victims of SGBV. The COVID-19 pandemic has put an additional burden on the protection of civilians affected by conflicts.

To achieve this, the Action will focus on four inter-linked priority areas:

- (a) Gender responsive and inclusive community-based early warning systems
- (b) Enhanced inclusive peacebuilding processes
- (c) Strengthening inclusive processes and responses to preventing/countering violent extremism
- (d) Preventing gender-based violence, children's rights violations and supporting their elimination in conflict and post-conflict contexts

2. RATIONALEContext

There is a broad recognition in the international community that women and youth play a crucial role in peace and security. The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda has grown in importance in the past 20 years since UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) was adopted on 31 October 2000. **UNSCR 1325 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.** For the EU, based on the EU Strategic Approach to WPS, its Action Plan identifies objectives as already defined in UNSCR 1325, under

the key priority areas of prevention, protection, relief and recovery, and the three overarching and cross-cutting principles of participation, gender mainstreaming and leading by example. All these objectives are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

The WPS agenda calls on countries to address the impacts that conflict has on women and girls around the globe but also to systematically include women in peacebuilding efforts, including peace talks, peace-keeping and post-conflict reconstruction efforts. Over the last two decades, UNSCR 1325 has been complemented by a further nine resolutions on women, peace and security, in order to provide more detailed guidance on specific aspects of war and its impact on women, addressing such issues as sexual and gender-based violence, human trafficking and the gendered aspects of peacekeeping efforts.

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 ever *Conclusions on Women, Peace and Security*¹ and welcomed the EU Strategic Approach to WPS. It was complemented by an *Action Plan ratified in July 2019*². In November 2020, a new EEAS and EC *Gender Action Plan III for 2021-2025*³ was adopted which includes the EU policy framework on WPS. It is based on three core principles: (1) taking a gender-transformative approach, (2) addressing intersectionality, and (3) following a rights-based approach.

In parallel, the consideration and inclusion of other groups such as children, youth, the elderly, the rights of LGBTI, and people with disabilities have all come to light and are also policy priorities in the field of conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The role and concerns of these groups in peace and security merits attention. Inclusivity means that no one is left behind or excluded due to differences, whatever they may be.

The Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda has gained significant traction in recent years. In the Council Conclusions on “Youth in external action”, the Council recognises the important and positive contribution of young people in efforts to maintain and promote peace and security. The UN has adopted two Security Council Resolutions 2250 (2015) on participation, protection, prevention, partnerships as well as disengagement & reintegration and 2419 (2018) on the positive role young people can play in negotiating and implementing peace agreements and conflict prevention. In line with these resolutions, the Council stresses the need to actively engage youth – without any discrimination – in efforts to build lasting peace, to contribute to justice and reconciliation and to counter violent extremism. Engaging active and systematic involvement of youth in peacebuilding is a democratic and a demographic imperative, taking into account that the younger generation (10-24 years old) account for 1,8 billion people, and are often the majority in countries affected by war.

Child protection as well as Children and Armed Conflicts⁴ are highly relevant policy areas for conflict prevention and peacebuilding in particular where protection is concerned. The protection of children and prevention of grave violations, the safeguarding of their rights and the reintegration of children associated to armed groups and armed forces are crucial to breaking the cycle of violence that is ravaging some of the most fragile regions in the world. As such, the Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) and child protection agendas need to be addressed with urgency, working with a focus on prevention and addressing the whole conflict cycle in which children can be agents for peace. Children and young people are particularly vulnerable and suffer greatly from conflicts. The effects of children’s rights violations in conflict last for generations. It is important to strengthen child protection systems and ensure that children whose rights have been violated receive adequate care, reparations and reintegration.

As in the WPS agenda, a positive narrative is needed to enhance the role of youth as change makers and essential partners in peace and security as well as in achieving Sustainable Development Goals in general. It is increasingly recognised that active youth engagement promotes social reconciliation and can counter violent extremism. More specifically, including children and youth’s interests in peace agreements can be further enhanced. Since 1999, several peace agreements have specifically referred to children in the post-violence arrangements for disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration. Children are recognised as victims and perpetrators of violence in several truth-and-reconciliation commissions, but children have played little role in these systems.

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/37412/st15086-en18.pdf>

² <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-11031-2019-INIT/en/pdf>

³ https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/join-2020-17-final_en.pdf

⁴ [UNSC resolution 1612 \(2005\)](#)

A recent report from Human Rights Watch (HRW)⁵ sheds light on the increased risk elderly people face in conflict situations in various regions of the world. HRW research from 2013 to 2021 in 15 countries found that older people can experience the same abuses during armed conflict and other large-scale violence as younger people and in some circumstances face heightened risk related to their older age. Displaced older people have also faced barriers to registering for and obtaining humanitarian assistance. While older people are protected by international humanitarian law and international human rights law during armed conflict, in practice their needs and protections are often disregarded by the parties to the conflict. With “entrenched ageist attitudes” already undermining the autonomy of elder persons in making their own choices and decisions, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought into sharp focus further violence, abuse and neglect against them⁶. Because of the heightened risk they may face, older people must not be left behind and require special attention, including in peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

LGBTI and peacebuilding is a rather unexamined gap in peacebuilding efforts. It concerns the unique experiences of LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex) individuals and their collective efforts to achieve social justice in contexts of socio-political violence. One example where it has been practiced is the Colombian peace agreement, with its inclusion of LGBTI actors in the peace-making discussions, signalling for the first time that a gender-inclusive deal has mainstreamed LGBTI voices.

Despite increased attention to WPS and inclusivity in peacebuilding, studies continue to show that exclusion, discrimination and gender inequality are aggravating risk factors in conflict and instability, increasing the likelihood of prolonged violence and/or a return to violence when and if peace processes are exclusive and gender-blind. Gender inequality, notably women’s security, is also a key predictor of conflict and instability. A recent study found that 79% of armed conflict situations for which there is data on gender equality took place in contexts with medium, high or very high levels of gender-based discrimination⁷. It has also been widely recognised that **peace, security and stability are more likely to be sustained if and when the processes inclusive and gender-responsive.**

Addressing gender equality, as well as inequality and exclusion more broadly, is essential for a more conducive and enabling environment for conflict prevention and peacebuilding. There is, in addition, a broad agreement on the need for an intersectional lens to examine how systems of power linked to, inter alia, gender, race, age, social background and religion co-exist and interact with each other in these contexts.

As stated in the 2021 Secretary-General’s report on WPS⁸, in 2020, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on both international peace and security and on gender equality was already devastating and projected to worsen. By the end of 2021, the forecasts were largely proven right. There has been an alarming surge in gender-based violence (GBV). Combined with restrictions to essential services, such violence compounded existing risks for women and girls⁹. Targeted violence against women, because of their engagement in peace and security processes, is at an unprecedented level, posing a threat to the shared goal of ensuring women’s full, equal and meaningful participation in all stages of peace processes¹⁰ and to conflict prevention and peace processes themselves. The pandemic has highlighted even more why preventing all forms of GBV against women requires ensuring the autonomy of those who are targeted, the full scope of their human rights, as well as the importance of seeing them as agents of change for peace. Leveraging women’s leadership in developing solutions to crises, rather than only seeking to protect them from violence is therefore crucial. It requires the protection and promotion of human rights and efforts to address inequality and exclusion in conflict situations as well as throughout conflict prevention and peacebuilding processes, be they formal or informal.

The Action is fully in line with the EU objectives on WPS, which should be achieved by, inter alia, integrating a gender perspective and ensuring women’s participation and leadership in all peace and security related contexts. It will also contribute to the action areas as defined in the EU Action Plan on WPS and reiterated in the GAP III¹¹,

⁵ [Abuses Against Older People in Armed Conflict | HRW](#)

⁶ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/06/1093962>

⁷ <https://www.womenpeacesecurity.org/roadmap-2020/>

⁸ S/2021/827 (https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2021_827.pdf)

⁹ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/04/1061012>

¹⁰ S/2022/22 (https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2022_22.pdf)

¹¹ GAP III was supported by 24 Member States as highlighted in the Presidency Conclusions. Via the support and conduct of capacity-building and mentoring on women’s leadership, for women negotiators and mediators, to improve their effectiveness and

The Action is also in line with the *EU's Policy Framework on Youth, Peace and Security*, including the June 2020 *Council Conclusions on 'Youth in external action'* and the *EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027* (December 2018). It will also integrate, when possible and relevant, the new Youth Action plan currently under development and due to be published in the second quarter of 2022.

On LGBTI, the action takes account of the EU LGBTI equality strategy that includes an international dimension to advancing and protecting the rights of LGBTI persons¹².

Finally, the Action also responds to the *EU's Communication on supporting the prevention of radicalisation leading to violent extremism* (2016), which sets out an ambitious agenda aiming to assist third countries through support to law enforcement and human rights compliant responses and to step up engagement in preventive action, tackling the root causes of certain forms of radicalisation that can lead to violent extremism.

2.2. Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis:

Challenges in implementing the WPS and YPS agendas and ensuring gender equality and inclusivity in peacebuilding and in conflict and post-conflict contexts persist. The Action will focus on four inter-linked priorities:

- (a) Gender responsive and inclusive early warning systems at community level
- (b) Enhanced inclusive peacebuilding processes
- (c) Strengthening inclusive processes and responses to preventing/countering violent extremism
- (d) Preventing gender-based violence, children's rights violations and supporting their elimination in conflict and post-conflict contexts

(a) Gender responsive and inclusive early warning systems at community level

Evidence suggests that women's security is a consistent predictor of both international violence and internal conflict. Indeed, gender inequality increases the likelihood that a state will have internal conflict and gender equality is associated with lower levels of armed conflict within a state. As such, addressing gender inequality could lead to more stable societies. Violation of human rights and of women's human rights in particular must be recognised as an early warning sign and a root cause of conflict. Gender-responsive early warning systems at community level can help to identify more adequately the factors and indicators that frequently correlate with violent conflict, including inequality and gender-based violence. It can also help to better design early responses, taking into consideration the specificities of a given context and the particular vulnerabilities of certain members of the community to a given risk. The approach needs to include both, the integration of indicators which drive gender norms as an integral part of early warning systems and the effective participation of women, as decision-makers and leaders, in the early warning systems themselves.

(b) Enhanced inclusive peacebuilding processes

There need to be opportunities for those who, despite having a claim to peace processes, are often excluded from them, including women, the elderly, indigenous peoples, sexual and gender minorities and youth.

The tendency to disproportionately portray women as victims perpetuates inaccurate assumptions about their contributions to war, security and peace. Women are not solely passive victims, they are often powerful agents. Their portrayal as victims is problematic and ignores the significant role women have played in conflict and post-conflict, and the shift in gender norms and roles that often occurs. It also undermines their future potential as key participants in peacebuilding processes. *"The post-conflict period has often meant a backlash against women's agency, frequently intertwined with nationalist, conservative ideas that are dependent on control over women's bodies and honour, resulting in their confinement to the domestic sphere."*¹³ Women are diverse and can be leading and participating in

the quality of their participation in peace processes; the promotion and support to inclusive policies/activities across the whole WPS agenda with full and equitable participation, also by men and boys; the promotion and provision of medical, psycho-social, legal and safety support to all victims/survivors of conflict-related sexual and/or gender-based violence.

¹² COM(2020) 698 final

¹³ Ibid.

activities that are both positive and negative to peace and security. It is important to avoid stereotypes and to analyse each situation free from biases.

Because they often constitute a majority population in conflict settings, youth's actual contribution and further potential should be valued, recognised and supported as a key to shaping lasting peace and contributing to justice and reconciliation and economic prosperity.

Efforts to end war and violence are more and more diverse and increasingly move away from the formal and linear models of peace talks¹⁴. In some contexts, women, youth, persons with disabilities, the elderly and other groups can temporarily gain freedom, responsibility and respect, as conflicts produce new political, social and economic opportunities, allowing them to assume less traditional gender roles. These opportunities can serve to open additional spaces for inclusive peace processes and to push back on established gender and age hierarchies and notions of patriarchy that are often perceived as the 'norm'. The Action will therefore address, on the one hand, the need to protect women, minority groups and youth more effectively and, on the other, to strengthen their capacities and empower them through economic and legal support to fully assume their important role in peacebuilding processes. It will also tackle traditional norms through advocacy and awareness-raising at local, national and international levels.

(c) Strengthening inclusive processes and responses to preventing/countering violent extremism

Terrorism and violent extremism have become global peace and security threats with complex local, national and international inter-linkages. Violent extremism is putting countries and societies at risk of conflict, notably by reinforcing divisions amongst social groups, by undermining the social contract between citizens and the state, and by marginalising the forces of positive and constructive change. There are strong gender and age dynamics underpinning radicalisation and violent extremism, from propaganda to the use of gender-based violence to the roles that men and women play as supporters, mobilisers and fighters. The use of digital technologies and social media can also exacerbate terrorist threats and attacks, and disinformation and hate speech can trigger and/or amplify tensions, violence and conflict. New technologies also offer the potential to contribute to preventing and countering violent extremism and should therefore be taken into account.

In some contexts, youth are seen as victims or/and perpetrators, with little or no data about the push and pull factors of young people's recruitment into extremist groups, with a dominant perspective on male youth. Some recent research points towards poverty, hunger, unemployment, lack of education and skills, and the manipulation of religion and ethnicity as drivers for youth violence. With regards to gender, UN-led investigations have uncovered a wide range of violations, ranging from violations of women's fundamental rights to health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, education, and engagement in public life, to rape, forced marriage, abductions and sexual slavery. Overall, violent extremism contributes to undoing generations of progress on gender quality and women's rights and emphasises stereotypes of gender norms which are conducive to abuses and violence.

(d) Preventing gender-based violence, children's rights violations and supporting their elimination in conflict and post-conflict contexts

Conflict and instability tend to exacerbate pre-existing patterns of discrimination and violence against women and girls, exposing them to increased risks of gender-based crimes and human rights violations. Sexual violence against women and girls is also widespread in conflict and frequent in war. Research has shown that, in many post-conflict contexts, there is an increase of sexual and gender-based violence once an armed conflict is stabilised¹⁵. This has been termed by feminist scholars as the 'continuum of violence', which refers to the fact that women often experience gendered forms of violence in their everyday lives, both before, during and after the end of a conflict. Gender-based violence undermines, impairs, nullifies and deprives victims of the exercise of their full human rights. There is therefore a need to protect women from all forms of gender-based violence through diverse peacebuilding processes that actively promote the inclusion of women in conflict resolution and prevention as well as through the enforcement of judicial systems to prevent a culture of impunity and, concurrently, there is a need to ensure effective and holistic support, including access to justice, and reparation to victims and survivors of sexual violence. Such redress for victims and survivors not only alleviates the harm suffered and restores dignity, it also contributes to the ability of survivors and victims to reintegrate into society and paves the way to ensuring a more protective environment for all. Violence including sexual and gender-based violence are key factors hampering women's participation in the prevention and resolution of conflict as well as in long-term peacebuilding.

¹⁴ Buchanan, C. (2021), *Gender-inclusive Peacemaking*, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, p.11 (https://www.hdcentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/MPS9_Gender-inclusive-peacemaking.pdf)

¹⁵ Wilén, N. (2022), *After War – The Backlash Against Women*, Egmont Institute, (<https://www.egmontinstitute.be/after-war-the-backlash-against-women/>)

Moreover, the protection of children in armed conflict remains a central concern to the EU. In accordance with the Strategy on the Rights of the Child, the EU is committed to intensify the efforts needed to prevent and end grave violations against children affected by armed conflict, including with advocacy activities promoting compliance with International Humanitarian Law and international human rights law. The protection of children and prevention of grave violations, the safeguarding of their rights and the reintegration of children associated to armed groups and armed forces are crucial to break the cycle of violence that is ravaging some of the most fragile regions in the world. To prevent and address this type of violence remain a critical enabling factor for women's participation.

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

- **At the local level: Conflict-affected communities, authorities and civil society actors**, including activists, human and women's rights defenders, peacebuilders, and community, traditional and religious leaders and decisions-makers, as well as **victims and survivors** of sexual and gender-based violence, women and civil society organisations. The aim is to ensure that persons with a range of backgrounds and identities can rightfully and safely claim and play a role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding and that the specific challenges hindering their access to these roles are adequately addressed. In this sense, "women" and "youth" are not treated as a homogenous group, the diversity of civil society actors needs to be ensured. Their role in the design, implementation and monitoring of the Action should be prioritised. Ensuring full and meaningful participation of diverse civil society organisations and representatives requires timely, systematic, transparent, inclusive, and substantive consultation in formal and informal processes in order to ensure that any action addresses clearly identified gaps and delivers real change to communities affected by conflict.
- **At national and international levels: International and national civil society organisations, UN agencies and international cooperation agencies** as direct beneficiaries of EU funding. Their role is to manage the implementation of the projects to be funded within the framework of this action. They have a thematic expertise in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and crisis response, with a particular focus on gender equality, inclusion and diversity. They have established partnerships with relevant local actors and stakeholders and are able to advocate for changes internationally.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective of this action is to both accelerate achievements in the domain of gender and to provide an in-depth focus on youth and inclusive participation for more effective conflict prevention and peacebuilding processes and initiatives.

The Specific Objectives of the action are:

1. To ensure that community-level conflict **early warning systems** are gender responsive and inclusive.
2. To address the needs and challenges hindering a **meaningful and effective inclusive participation in peacebuilding processes**.
3. To strengthen inclusive processes and responses to **prevent/counter violent extremism (P/CVE)** in conflict affected contexts (for example, within the Swahili Coast context).
4. To **prevent and support the elimination of gender-based violence** in conflict and post-conflict contexts.

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (Outcomes) are:

- 1.1. Indicators on gender norms and age which drive conflict are integrated as part of early warning systems.
- 1.2. Women play an active role in community-based conflict early warning systems.
- 2.1. Women, youth, the elderly and other minority groups' participation in peacebuilding processes is ensured.
- 2.2. Women are empowered to fully and safely play their role and participate in peacebuilding processes.
- 3.1. Enhanced participation of youth through support to their empowerment and leadership skills.
- 3.2. Increased gender and age equality and women's participation through support to women's and girls' empowerment and resilience.

- 4.1 Holistic support and reparation to victims and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as children's rights violations in conflict is enhanced.
- 4.2 Advocacy programmes for the elimination of sexual and gender-based violence as well as children's rights violations in conflict and post-conflict contexts are strengthened.

3.2. Indicative Activities

Activities related to Output 1.1:

- In partnership with local actors, identify gender-responsive and gender-blind community-based early warning systems and gather knowledge, good practices, and challenges which can be shared across the systems.
- Monitor and report threats against activists, peacebuilders, journalists, human and women's rights defenders, social leaders, with a focus on women and youth, as a measure for conflict and instability.
- Develop tools and establish indicators on gender norms and age that can be integrated in early warning systems.
- Integrate indicators on gender norms and age in selected early warning systems, in close partnership with local actors.

Activities related to Output 1.2:

- Organise dialogues and meetings to raise awareness as well as exchange experiences and good practices of community-based early warning systems with relevant actors.
- Strengthen the capacities of women and girls to enable them to meaningfully contribute to early warning systems.

Activities related to Output 2.1:

- Undertake research and data gathering on the roles of women, youth, the elderly and other minority groups in formal and informal peace processes, including challenges and good practices.
- Strengthen the capacities of women, youth, the elderly and other minority group peacebuilders, including mediators and negotiators.
- Provide economic and legal support to women, youth, the elderly and other minority groups enabling them to participate in peacebuilding processes.
- Advocate for strengthened acceptance and inclusion of women in peacebuilding processes.

Activities related to Output 2.2:

- Identify risks, and protect and assist women activists and peacebuilders at risk.
- Raise awareness on the importance of the role of women activists and leaders in peacebuilding processes.

Activities related to Output 3.1:

- Support initiatives to improve access of youth to quality demand-driven professional training and skills development to enhance employability and positive agency.
- Provide training to youth (including leaders and influencers, and female youth) on conflict management and negotiation.
- Protect and assist victims and survivors of conflict and individuals at risk.
- Promote alternative narratives, including through the use of social media and digital technologies, that are gender responsive or specific to prevent youth radicalisation and increase youth's participation in decision-making and peace-related processes, while avoiding stereotyping youth.

Activities related to Output 3.2:

- Provide access to vulnerable and marginalised women and adolescent girls to economic empowerment, education, literacy and skill-development initiatives.
- Provide multi-sectoral, integrated, confidential, quality and gender-sensitive services.
- Advise and promote women's organisations in gender-responsive P/CVE.

Activities related to Output 4.1:

- Provide targeted financial and technical support to relevant stakeholders in conflict affected countries to enable them to develop and implement holistic support (including medical, psychological, social, economic, personal safety and security and judicial assistance) and reparations programmes.
- Promote survivor-centric approaches and responses designed with survivor networks ensuring access to appropriate; accessible and good quality services.

Activities related to Output 4.2:

- Mobilise, connect and support survivors and/or networks/organisations in advocating for an end to gender-based violence as well as to violations against children in conflict.
- Undertake advocacy campaigns at local, national and international levels.

3.3. Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Environmental issues such as access to, and management of, natural resources are critical drivers of conflicts, especially when aggravated by the effects of climate change. Implementing partners will ensure that their respective projects' design and the implementation of activities take these issues into account and address them when relevant.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1., this action is labelled G2. This means that gender equality should be the main objective for the projects to be funded under this Action. Gender equality is fundamental in the design and expected results.

Human Rights

Projects to be funded under this Action should aim to uphold human rights principles and a human rights-based approach. The Action explicitly supports rights holders with a particular focus on conflict-affected, marginalised and/or disempowered individuals and communities, in particular victims of gender-based violence. The Action will also ensure intersectional approaches by representing the diversity of women and men, girls and boys, including from various minorities, indigenous peoples and rural/urban areas.

Disability

As per the OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled D0. This implies that, while persons with disabilities are not necessarily the main target group, project activities should aim to address challenges relating to disability and enhance the participation of people with disabilities when appropriate and relevant for each project.

Democracy

Projects to be funded under this Action should uphold fundamental democratic principles such as transparent and accountable governance, participation and fair representation, balance of power and the respect for human rights.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

In line with the NDICI regulation, projects to be funded under this Action should be based on a conflict sensitive approach, through a solid understanding of local conflict dynamics, do no harm approach, by avoiding and mitigating unintended negative impacts and maximising opportunities to make positive contributions to build peace and resilience.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Issues related to natural disaster will be taken into consideration by implementing partners in their activities and analyses, upon relevance and risks levels

3.4. Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
1	The security and/or sanitary situation deteriorates, making it more difficult to conduct activities and to work with international staff in the targeted countries.	M	M	Implementing partners will have a robust and conflict sensitive security and risk management systems in place, will work with local staff and / or local partners who can ensure delivery of activities and will have the capacity to manage remotely if necessary.
3	Unwillingness of authorities and other stakeholders to engage in envisaged activities hampers their effective implementation	L	M	Activities will be tailored to each context in order to ensure they respond to actual needs and are grounded in local realities. Choice of implementing partners will be made to ensure they already have

				established contacts and connections to ensure effective ownership.
1,3	Projects stakeholders, including civil society actors, are victims of threats to their work and safety. Certain activities are instrumentalised to infringe on the human rights situation in countries, notably freedom of expression and association.	M	H	Stakeholders involved in the design and implementation of activities will jointly develop the appropriate risk analysis and management frameworks to anticipate and respond to security threats. In-depth analyses of the risks are undertaken before the beginning of a project to ensure that measures, if needed, are well established and funding is adequately allocated. Implementing partners will carefully monitor the impact of their activities to ensure they do no harm and do not have unintended negative impacts. Additional protection measures will be included as appropriate. Regular context monitoring will also ensure that implementing partners stay alert to changes in the contexts of intervention and can take effective preventive mitigation measures.

Lessons Learnt:

The design of the Action draws lessons from the implementation of GAP II as well as peacebuilding, conflict prevention and conflict response actions under the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), under other funding sources such as the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, and the broader gender, age and diversity initiatives in conflict and post-conflict zones. These lessons learned include:

- Ensuring the **interlinkage between participation and protection**. Attacks against women and youth who are active in peacebuilding, because of their gender and age, have a detrimental effect on the peacebuilding processes themselves and of the ability of women and youth to realise their rights. Normalising the participation of women, youth and other groups who have a stake in peacebuilding and conflict prevention but who are often ignored and/or overlooked, elevating the importance of their roles and ensuring they are effectively protected to play these roles, are critical to opening spaces for participation.
- *“Peacemaking often starts with a male dominated group of conflict parties and mediators, with a promise of ‘bringing women in later’. However, the relationship between gender inequalities and armed violence is increasingly clear, as is evidence that incrementalism is not an effective method to secure gender inclusion.”* A transformative agenda therefore requires **facilitating and ensuring that women and youth are included as early as possible** and throughout all peacebuilding and conflict preventions processes. Indeed, the GAP II evaluation highlighted the need for future efforts to prioritise measures that will allow early actions, not ‘corrective measures’.¹⁶
- Meaningful participation includes shifting and shaping what is discussed, normalising women and youth’s presence in male-dominated spaces; boosting the confidence and knowledge of women and youth; and strengthening connections between women and youth across identities and roles.
- Ensuring inclusivity and gender-response peacebuilding and crisis response processes and initiatives is not only important in and of itself, it also offers unique **opportunities to address inequities and injustices of the past, while setting new precedents for the future**.
- **Addressing social norms** to ensure inclusivity, including preventing sexual and gender-based violence, including sexual harassment, **particularly on toxic or harmful masculinities and gender stereotypes appears as an area in which efforts could be strengthened**. Toxic masculinities are particularly relevant in the context of domestic violence but as well, in the context of peace and security, and in countering and preventing violent extremism and terrorism. Further work on ‘positive masculinities’ by broadening the

¹⁶ Smail. T et al (2020), Evaluation of the EU’s external action support to gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment (2010-2018), Volume I, (https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/gender-evaluation-2020-final-report-volume-2_en.pdf), p. 96

stereotypical image of masculinity would thus contribute to deconstructing gender stereotypes and removing gender inequalities in social structures.¹⁷

- Ensuring inclusivity depends on high levels of capacity and expertise of the local implementers, meaningful inclusion of youth participants, and the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders, particularly non-youth community leaders. It is essential to **ensure the conditions necessary for youth to design, implement, and monitor their own projects**.
- It is critical to ensure that excluded groups are not treated as homogenous and explicitly recognise that they are representatives of a range of backgrounds and identities. **Intersectionality of gender with other forms of discrimination must therefore be addressed**. There should be a focus on the most disadvantaged women, for instance indigenous peoples and persons belonging to racial/ethnic/religious minorities, forcibly displaced, migrant, economically and socially deprived women, those living in rural and coastal areas. Specific challenges for girls and of elderly women should be considered. Women with disabilities, also protected by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities¹⁸, are particularly disadvantaged. The rights of women with disabilities should be at the core of the future strategy on the rights of persons with disabilities for the coming years (2021-2030). In the same spirit, advancing the rights of LGBTI persons is the focus of the EU LGBTI equality strategy, to be read in conjunction with GAP III. All intersecting dimensions are equally relevant.
- The **support to and participation of national and local civil society actors is essential** to ensure that the actions are anchored in the local context, that they effectively and meaningfully respond to the needs of local communities, as well as to ensure their sustainability. The challenges and restrictions facing civil society organisations in several regions of the world, including shrinking spaces for civil society, need to be taken into account early on to ensure that they are in a position to carry out the actions.

3.5. The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that:

If peace, security and stability are to be sustained, achievements in the domain of gender and inclusive participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding should be accelerated. This implies that:

- Gender and inclusivity are adequately integrated and mainstreamed throughout peacebuilding and conflict prevention initiatives and in the processes and responses to prevent/counter violent extremism; and
- Youth, the elderly, women and minority groups are effectively protected, including from GBV, and have the capacities enabling them to fully claim and play their role in peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

3.6. Logical Framework Matrix

¹⁷ Smail, T et al (2020), *Evaluation of the EU's external action support to gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment (2010-2018), Volume II (Evaluation of the EU's external action support in the area of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment (2010-2018) | International Partnerships (europa.eu)*

¹⁸ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/ConventionRightsPersonsWithDisabilities.aspx>

Results	Results chain (): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To both accelerate achievements in the domain of gender equality and to provide an in-depth focus on youth, the elderly and other groups' inclusive participation for more effective conflict prevention and peacebuilding processes and initiatives.	<p>Number of local and national women and youth leaders, activists, human rights defenders and peacemakers supported, disaggregated by sex, age and ethnicity.</p> <p>Number of peacebuilding and conflict preventions initiatives which effectively integrate gender-responsive and inclusive approaches.</p> <p>Number and details of institutionalised as well as ad hoc EU-led and/or supported consultations with civil society organisations, including women's organisations, women activists, regarding implementation of the (i) strategic approach as well as (ii) WPS policies in partner countries.¹⁹</p>	To be defined at project level	To be defined at project level	To be defined at project level	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	To ensure that community-level conflict early warning systems at community level are gender responsive and inclusive.	<p>Extent to which indicators on gender and age norms and GBV are effectively integrated in community-based conflict early warning systems.</p> <p>Extent to which women's organisations are involved in the design and implementation of early warning, early action and response to crisis, disasters and conflicts</p> <p>Number of women integrated in early warning systems at decision-making positions, disaggregated by age and ethnicity</p>	To be defined at project level	To be defined at project level	To be defined at project level	
Outcome 2	To address the needs and challenges hindering the meaningful and effective participation of women, youth, the elderly and other minority groups in peacebuilding processes.	Level of change in perceptions and attitudes to the increased participation of women, youth, the elderly and other minority groups in peacebuilding processes.	To be defined at project level	To be defined at project level	To be defined at project level	

¹⁹ GAP III indicator

Outcome 3	To strengthen inclusive processes and responses to prevent/counter violent extremism in conflict affected contexts (for example, within the Swahili Coast).	Number of youth and women participating in decision-making and peace related processes in contexts prone to violent extremism. Number of non-state actors representatives at national and community level active in preventing and countering Violent Extremism and/or hate speech with support of the EU-funded intervention (disaggregated by sex)	To be defined at project level	To be defined at project level	To be defined at project level	
Outcome 4	To prevent and support the elimination of gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict contexts.	Number of persons affected by conflict-related violence informed about their rights and assisted to access justice mechanisms disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity and location. Number of EU-supported activities aiming at strengthening the institutional social support and safety systems available for survivors of SGBV and addressing protection of rights and justice responses to SGBV in conflict and post-conflict situations affecting women, girls, men and boys. ²⁰	To be defined at project level	To be defined at project level	To be defined at project level	
Output 1 related to Outcome 1	Indicators on gender and age norms which drive conflict are integrated as part of early warning systems.	Number of conflict early warning systems which integrate gender norms and GBV.	To be defined at project level	To be defined at project level	To be defined at project level	
Output 2 related to Outcome 1	Women play an active role in community-based conflict early warning systems.	Extent of changes in perception and attitudes to women's participation in early warning systems. Number of women trained and able to play an effective role in early warning systems.	To be defined at project level	To be defined at project level	To be defined at project level	
Output 1 related to Outcome 2	Women, youth, the elderly and other minority groups' participation in peacebuilding processes is ensured.	Extent to which relevant stakeholders include women, youth, the elderly and other minority groups in peacebuilding processes. Number of women, youth, the elderly and other minority groups trained and able to effectively participate in peacebuilding processes, disaggregated by age, location and ethnicity	To be defined at project level	To be defined at project level	To be defined at project level	

Output 2 related Outcome 2	to Women are empowered to fully and safely play their role and participate in peacebuilding processes.	Number of local and national initiatives established or strengthened to protect women activists, leaders, human rights defenders and peacebuilders. Extent to which women feel protected and safe in their work as peacebuilders.	To be defined at project level	To be defined at project level	To be defined at project level	
Output 1 related Outcome 3	to Enhanced participation of youth through support to their empowerment and leadership skills.	Number of youth accessing leadership roles, disaggregated by sex Number of youth who feel protected from enrolment into extremist groups, disaggregated by sex. Number of youth participating in trainings on conflict prevention and negotiation, disaggregated by sex.	To be defined at project level	To be defined at project level	To be defined at project level	
Output 2 related Outcome 3	to Increased gender equality and women's participation through support to women's and girls' empowerment and resilience.	Employment rates, disaggregated by sex and age. Number of women's organisations active in the area of PVE. Number of girls accessing education, literacy and skills development initiatives.	To be defined at project level	To be defined at project level	To be defined at project level	
Output 1 related Outcome 4	to Holistic support and reparation to victims and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence as well as children's rights violations in conflict is enhanced.	Number of victims' and survivors' organisations supported. Number of victims benefitting from grants disaggregated by se, age, location and ethnicity	To be defined at project level	To be defined at project level	To be defined at project level	
Output 2 related Outcome 4	to Advocacy programmes for the elimination of sexual and gender-based violence as well as children's rights violations in conflict and post-conflict contexts are strengthened.	Number of national and international events which amplify the voices of victims and survivors. Number of advocacy initiatives promoting the elimination of gender-based violence and children's rights violations.	To be defined at project level	To be defined at project level	To be defined at project level	

4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS Financing Agreement

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

4.2. Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 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 measures²¹.

4.3.1. Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

Grants will contribute to achieving specific objectives 1, 2 and-4.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

The type of applicants targeted for these direct awards are non-governmental organisations 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 international non-governmental and not for profit organisations selected using the following criteria: expertise on gender equality, inclusion and diversity, mediation and longstanding experience working on peace processes; experience and operational capacity to work in the countries of intervention; experience and track record of engaging women, youth, the elderly and minority groups on conflict issues; capacity and credibility to foster collaborations with activists, human rights defenders, peacemakers, and community, traditional and religious leaders and decisions-makers, as well as victims and survivors of gender-based violence at country and global level.

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

4.3.2. Indirect Management with Pillar Assessed Entity

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with a pillar assessed entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: experience working in conflict prevention and peacebuilding with a focus on gender and diversity; experience working with a broad range of actors, notably women and youth organisations, peacebuilders, activists and human rights defenders, and international NGOs and local civil society organisations, and state bodies; operational capacity in the countries of interventions; capacity to engage on

²¹ 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.

these topics at the global policy level. All activities under outcome 3 and outputs 3.1 and 3.2 will be implemented in indirect management.

4.3.3. 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 indirect to direct management mode, and vice versa, will provide the possibility to identify other types of applicants according to the same criteria. Specific expertise on peace and security, conflict prevention and peacebuilding and inclusive approaches in the domain will be used as identification criteria to identify partners for either direct or indirect management.

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, 2 and 4 composed of	
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	7 000 000
Specific Objective 3 composed of	
Indirect management – cf. section 4.3.2	4 000 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2	will be covered by another Decision
Audit – cf. section 5.3	
Contingencies	0
Total	11 000 000

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. Relevant other services will be regularly updated in order to ensure synergies at the EU level. Implementing partners will establish and implement the necessary management and coordination mechanisms that will ensure regular information exchange within the respective projects funded under this action.

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.

5. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT 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:

The selected implementing partners will be responsible to collect, analyse and monitor data based on a monitoring and evaluation plan developed prior to the start of the implementation of activities. The monitoring and implementation plan will include a baseline assessment of performance indicators. Indicator values will be measured on a country-by-country and on an aggregated basis.

5.2. Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a final evaluation will not be carried out for this action or its components. In case an evaluation is not planned, 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 shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination²². The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

The financing of the evaluation shall 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. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

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

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.

It should be noted that targeted awareness-raising and information sharing activities necessary to achieve specific programme/project objectives by engaging with specific audiences identified by the action remain possible.

²² See best [practice of evaluation dissemination](#)

APPENDIX 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

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

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

Option 1: Action level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Option 2: Group of actions level		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSYS#):
Option 3: Contract level		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 3	
	(...)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of contracts 1	