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ANNEX

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan for EU foreign policy needs on support to COP27, TAIEX and strategic foresight for 2022

Action Document for EU foreign policy needs on support to COP27, TAIEX and strategic foresight

ANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and action plan 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	Support to COP27, TAIEX and strategic foresight OPSYS number: ACT-61246; JAD.1012307 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (<u>NDICI-Global Europe</u>)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	This action shall be carried out globally, in particular in high-income countries and Egypt
4. Programming document	NA
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	NA
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Multisector
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: SDG 17 – Partnerships to achieve the goal Other significant SDGs: SDG 13 – Climate action
8 a) DAC code(s)	43010 - Multisector aid
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	61000 - Private sector in provider country 41114 – United Nations Development Programme
9. Involvement of multilateral partners	Yes – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

10. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
11. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @ digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity @ transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" 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				
13. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14 02 03 30 Total estimated cost: EUR 9 500 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 9 500 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
14. Type of financing	Direct management through: - Procurement Indirect management with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)			

1.2 Summary of the Action

This action aims to enable the EU to address short and medium-term foreign policy needs and opportunities by supporting innovative policies/initiatives and by deepening EU relations and dialogues, forging alliances and partnerships, in the fields of climate diplomacy, public administration policies and institutional development, technical assistance and information exchange. This action will also contribute to reinforcing EU foreign policy priorities by supporting the development of a hub for strategic foresight and analysis.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

Priority 'Support to COP27': The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt (GoE) will serve as the host of the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). COP27 will take place from 7 to 18 November, 2022 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. The EU proposes to support Egypt in this endeavour in order to ensure a successful COP 27 with enhanced mitigation ambition for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and build upon the momentum created in the Glasgow Climate Pact.

Priority 'TAIEX-FPI': Technical assistance and information exchange (TAIEX) supports EU's policy objectives, by promoting exchanges between public administrations and thus facilitating adoption of EU legislation, norms, standards and best practice in partner countries. The instrument helps in the legal harmonisation process and administrative capacity building. It can strengthen existing policy dialogues and help in creating new ones. It can support the implementation of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreements, Association Agreements and Agendas or other existing and future agreements and jointly agreed action plans with strategic partners. By doing so it can help to ensure early action to address EU foreign policy needs and priorities in particular in high-income countries and territories.

TAIEX support is delivered through short and medium term assistance with the participation of experts primarily from the EU Member States public administrations, ensuring the exchange of knowledge, practices and ideas at peer-to-peer level. In exceptional cases, officials of EU institutions, agencies or international organisations can also be engaged; and, when required, and specific expertise is not available from Member States public institutions, it can be mobilised from the private sector. In specific circumstances, when expertise from beneficiaries is of particular significance to other partner countries and it provides an added value, public experts from partner countries can take part in the activities to provide expertise in the approximation to EU legislation, standards and practices. This participation comes as an effective complement to the knowledge provided by the EU Member

States' experts, which remains the core of the activities of TAIEX, while developing a multi-stakeholder approach enriching the instrument with other forms of peer learning.

Priority 'Strategic foresight hub': Foresight aims to support policymakers in making better-informed decisions, having considered future eventualities, scenarios and outcomes, revealing and challenging potentially flawed assumptions built into current policies and plans. This all enables a better understanding of and preparedness for the EU's evolving geo-political priorities in an increasingly contested global space, as so graphically demonstrated by the current situation on our Eastern borders. The action would reinforce EU's foresight capabilities thanks to the creation of a strategic foresight hub.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Priority 'Support to COP27': As the COP27 President, Egypt will bring together nearly 200 country parties to advance the international negotiations on climate change. Throughout 2022, the GoE will convene key constituencies, including G77/China, African Group of Negotiators (AGN), Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), Least Developed Countries, Umbrella Group, and the European Union, as well as non-state actors to build momentum for a successful, inclusive, and transparent process. Preparing for the COP requires mobilising a significant network of the highest level climate change experts and organisations in order to ensure the quality of inputs into negotiations among both national and international stakeholders on a wide variety of areas of climate change challenges. The EU proposes to support Egypt in this endeavour in order to ensure a successful COP 27 with enhanced mitigation ambition for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and build upon the momentum created in the Glasgow Climate Pact.

Priority 'TAIEX-FPI': In light of various global challenges in different policy areas (climate change, cybersecurity, trade, space, etc.), ongoing conflicts and crisis situations that require joint preventive and corrective actions, the EU needs to have a number of tools available to act fast and flexibly. TAIEX can help in promoting a proactive and visible role of the EU at global scale. The instrument allows the EU to push forward its legislations, norms and standards in the partner country or to align the country's agenda to its own and, therefore, promote the EU's interests abroad. TAIEX can serve as a forum for exchanges of knowledge with partners to coordinate on regulatory frameworks that could benefit all the engaged sides.

Priority 'Strategic foresight hub': In line with EU priorities, this action will contribute to support EU foreign policy priorities and allow taking advantage of opportunities, as defined by the High Representative / Vice President, by supporting the development of EEAS foresight and analysis focusing on: multilateralism, battle of narratives, peace/security/defence, disinformation and terrorism. Similarly, the hub could facilitate the promotion of EU interests and values as well as the push for EU offensive interests worldwide, but mainly in G20 countries and strategic partners, among others.

The hub will be a flexible instrument that can be applied immediately to the issue at hand with a view to strengthen EEAS' foresight capability, its ability to act on it and find synergies with other EU institutions and entities.

Identification of main stakeholders:

Priority 'Support to COP27': Egypt's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and other ministries, National Climate Change Council, other national and international stakeholders.

Priority 'TAIEX-FPI': National, regional and local public administrations of partner countries, primarily high income countries and territories, and of EU Member States, EU services and Delegations.

Priority 'Strategic foresight hub': EEAS, Commission line DGs and Services, EU bodies and other stakeholders that might need support in strategic foresight driven policymaking.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **Overall Objective** (Impact) of this action is to enable the EU to address short and medium-term foreign policy needs and opportunities by supporting innovative policies/initiatives and by deepening EU relations and dialogues, forging alliances and partnerships, in the fields of climate diplomacy, public administration policies and institutional development, technical assistance and information exchange. This action will also contribute to reinforcing EU foreign policy priorities by supporting the development of a hub for strategic foresight and analysis.

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

1. Contribute to ensuring the achievement of critical outcomes, renewed commitments and scaled-up ambition for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.
2. Facilitate the implementation of EU bilateral Cooperation Agreements or similar agreements, with a focus on regulatory convergence in partner countries, primarily in high income countries and territories¹, to share with the partner countries experience, know-how and information on EU policies and legislation in the widest sense and to support the partner country in fulfilling their commitments under the Agreements and contributing to their institution building.
3. Contribute to support EU foreign policy priorities and allow taking advantage of opportunities, as defined by the HR/VP, by supporting the development of EEAS foresight and analysis focusing on: multilateralism, battle of narratives, peace/security/defence, disinformation and terrorism; facilitate the promotion of EU interests and values as well as the push for EU offensive interests worldwide, but mainly in G20 countries and strategic partners, among others.

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

1.1 contributing to **Outcome 1** (or Specific Objective 1): Enhanced technical capacity of the Egyptian COP Presidency in preparation for and conducting of COP27.

2.1 contributing to **Outcome 2** (or Specific Objective 2): Exchange of best practices and know-how between the EU and partner countries, primarily in high income countries and territories, through the provision of short and medium term technical assistance delivered mainly by experts from the EU Member States public administrations; Enhanced partner countries' understanding of the EU legislation, policies, values, principles and good practices; Improved regulatory convergence and legislative approximation towards EU standards in partner countries; Recognition of EU as the global player and enhanced formal and informal exchanges between European and partner countries' civil servants.

3.1 contributing to **Outcome 3** (or Specific Objective 3): Creation of a Hub for strategic foresight, which would take the form of a pool of professionals coming from academia and/or think-tanks with proven expertise in relevant geopolitical topics for the EU and the capability to carry out significant analysis on short notice.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Indicative activities related to **Output 1.1**: Technical assistance to coordinate COP27 activities (including consultations for all regional groupings/thematic groupings/non-state actors constituencies, active participation of civil society organisations, etc); operational support and logistical coordination deployed for COP27 period; exchange of best practices in mitigation, adaptation, and climate finance from all developing countries, including the African and Arab regions, in support of Egypt's COP27 priorities; tracking of 1.5 global initiatives on climate change; communication activities.

Indicative activities related to **Output 2.1**: Technical assistance is delivered through expert missions, study visits,

¹ Close coordination with DG INTPA will be ensured in case of activities to be organised in a country/territory which is not classified as high income.

workshops or short background research and assessments (work from home). Events can take place at national and regional level. Assistance can be delivered in online, hybrid or in-person format. Activities are organized at the request of beneficiaries to provide a tailor-made assistance; or at the initiative of the European Commission, the European External Action Service and EU Delegations to support strategic EU policy objectives.²

Indicative activities related to **Output 3.1**: Drafting of research papers / analysis in response to specific requests; engagement with think-tanks, academia.

3.3 Mainstreaming

This action mainstreams the following cross-cutting issues: Multilateralism (building alliances) contributing to a global order based on international law, EU principles and values (democracy, rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for human dignity, the principles of equality, including gender equality, and solidarity).

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
Political developments that negatively affect EU relations with some partner countries.	Risk 1	Medium	High	Careful monitoring of the political agenda, continuous engagement with main stakeholders and diversification of interlocutors/partners, constant identification of less sensitive topics of mutual interest that could be explored.
Project activities disrupted and/or delayed due to COVID-19 or other global events	Risk 2	High	Low	Online format for activities / engagements. In case of TAIEX, the flexibility of the instrument allows to postpone events as well as to propose alternative activities to be organised prior to physical events.
Limited interest in partner countries / lack of capacities of actors to engage in the project	Risk 3	Low	Medium	Continuous dialogue, regular outreach activities and feedback mechanisms between engaged stakeholders and implementing partner to ensure usefulness of outputs produced
Success of the COP impeded by the inadequacy of resources dedicated to its preparation by the	Risk 4	Low	Medium	The objective of this project is precisely to counter this risk and ensure the smooth running of the COP from a practical perspective but also in terms of high level of ambition of the final outcome.

² TAIEX-FPI activities involve EU Member States public experts and potentially relevant public experts from partner countries, experts from international organisations and EU Member States' private sector experts if deemed necessary: they receive the same financial compensation for their participation to TAIEX activities.

Government of Egypt				
Conflicting agendas among different member states and stakeholder groups prevent consensus being reached at the COP	Risk 5	Low	Medium	The negotiations and meetings held prior to the COP, which this project will deliver/support, will be essential in paving the way for consensus.

Lessons Learnt:

Priority ‘Support to COP27’: Lessons learnt from the hosting of previous COPs will be brought to bear through the experience of UNDP, as well the COP team in DG CLIMA, and the active coordination with EU Member States. Lessons will also be drawn from Egypt’s hosting of previous international events e.g. COP on biodiversity in December 2019 and other regional events.

Priority ‘TAIEX-FPI’: TAIEX was initially created for candidate countries (1996) but has progressively been extended to reach beneficiary countries all over the world. One of its main assets is its flexibility, tailoring services according to needs, requirements and constraints, and speed to mobilise expertise at relatively short notice.

Since 2015 the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments has been supporting the access to TAIEX worldwide. Throughout the years, the participants’ satisfaction level on the implemented events has remained high. The COVID-19 pandemic has helped expand the TAIEX activities to online and hybrid format, securing the continuous interest of partner countries and strengthening the flexibility of the instrument.

In order to continue securing the relevance of the instrument, it is important to continue expanding the expert pool.

Regular outreach and awareness raising on TAIEX-FPI are necessary considering the turnovers in the public administrations as well as the EU services. At the same time, the participation in certain circumstances of experts from partner countries will provide a new multi-stakeholder approach to TAIEX activities, while expertise from EU Member States remains the core of the assistance. Triangulation of experts will complement and enrich regional peer learning among partners who face similar challenges and processes.

Priority ‘Strategic foresight hub’: The implementation of the Asia-Pacific Research and Advice Network (APRAN) project (October 2016 – July 2020) has shown that advisory projects for the EU on complex issues and regions can be useful and support informed policy making. Such projects can help to position the EEAS as a leading player and actor towards Member states with the help of a well-chosen set of activities (such as studies, informal briefings on study results etc.). In addition, during the project implementation the focus of APRAN research shifted from standby research to on-demand research in form of APRAN products - this enabled a more flexible use of products. The “strategic foresight hub” project will therefore built on these lessons learnt.

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 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 72 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.

4.1.1 Direct Management (Procurement)

The procurement will contribute to achieving specific objectives 2 and 3 in section 3.1.

In regards to the specific objective 2, the implementation of ‘TAIEX-FPI’ will be delegated by the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) to the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) Headquarters. The services will be provided through the contract “EuropeAid/140471/DH/SER/MULTI Assistance for the implementation of TAIEX activities: provision of logistical services and financial management tasks”. The selected service provider has to further procure all goods and services needed for events according to the relevant procedures laid down for external aid of the Commission (PRAG: <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prag/>).

4.1.2 Indirect Management with an international organisation

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This implementation entails matters related to the preparations of the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) to the UNFCCC. The UNDP has been selected using the following criteria: UNDP in its’ support role to the UNFCCC is charged with ensuring the smooth running and successful outcome of the COP27 and brings its experience in this role to this project from previous COPs. It has already begun supporting the government of Egypt in the preparation of the COP. It is thus the natural partner to deliver this project.

Exception to the non-retroactivity of costs:

The Commission authorises that the costs incurred may be recognised as eligible as of 5.4.2022 because UNDP has already started supporting the government of Egypt and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in particular, in preparations for the COP27.

4.2 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.1	
Indirect management with international organisation - cf. section 4.1.2, composed of:	5 000 000
- Priority “Support to COP27”	5 000 000
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.1.1, composed of	4 500 000
- Priority “TAIEX-FPI”	500 000
- Priority “Strategic foresight hub”	4 000 000

Total	9 500 000
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4.3 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The action shall be implemented under direct and indirect management. A strong policy steering and monitoring of the action will be ensured by the EEAS and FPI in coordination with other relevant Commission services. The EU delegations in the region will also ensure direct contacts with the implementing partners and monitoring of the activities.

Dedicated steering committees may be established to act as advisory and reporting mechanism in order to provide the strategic and policy guidance needed to ensure smooth project implementation. Steering committees will define the priority work streams to be addressed. Steering committees will review and endorse annual work plans, monitor project outputs and achievements and not least provide advice on how to address obstacles and challenges identified during implementation. Steering Committees, whose composition will be further detailed in the legal commitments, will comprise representatives of the European Commission, the EEAS and relevant EU Delegations.

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 actions.

In the case of TAIEX, the European Commission is the contracting authority and the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) is in charge of TAIEX – and responsible for both the analysis and assessment of requests and for the content of TAIEX short and medium-term assistance, including the identification of experts from EU Member States’ public administrations and other institutions willing to engage in this type of peer to peer assistance.

In the case of TAIEX-FPI, DG NEAR closely cooperates with FPI in the promotion and implementation of TAIEX in partner countries, in particular high income countries. FPI supports the process and quality of application. Both services co-operate closely to ensure that TAIEX-FPI operates in line with their respective policies and priorities.

Requests for TAIEX actions can be generated by public administrations in partner countries, EU services including line DGs, agencies, EEAS and EU Delegations and/or international organisations. Incoming requests are reviewed and decided upon following consultation with relevant European Commission services and EEAS, including EU Delegations, in order to ensure complementarity with national programmes and other technical assistance instruments, to avoid overlapping assistance and to safeguard that TAIEX measures are in line with the EU and partner country’s priorities³.

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).

³ For more information, visit https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/funding-and-technical-assistance/taix_en.

In relation to TAIEX, monitoring is understood as a permanently ongoing process by way of receiving direct feedback from participants and experts. The collection of data and analysis is carried out by the European Commission. To this effect, the necessary technical arrangements are set in place to collect and aggregate data from participants of the beneficiary entities and the experts of the EU Member States as described above. Overall, TAIEX aims at supporting the following markers: Participation development/good governance; Trade Development; Connectivity; Reduction of Inequalities. The rest of the targets and markers mentioned above are not critical for reporting on TAIEX considering the nature of the instrument.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, a final evaluation may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision).

The Commission shall inform the implementing partners/contractors at least 3 months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partners/contractors 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 dissemination⁴. 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.

Having regard to the nature of the TAIEX instrument, an evaluation will not be carried out for this action or its components by the Commission. However, the European Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of a partner. The evaluations should be carried out following the guidelines of DG NEAR on linking planning/programming, monitoring and evaluation. The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country 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, 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. When appropriate, 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 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.

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.

⁴ 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.

The present Action identifies as:

Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	Objective “Support to COP27”
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Group of Contracts	Objective “TAIEX-FPI”
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 3	Objective “Strategic foresight hub”