

Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Programme 2021-2027

Multi-Annual Action Plan 2025 (AAP 2025) – Overview

1. Political outlook and intervention strategy

1.1 Political context

In recent years Sub-Saharan Africa has been facing rising political instability, marked by recent democratic backsliding and a series of coups or attempted coups. The region is increasingly affected by violent extremism and terrorist activities, with conflicts in the Sahel spreading toward coastal countries. This rise in extremism is driven by political and economic marginalization, difficulties in transitioning to democracy, and governments' failures in governance and accountability. The region also suffers from weak institutions and low trust between citizens and governments. The region faces a critical year with 18 national elections in 2024.

Rebounding from a severe economic contraction in 2020 and after turbulent years, Sub-Saharan Africa's economic situation appears finally on the mend¹. Public debt ratios have broadly stabilized, and some capital flows are making a tentative comeback. The overall regional outlook is gradually improving, growth will rise from 3.4 percent in 2023 to 3.8 percent in 2024, with nearly two thirds of countries anticipating higher growth. Economic recovery is expected to continue beyond this year, with growth projected to reach 4.0 percent in 2025. In parallel, median inflation has almost halved from nearly 10 percent in November 2022 to about 6 percent in February 2024. However, the funding squeeze continues, and the region's governments continue to grapple with financing shortages, high borrowing costs, and rollover risks amid persistently low domestic resource mobilization. Significant debt repayments are looming this year and next. The funding squeeze partly reflects a reduction in the region's traditional funding sources, particularly Official Development Assistance. Gross external financing needs for low-income countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are estimated to exceed \$70 billion annually (6 percent of GDP) over the next four years. As concessional sources have become scarcer, governments are seeking alternative financing options, which are typically associated with higher charges, less transparency, and shorter maturities. The cost of borrowing - both domestic and external - has increased and continues to be elevated for many. In 2023, government interest payments took up 12 percent of its revenues (excluding grants) for the median Sub-Saharan African country, more than doubling from a decade ago. The private sector has also started to feel the pinch from higher interest rates. The region continues to be more vulnerable to global shocks, particularly from weaker external demand and elevated geopolitical risks.

Similarly, climate shocks are becoming more frequent and widespread, including droughts of unparalleled severity. Climate change is still an erratic catalyst that has a big effect on economies that rely on agriculture. Environmental degradation and threats to biodiversity further compound these challenges. The Horn of Africa continues to be threatened by droughts that are made worse by climate change, endangering both food security and economic stability. Opportunities to address these

¹ Source: IMF Regional Economic Outlook Sub-Saharan Africa, April 2024

challenges and promote the green transition can be found in many country development plans and commitments and align with EU priorities in the Global Gateway.

On 28 November 2022, African Union (AU) and European Union (EU) Commissioners reviewed their strategic partnership, focusing on the implementation of commitments from the 6th EU-AU Summit in February 2022. They expressed deep concern over global food and energy security challenges, exacerbated by ongoing conflicts and tensions, and discussed urgent issues facing both continents. The Commissions launched a EUR 750 million program to support infrastructure investments in transport, digitalization, and energy connectivity in Africa. Key priorities included increasing African autonomy in medicine and vaccine production, supporting food security, launching the Team Europe Initiatives in Africa at COP 27 and later at COP 28. In Peace, Security, and Governance, they highlighted the unique partnership between the EU and AU, emphasizing commitments to AU and Africa-led peace support operations and election observation and assistance.

1.2 Intervention strategy

In this context, the Multi-Annual Action Plan 2025-2027 (MAAP 2025-2027) for Sub-Saharan Africa addresses multiple challenges faced by the region, aligns with the priorities of African leaders, and supports the implementation of the African Union's Agenda 2063. The proposed MAAP 2025-2027 represents a comprehensive package consisting of 21 Actions with an EU contribution of EUR 688.8 M. In addition, three top-ups (MPRR, Flexible Mechanism and Investments) are proposed with an EU contribution of EUR 770 M. This comprehensive package supports all main priorities of the Global Gateway (GG) in Africa as well as the joint EU-AU priorities on Peace and Security and Migration, facilitating progress towards a comprehensive set of objectives.

The MAAP 2025-2027² mobilizes funds from all priority areas of the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA regional MIP), including (i) Human Development; (ii) Governance, Peace and Security, Culture; (iii) Green Transition; (iv) Digital and Science, Technology, and Innovation; (v) Sustainable Growth and Decent Jobs; (vi) Migration and Forced Displacement; and Support Measures. It aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the main components of the UN's 2030 agenda.

In particular, the MAAP 2025-2027 makes a substantial contribution (6 actions, EUR 147 M) to accelerating the Green Transition priority of the GG in Africa and its flagship projects. In light of Africa's vulnerability to climate change, the proposed package will support the **TEI on Transboundary Water Management (TEI TWM)** in Africa, and the EU's support to Africa's **Great Green Wall (GGW)** flagship. It will support clean cooking initiatives in Southern Africa and in Eastern and Central Africa (Actions 9 and 10). It will enhance food safety and food security (Action 11). Additionally, it will target Transboundary water resources management in the Lake Chad Basin, in Southern Africa and in the basins of the Senegal River and the Senegalese-Mauritanian aquifer (Actions 12, 13, 14, part of TEI TWM).

² The funding of actions from the 2025 budget onwards is conditional to the completion of the procedure to adopt the relevant decision on the Mid-Term Review of the NDICI-Global Europe programming.

Two actions (EUR 80M) contribute to the **Science, Technology and Innovation** priority of the GG, which aim at enhancing the Partnership on Space, Earth Observation and related services (Action 15). It will also contribute to the successful African Research Initiative for Scientific Excellence Programme ‘ARISE-02’ (Action 16).

The **Accelerating Sustainable growth and decent jobs** priority of the GG in Africa is supported with two Actions (EUR 70 M) which contribute to the **TEI on Africa Economic Integration and Trade towards the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)** and will enhance enablers to Sustainable Trade and Investment in Africa (Action 17); lastly, it will support Responsible Business Conduct (Action 18).

Within the **Health package** of the GG in Africa the action on Social Protection (Action 1- EUR 10M) aims to strengthen national social protection systems in Sub-Saharan Africa by leveraging regional cooperation contributing to the **TEI on Social Protection – Africa and the TEI on Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience**.

The ‘Study in Africa’ Action under the **Education and Skills** priority of the GG (Action 2 - EUR 60 M) is part of the **Youth Mobility for Africa Flagship** initiative which aims to support learning mobility opportunities and collaboration in higher education and skills development within Africa and between Africa and the EU, promoting Africa as a study destination.

The MAAP 2025-2027 will also support further areas which contribute to create an enabling environment for GG investments to be effective and which are high on the political agenda, such as **Peace, Security and Democratic Governance** (5 actions, EUR 115.5 M) and **Migration** (2 actions, EUR 135 M). The proposed actions will address multiple challenges in Africa in the democracy, peace, and security context, such as conflict prevention, management, and resolution, tackling violent conflicts, fighting violent extremism, terrorism, and transnational organized crime and will provide protection and durables solutions for targeted forced displacement situations. Action 4, Ending violence against women and girls, will complement the **TEI on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Africa**. The Migration support includes additional funds for already adopted actions in 2022: a top up of (EUR 70 M) to Migrant Protection, Return and Reintegration Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa and a second top up (EUR 100 M) to the action of Flexible Mechanism for Migration and Forced Displacement. The proposed package on Migration contributes to the **TEI Migration Central Mediterranean Route** and the **TEI Migration Atlantic and Western Mediterranean Route**.

Enabling context of the GG is supported by the ProCultura II action (Action 8 - EUR 10M), which seeks to increase employability, employment opportunities and income generation in the cultural sector of the PALOP-TL countries.

The MAAP includes **Support Measures** (Actions 21) to provide institutional capacity-building to the organs of the African Union, support to the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States and technical assistance support.

Finally, in order to promote regional integration between the EU outermost regions and relevant countries in Sub Saharan Africa and to foster synergies between the actions funded by NDICI and INTERREG programmes, the SSA MIP will directly contribute to the Madeira, Azores, Canary Islands (MAC) and Indian Ocean INTERREG programmes, for an overall amount of EUR 15 M (Annex III).

2. [Annexes](#)

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Priority Area 1: Human Development

Action 1: Social Protection Systems Strengthening – Planned amount EUR 10 M

a. Summary

This action aims to strengthen national social protection systems in Sub-Saharan Africa by leveraging regional cooperation. It aligns with the EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package and addresses key dimensions of the strategy, such as the opportunities of the green and digital transition, decent job creation, and health system strengthening. It supports the implementation of the AU Protocol on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security. It further contributes to the overall objective of the TEI on Social Protection in Sub-Saharan Africa that aims to support regional and national social protection policies and systems through enhanced regional coordination through ongoing programmes (Belgium EUR 42M, Germany EUR 540M, France EUR 160M, Ireland EUR 109M, and the EU EUR 268M³). The proposed regional action of EUR 10M is required to ensure a cohesive approach, leveraging TE efforts and ensuring the TEI is implemented in a unified and coherent manner.

Social Protection as a fundamental human right plays a key role in combating poverty, addressing life-cycle risks and contributing to sustainable and inclusive economic growth, development, and social justice. The action aims at enhancing comprehensive, inclusive, sustainable, gender-transformative and integrated social protection systems which integrate formal and informal social protection responses as well as both contributory and non-contributory pillars. It emphasizes sustainable financing through domestic and other resource mobilization (DRM), inclusivity for informal workers with a particular focus on women, migrants and women and men in all their diversity affected by climate change, gender-transformative approaches, and shock-responsive social protection. The expected impact includes gradual equal access to universal social protection, influencing regional and national policies, and supporting human capital and decent job creation, particularly in green and digital economies. The action will address social protection for people living in vulnerable situations and embed good governance and capacity-building in social protection systems, taking into account cross-cutting issues like climate change, gender equality and women's rights, disability-inclusion, and human rights. The action aims at involving key stakeholders such as AU institutions, regional economic communities, national governments, UN agencies, and civil society organizations and social partners.

The lead entity in charge of this action is DG INTPA Unit A2. The entity in charge of contract management will be determined at a later stage, potentially (regional) EUDs.

b. Intervention logic for the proposed action

The action intends to support and strengthen national social protection systems in Sub-Saharan Africa by leveraging regional cooperation. The specific objectives are:

SO 1: Support social protection system strengthening.

Activities may include measures to enhance (i) the design and implementation of comprehensive social protection schemes (contributory and non-contributory); (ii) sustainable social protection financing; (iii) inclusiveness; (iv) good governance, institutional capacities, a rights-based, gender-transformative approach; and (v) shock-responsive social protection schemes.

SO 2: Enhance social protection for just and equitable transitions.

Activities will preliminarily focus on supporting systems that (i) provide income security for sustaining investments in human capital; (ii) mitigate the negative impact of the transitions on income and jobs; and (iii) promote decent work creation including social protection,

³ EU contributions primarily in bilateral programmes.

paying particular attention to women and those people living in vulnerable situations (i.e. people with disabilities, migrants, etc.).

c. Implementation modality

The action will be implemented through indirect management via pillar assessed entity/ies, which have a strong track record in supporting social protection initiatives in the region. This modality ensures strategic alignment with regional priorities and leverages existing expertise and networks. Implementing partners to be confirmed (potentially EUMS agencies, ILO, UN bodies, AUDA NEPAD, RECs).

The lead entity in charge of this action is DG INTPA Unit A2. The entity in charge of contract management will be determined at a later stage, potentially (regional) EUDs.

d. Key stakeholders

Key stakeholders, in addition to the TEI members (Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland), include ILO, and possibly also other UN bodies. On the African continent, relevant regional partner institutions include the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD, (possibly) the African Development Bank. Several of the RECs and their institutions will also be relevant stakeholders, including EAC, ECOWAS, SADC and (potentially) also other SSA RECs. Possible target countries need to be confirmed.

e. Contribution to spending targets and markers (including Global Europe, INTPA and EU targets, expected amounts)

<input type="checkbox"/> Migration and forced displacement	Amount:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate	Amount: tbc
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development	Amount: tbc
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	Amount:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> G0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G1 <input type="checkbox"/> G2
<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity	Amount:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inequalities	<input type="checkbox"/> I-0 <input type="checkbox"/> I-1 <input type="checkbox"/> I-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance	Amount:

Action 2: Study in Africa Planned amount EUR 60 M (2025 - EUR 30 M; 2027 - EUR 30 M)

a. Summary

Supporting continental integration, providing learning opportunities both within Africa, and between Africa and Europe and reinforcing cooperation to leverage investment in knowledge and innovation to support strategic autonomy and value chains, build scale and enhance African higher education's relevance and responsiveness to labour market needs in partner countries are the core elements of the Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package and are the aims of the Youth Mobility for Africa Global Gateway Flagship Initiative⁴.

This action aims to **increase the attractiveness of African higher education offer** for all types of mobile learners⁵ within Africa and to Africa. It seeks to strengthen regional integration, knowledge networks, cooperation, branding of EU-funded programmes in African Higher Education and in particular support the effective creation of the African Higher Education and Research Space (AHERS). The programme will also **support the capacity building of universities to interact with the wider eco-system in GG priority areas** so that they play a stronger role in the skills development and innovation value chains and build up a more relevant training offer. It will build scale, connect initiatives, and increase the relevance of projects funded through EU, as well as MS programmes and will offer an enabling facility to build up multilayer partnerships at country level, increasing the chances of countries to access EFSD+. Contributing towards the external dimension of the European Education Area's European Universities Strategy, the action will be structured around three components covering 'Access, Partnerships and Targeted Support', all contributing to a transformational impact of Team Europe efforts in Africa in the field of higher education.

The lead entity in charge of this action is DG INTPA Unit A2. The entity in charge of contract management is DG INTPA/EUD.

b. Intervention logic for the proposed action

The **overall objective** of the Action is to strengthen the African higher education space as a destination of choice and to foster quality, relevance, responsiveness, inclusiveness, accessibility, and attractiveness of African Higher Education Institutions.

The **specific objectives** of the Action are to:

- a. Create equal learning opportunities for all students and young people (with a particular attention to women) in the African continent;
- b. Make African higher education institutions more equitable, accessible and attractive as study/research destinations and for partners;
- c. Support the role of higher education institutions in the innovation ecosystem, decent and gender-transformative job generation and public and private partnerships under the key value chains of the Global Gateway at (multi) country and regional level.

The programme will be structured along **three components** and the following linked activities:

1. **Equal access** to Data, Information, and tools: Information and data (including sex/age/disability disaggregated data) will be collected and/or produced, analyzed and used to support evidence-based knowledge on higher education systems and learning mobility in the continent; targeted information for study and research opportunities, including country profiles, how to access

⁴ Youth Mobility for Africa promotes learning mobility opportunities within Africa and between Africa and the EU. The flagship brings under one umbrella several existing and new EU-funded programmes. Designed to complement and connect the ongoing EU programmes, including Erasmus+, Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme, Harmonization of African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation (HAQAA), African Continental Qualifications Framework, and Young African Leaders programme, the Programme shall support the increase of the incoming learning mobility to African universities from within and outside of Africa and to foster the capacity building of African higher education institutions and relevant governmental agencies.

⁵ For the purpose of this action, by learners we understand students at BA, MA and PhD level and researchers but this notion can also be extended to university staff.

international learning opportunities, preparing applications and getting scholarships will be facilitated and will cater also for learners living in more fragile contexts, remote locations and vulnerable situations (women, people with disabilities, etc.); the creation of an accessible landing page and information campaigns, database, students' and job fairs, gender and disability responsive education guidance, counselling will be supported paying attention to individual needs (taking into account sex, gender, age, disabilities, etc.); informing potential students and partners about the existing learning opportunities; linking up to students and alumni networks; offices of students' affairs and community hosting organizations and testing of student support modalities being developed under the European Education Area (such as the EU student card) and possible links to national research and education networks.

2. **Partnerships:** will support the development of an enabling environment for a sustainable, inclusive, forward-looking and demand driven HE ecosystem at multi-country level following GG priority areas. This component will focus on an enabling facility to build up multilayer partnerships at (multi)country level, increasing the capacity of countries to access EFSD+; the relevance of projects funded through Erasmus+ and Horizon or MS programmes; a stronger role in the skills and entrepreneurial development and innovation value chains; creating a better enabling environment for sending/hosting mobilities (management of mobilities, learning ecosystems); boosting HEI capacity to innovate including through the use of existing tools such as HEInnovate and a more systematic engagement of African universities with European networks of universities and knowledge communities in strategic sectors.
3. **Support:** will provide on-demand targeted support to EU Delegations and HEI in countries to increase linkages with and between EU and MS programmes to boost skills development in key priority areas around HEIs. This will be achieved through technical assistance, studies, peer exchanges and MS twinning exchanges and will not only increase participation in Components 1 and 2 as well as in EU programmes but also contribute to the dialogue taking place in the framework of the Youth Mobility for Africa flagship project. This Component will also ensure the Youth Mobility secretariat and technical assistance for support to the Delegations and partners.

Expected results:

- 1.1. More accessible, equitable and facilitated offers for learning mobility to African universities from within and outside of Africa;
- 1.2. Better and equal access to information and services (guidance, support);
- 1.3. Availability of up-to-date and accurate data of higher education landscape, including from a gender and disability perspectives.
- 1.4. Supported capacity building of African Higher Education Institutions and relevant governmental agencies.
 - 2.1. Increased African innovative, inclusive and multi-layer higher education ecosystem;
 - 2.2. Improved enabling environment, knowledge partnerships and capacity-building at multi-country level in priority areas to increase relevance of the higher education offer in Africa;
 - 2.3. Creation of sustainable networks and partnerships between Higher Education Institutions and other sectors in Africa.
- 3.1. Increased engagement and responsiveness of HEIs with regards to skills development in priority areas of the Global Gateway at country level.

c. Implementation modality

The Action will be implemented through direct and indirect management.

Component 1: Indirect Management. A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management by an African or EU pillar assessed organization or agency active in higher education working in consortium with other European and African higher education organisations/agencies.

Component 2: Direct management. The European Institute of Technology (EIT), as a vehicle, will implement the Action through direct management, grants (call for proposals) and procurement of services. Fall-back option: Indirect Management. A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management by an African or EU pillar assessed HE organisation or agency active in higher education working in consortium with other European and African higher education organisations/agencies.

Component 3: Indirect Management. A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management by an African or EU pillar assessed organization or agency active in Higher Education working in consortium with other African higher education agencies.

Lead entity: A2 – a part of this action might be managed subsequently by a Delegation who will bring in ECOWAS, EAC, CEMAC and SADC to help facilitate driving the work at regional and country level.

The lead entity in charge of this action is DG INTPA Unit A2. The entity in charge of contract management is DG INTPA/EUD.

d. Key stakeholders

Key stakeholders come from the field of education, research, and innovation, including educational authorities, learning mobility service providers, higher education and research institutions, business partners, alumni and students’ associations. The Action counts on strong engagement with the AUC, and collaboration with AU agencies bodies and African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and can build on the relationships and engagement established through the other actions under the Youth Mobility Flagship initiative (such as HAQAA3, Erasmus+, Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Programme and the Youth Academy).

e. Contribution to spending targets and markers (including Global Europe, INTPA and EU targets, expected amounts)

<input type="checkbox"/> Migration and forced displacement	Amount:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate	Amount: tbc
<input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development	Amount:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> G0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G1 <input type="checkbox"/> G2
<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Inequalities	<input type="checkbox"/> I-0 <input type="checkbox"/> I-1 <input type="checkbox"/> I-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance	Amount:

Priority Area 2: Democracy, Governance, Peace

Action 3: Support to the African Governance, Peace & Security Architectures – Planned amount EUR 40 M

a. Summary

In the framework of the EU's partnership with the African Union (AU) on governance, peace and security, this Action will support the AU's Governance, Peace and Security (GPS) Architectures to help prevent conflict and enhance participatory democratic governance across the African continent. This will be done by engaging with the AU Commission and its continental organs, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and AU Member States at political, policy and operational levels.

This Action proposes to gather formerly separate support programmes under one conceptual roof.⁶ With a planned budget of EUR 40 M over four years managed by the EUD Addis, it will address key thematic issues of mutual interest and reinforce the GPS nexus. To operationalise the latter, it will be important to promote joint-up programming and planning between the AU's AGA (governance) and APSA (peace and security) Architectures. It will also be crucial to engage with Pan-African civil society coalitions and increase the role of youth and women, to ensure the success and sustainability of peace, security and governance efforts on the continent.

The proposed Action responds to ongoing major AU reforms, notably i) the effective transformation of the Political Affairs, Peace, and Security Department (PAPS) towards more integrated approaches to conflicts and their political root causes by addressing the GPS nexus; ii) the operationalisation of the AU Peace Fund; and iii) the rationalisation of the AU treaty-based human rights organs. The Action represents a more focused support to the AU GPS Architectures, continuing the EU's political commitment to the continent in the spirit of shared African-European priorities.

The lead entity in charge of this action and of contract management is the EUD to the AU.

b. Intervention logic for the proposed action

The overall objective of the Action is to contribute to reinforcing the GPS nexus in Africa by supporting the AU and other existing African-led structures to fulfil their mandate coherently and efficiently and fully play their role on the continent.

SO1: The African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) is supported in an integrated and coherent manner and able to play its role on the continent more efficiently and effectively. In this vein, the operationalisation of the AU Peace Fund's Crisis Reserve Facility (CRF), the AU Human Rights Compliance Framework (AUCF) and the AU commitments to the implementation of the Women, Peace & Security (WPS) Agenda in Africa are respectively supported.

SO2: The African Governance Architecture (AGA) is supported, focusing on specific democratic governance, gender equality & women's participation and human rights issues with positive impact on conflict prevention and resolution.

SO3: Participation of CSO networks and think tanks in initiatives strengthening citizens' engagement, and inclusion of women and youth in Governance, Peace and Security activities.

c. Implementation modality

The Action will mainly be implemented in indirect management with the AUC to cover SO1 and SO2. In addition, the action will include a grant modality for CSO networks (SO3), with close involvement of the AU's Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC). It is envisaged that a specialised agency, EU Member State agency or an International Organisation will be contracted

⁶ African Governance Architecture: EUR 25M; African Peace and Security Architecture: EUR 40.5M; Early Response Mechanism: EUR 25M; Human Rights Compliance Framework: EUR 10M: Total EUR 100.5.

to provide technical assistance for components implemented by the AUC and AGA organs, preferably identified through a competitive tender process. Finally, to support further operationalisation of the AU HRCF in all AU led or mandated PSOs, UN OHCHR could be contracted to provide some targeted technical assistance and monitoring of the HRCF, building on lessons learnt from the current HRCF programme. Contracts will be managed by the EUD to the AU. Focus will be on a results-oriented approach, supporting specific actions or capacity for action rather than general institutional support.⁷

The lead entity in charge of this action and of contract management is the EUD to the AU.

d. Key stakeholders

AUC and specifically the Political and Peace and Security (PAPS) Department; the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) and its structures, namely the Commission, the Panel of the Wise (also FemWise), the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) and the Peace Fund; AU and EU Member States; AGA Platform members and core human rights and governance organs; RECs; National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI); CSOs and networks, think-thanks, research institutes and specialised NGOs such as women’s and youth organisations focused on peace and security and those representing people with disabilities.

e. Contribution to spending targets and markers

<input type="checkbox"/> Migration and forced displacement	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Climate	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	Amount:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> G0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G1 <input type="checkbox"/> G2
<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Inequalities	<input type="checkbox"/> I-0 <input type="checkbox"/> I-1 <input type="checkbox"/> I-2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance	Amount: EUR 20 M

⁷ Budget breakdown: Indirect management with AUC: 15 MEUR (APSA), 9 MEUR (AGA); CSO grants: 8 MEUR; Technical Assistance (TA) to AUC (incl. CRF): 5 MEUR ; TA UNOHCHR: 3 MEUR. Total: 40 MEUR.

Action 4: Ending violence against women and girls in Africa – Planned amount EUR 10 M

a. Summary

This action will support the African Union Commission (AUC) in advancing signature, ratification, implementation and monitoring of the Maputo Protocol, the adoption and implementation of the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) and carry out the AU strategy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE). It will aim to strengthen AUC and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) institutional capacities to update EVAWG legislative frameworks, or accelerate implementation and monitoring of the existing ones, hold AU Member States (MS) accountable, increase domestic financing for EVAWG and create more systematic mechanisms for engagement of women's rights organisations (WROs) with AUC and REC processes. RECs and civil society will be among the key partners in advancing the implementation of policies and legislation on ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG), which AU Member States (MS) have committed to.

The Action is building on the experiences and achievements of the Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme (SIARP). SIARP supported comprehensive partnerships, engaging stakeholders at continental, sub-regional, and national level, thereby fostering a whole of society approach to EVAWG. It accelerated ratification of the Maputo Protocol, adoption of national action plans (NAPs) on EVAWG, the set-up of accountability mechanisms including the AU Gender Observatory and created a framework for broader engagement between WROs and the AUC.

This Action will bring an increased focus on implementation of AU normative frameworks in MS through advocacy, reporting and sharing of good practices. Activities will be complementary to MAAP 2024-2025 on SRHR, embedded in the TEI on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), which will also contribute to the follow up of SIARP, and, more broadly, the EU-funded Spotlight Initiative High-Impact Programme for Violence Elimination by 2030 (HIVE), and Advocacy, Coalition Building and Transformative Feminist Action to End Violence Against Women (ACT) global programmes. UN Women and UNDP are foreseen to implement the Action in close collaboration with the AUC, RECs and civil society in Africa.

The lead entity in charge of this action and of contract management is the EUD to the AU.

b. Intervention logic for the proposed action

The Action intends to protect gains and accelerate momentum towards the elimination of gender-based violence in Africa by supporting African-led initiatives to further formulation, implementation and monitoring of national and regional policies and legislation on EVAWG. The specific objectives are:

SO1: Strengthen the AU and RECs' normative framework and ensure this is implemented and monitored by MS, including the Maputo protocol, the Regional Action Plan (RAP) on EVAWG, and the accountability framework on the elimination of harmful practices (HP).

- The Action will strengthen the institutional capacities of the AUC and RECs to advance their EVAWG commitments, to hold MSs accountable, increase domestic financing for EVAWG, and to ensure greater coordination with key actors on EVAWG. Furthermore, it aims to strengthen data collection through enhanced coordination, standardisation and accessibility (including through the AU Gender Observatory), and stakeholders' (AUC, RECs, Members of Parliament, civil society and national officials, media and academia) ability to collect and use data to inform policies and laws as well as reporting on VAWG. The action will offer legal and political support to stakeholders developing legislation at regional or national levels. This could include setting up a module with(in) the AUC for best practice sharing across the RECs and/or MS for these to build on lessons learnt and develop effective initiatives to EVAWG.

SO2: Women's rights groups and civil society organisations enabled to more effectively influence and advance progress on EVAWG.

- The Action will build civil society’s capacities to conduct advocacy, reporting, and influence behavioural change on EVAWG, with stronger engagement between regional/sub-regional and grassroots WROs. It will build more inclusive platforms for WROs to engage with AUC/REC processes, and WROs in consistent monitoring of MS progress using existing accountability mechanisms. Furthermore, a re-granting mechanism to support CSO networks and their members working on EVAWG/GBV will be made available, and there will be continued support to the Civil Society Regional Reference Group (CSRRG) of 15 experts from African civil society and its advisory role to the UN and the AUC.

c. Implementation modality

The Action could be implemented in indirect management via a contribution agreement with the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, managed by the EUD to the AU which is also the lead entity in charge of this action. UN Women and UNDP are viewed as the most relevant potential implementing partners for this action considering their mandates and close collaboration with the AUC and CSO networks in Africa during SIARP⁸.

The lead entity in charge of this action and of contract management is the EUD to the AU.

d. Key stakeholders

The main stakeholders will be the AUC, the RECs and African civil society including women’s rights movements.

e. Contribution to spending targets and markers (including Global Europe, INTPA and EU targets, expected amounts)

<input type="checkbox"/> Migration and forced displacement	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Climate	Amount:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development	Amount: EUR 5M
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	Amount:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> G0 <input type="checkbox"/> G1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G2
<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Inequalities	<input type="checkbox"/> I-0 <input type="checkbox"/> I-1 <input type="checkbox"/> I-2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance	Amount: EUR 5 M

⁸ UN Women led the whole Stream 1 of SIARP on horizontal and policies related activities with the AU and implemented its Pillar 6 (CSOs and women’s movements), while UNDP led its Pillar 1 (laws and policies).

Action 5: La réintégration des ex-combattants et l'autonomisation des femmes: remparts communautaires à l'extrémisme violent en Afrique (REMPARTS) - Planned amount EUR 11.5 M

a. Résumé

La région du bassin du lac Tchad est une des régions du monde où les conflits perdurent depuis plusieurs décennies. Des défis tels que la présence de groupes terroristes internationaux comme Boko Haram, la prolifération de l'extrémisme violent, et l'absence d'opportunités d'avenir pour les jeunes et les femmes représentent des facteurs de déstabilisation d'une part et sont les principales causes de l'enrôlement des jeunes par les groupes terroristes d'autre part. Une situation similaire affecte l'Afrique de l'Ouest, avec l'expansion récente de l'extrémisme violent du Sahel vers les États du golfe de Guinée. Les femmes, en particulier, sont souvent ciblées par les groupes extrémistes pour recruter ou manipuler leurs proches, et peuvent également être victimes de violences et de discrimination au sein de ces groupes.

Cette action vise à lutter contre l'extrémisme violent de manière plus inclusive en développant des initiatives de cohésion sociale, en renforçant l'autonomisation économique des femmes, des populations locales et des anciens associés à des groupes terroristes, tout en promouvant une plus grande implication des femmes dans la prévention de l'extrémisme violent et dans les politiques locales de consolidation de la paix. Il y aura deux fenêtres subrégionales :

- **Bassin du lac Tchad** : Cameroun, Nigeria, Niger⁹ et Tchad
- **Afrique de l'Ouest** : zones transfrontalières entre Burkina Faso, Ghana et Cote d'Ivoire

La composition finale des zones d'intervention sera confirmée au cours de la phase de formulation et de démarrage, et après discussions avec les autorités locales et les communautés concernées. Cette action sera complémentaire à autres initiatives bilatérales/régionales de l'UE (notamment le programme SD3R au Nigeria et les programmes régionaux FMM, RESILAC, RSF, SECSTA et Borderlands), ainsi que celles financées par le FPI sur l'atténuation des effets du terrorisme et la prévention de l'extrémisme violent dans les zones ciblées. L'entité en charge de cette action est l'unité A2 de la DG INTPA. Les contrats seront gérés par la DUE au Cameroun (fenêtre Bassin du lac Tchad) et la DUE au Burkina Faso (fenêtre Afrique de l'Ouest).

b. Logique d'intervention de l'action

Objectif général : contribuer de manière inclusive à la lutte contre le terrorisme et l'extrémisme violent en Afrique centrale et de l'Ouest, avec une attention particulière sur le rôle des femmes.

Bassin du lac Tchad

1. Soutenir la réintégration socio-économique durable des ex-associés et ex-combattants de Boko Haram, leur autonomisation et celles de leurs communautés d'accueil.
2. Renforcer la contribution de la société civile, et notamment des femmes à la cohésion sociale, à la lutte contre les violences basées sur le genre et à la protection des droits humains.

Afrique de l'Ouest

3. Renforcer la compréhension des représentations sociales de genre et des facteurs influençant l'engagement des femmes dans les groupes extrémistes, ainsi que les obstacles à leur participation à la prévention de l'extrémisme violent et à la construction de la paix.
4. Renforcer les capacités de groupements de femmes en matière de leadership, tout en sensibilisant les communautés locales, afin d'optimiser la lutte contre l'extrémisme violent et promouvoir la cohésion sociale.

⁹ L'inclusion du Niger dans cette action se fera sous réserve d'une évolution positive de la situation sur le terrain.

5. Renforcer les capacités des autorités locales, administratives, religieuses et coutumières pour accroître la participation des femmes aux processus décisionnels locaux, y compris en matière de sécurité, de justice et de prévention des conflits.

c. Modalités de mise en œuvre

- **Bassin du lac Tchad** : gestion indirecte par une agence d'un État membre de l'UE et/ou une agence des Nations unies sera préalablement étudiée. Cependant, la gestion directe via des ONGs spécialisées est également une option.
- **Afrique de l'Ouest** : gestion directe via des ONGs (éventuellement en consortium) spécialisées dans la prévention de l'extrémisme violent et sur les questions de genre dans les zones ciblées.

L'entité en charge de cette action est l'unité A2 de la DG INTPA. Les contrats seront gérés par la DUE au Cameroun (fenêtre Bassin du lac Tchad) et la DUE au Burkina Faso (fenêtre Afrique de l'Ouest).

d. Principaux intervenants

En tant que détenteurs d'obligations, les principales parties prenantes du projet seront les gouvernements des pays concernés ainsi que les autorités locales, traditionnelles et coutumières des zones d'intervention (lorsque possible) ; les dispositifs nationaux mis en place pour la lutte contre l'extrémisme violent; les agences nationales spécialisées (dans la lutte contre le terrorisme et l'extrémisme violent, le genre, la cohésion sociale et l'agriculture) ; les organisations régionales et sous régionales; les groupements de productrices-transformatrices agricoles, les OSC, les associations de femmes, personnes handicapées et jeunes ainsi que les médias communautaires.

e. Contribution aux cibles et marqueurs de dépenses (y inclus Global Europe, INTPA et les cibles UE, indiquer les montants prévus)

<input type="checkbox"/> Migration et déplacements forcés	Montant:
<input type="checkbox"/> Climat	Montant:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inclusion sociale et développement humain	Montant: 8.5 M EUR
<input type="checkbox"/> Éducation	Montant:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Genre	<input type="checkbox"/> G0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G1 <input type="checkbox"/> G2
<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversité	Montant:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inégalités	<input type="checkbox"/> I-0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I-1 <input type="checkbox"/> I-2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Droits de l'homme, démocratie et bonne gouvernance	Montant: 3 M EUR

Action 6: Countering illicit trade and Transnational Organized Crime in Africa: A targeted approach to Trafficking Corridors, Falsified Medical Products and Cybercrime - Planned amount EUR 34 M

a. Summary

The action aims at enhancing African countries' capacities to prevent, deter, and repress illicit trade and transnational organized crime (TOC), thereby mitigating their impact on the continent's security and stability. By doing so, it seeks to uphold and reinforce the rule of law, foster public confidence, and enhance human security while maximizing opportunities for economic and human development. Primarily focused on West African countries, the action's scope will extend to several countries in Central, East and Southern Africa. It is structured around one major component to combat organised crime along trafficking corridors and hubs, complemented by two other components specifically targeting trafficking in medical products and cybercrime. They all reflect both Africa and EU key strategic priorities. Specific beneficiary countries for each component will be confirmed during the formulation phase. The components are the following:

Component 1: Trafficking corridors. Major trade and transport corridors often intersect with trafficking routes/hubs. New investments improving connectedness of markets and territories are likely to exacerbate opportunities for criminal exploitation. These risks are especially acute in environments where governance and regulatory capacities are weak, as is the case in West Africa. To address these challenges, the action proposes to enhance the capabilities of frontline actors responsible for combatting illicit trafficking and promote judicial and law enforcement cross-border cooperation within and along the established Global Gateway Trade and Transport Corridors.

Component 2: Counterfeit drugs. In certain African regions, unregulated drugs are estimated to comprise up to 55% of medical products in circulation, leading to thousands of deaths annually. The illicit trafficking of pharmaceuticals is not only deadly and lucrative (estimated 10 to 25 times more profitable than drug trafficking) but also serves as a privileged avenue for laundering illicit proceeds and funding illegal activities. Joining EU efforts to fight against Sub-standard and Falsified Medical Products (SFMP) will thus help achieve both public health and security outcomes, aligning with the EU Global Gateway Strategy's health pillar while complementing TEI MAV+ efforts.

Component 3: Cybercrime. As societies and economies increasingly digitalise, cybercrimes pose growing threats and vulnerabilities. West Africa, in particular, has become a hub for online crime and fraud, affecting individuals and businesses both in Europe and Africa. Addressing this issue and fostering cooperation both among countries in the region and with their EU counterparts is therefore a shared priority.

Leveraging the results of previous EU-funded projects (e.g. OCWAR-T, OCWAR-C, MEDISAFE), the action will seek complementarities with ongoing national/regional EU and non-EU initiatives, including programmes funded by the FPI Service, such as the Global Illicit Flows Programme.

The lead entity in charge of this action is DG INTPA Unit A2. The entities in charge of contract management are EUD Nigeria (for SO1 and SO3) and EUD Zambia (for SO2's Southern and Eastern Africa cluster).

b. Intervention logic for the proposed action

The overall objective of the action is to support and enhance African states' capacities to prevent, deter, and repress illicit trafficking and transnational organised crime, ultimately reducing their impact on the continent. The specific objectives of the Action are:

- **SO1. Prevent, deter and tackle organised crime activities and illicit trafficking by road along major trade and transport corridors in West Africa.** Activities will (1) enhance judicial and law enforcement capabilities; and (2) strengthen cross-border and control/security cooperation through joint operations/investigations, and improved intelligence sharing. The focus will be on the road vector, which often receive less attention compared to air and maritime

nodes/routes, despite being the main mode of transport/transit for goods (+ 80%) and people (+ 90%) across the continent. Prioritising corridors provides an opportunity to shift from a commodity-driven strategy to a more comprehensive and flexible approach against TOC.

- **SO2. Support regional and countries capacities to prevent, detect and respond to the manufacture, use and trafficking in SFMP in Western, Eastern and Southern Africa countries.** Activities will implement the WHO-recommended three-pronged approach of “*Prevent, Detect and Respond*” expanded into six comprehensive work packages: (1) Awareness Raising and Communication; (2) Legal Framework; (3) Law Enforcement and effective anti-trafficking; (4) Pharmaceutical Sector (Supply Chain Security, Pharmacovigilance, Post-Market Surveillance); (5) Inter-Agency Cooperation at national level; and (6) Regional/International Cooperation.
- **SO3. Strengthen the capacities of selected partner countries in West and Central Africa to combat cybercrimes, particularly online fraud.** Activities will (1) strengthen and harmonize cybercrime legal frameworks, ensuring compliance with Budapest Convention and its protocols; (2) enhance operational capabilities for conducting cybercrime investigations and prosecutions; and (3) foster EU-African countries cooperation within the framework of EMPACT’s Action Plans¹⁰ on cybercrime.

c. Implementation modality

SO1: budget of EUR 20M (indicative), in indirect management with one or several pillar-assessed entities, possibly selected through a Call for Expression of Interest. The appropriate implementation modality and list of beneficiary countries is being explored by a formulation mission. The contract management will be devolved to the EUD to Nigeria.

SO2: budget of EUR 9M (indicative), in indirect management with Expertise France which has successfully implemented the first phase of MEDISAFE project (2019-2023) under FPI funding. There will be two individual contracts for each geographic clusters, respectively managed by EUD to Nigeria for the West Africa cluster (*Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Republic of Guinea, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo*), and EUD to Zambia for the East/Southern Africa cluster (*Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Zambia*).

SO3: budget of EUR 5M (indicative), in indirect management with one or several pillar-assessed entities. The contract management will be devolved to the EUD Nigeria.

The lead entity in charge of this action is DG INTPA Unit A2. The entities in charge of contract management are EUD Nigeria (for SO1 and SO3) and EUD Zambia (for SO2’s Southern and Eastern Africa cluster).

d. Key stakeholders

At the national level, the key stakeholders are, as duty bearers, inter alia: law enforcement agencies, judicial actors, customs; authorities with competences on security, transport, health, medicines regulation, cybercrime; policymakers and ministries (Security/Public Safety, Defence, Interior, Health, Finance, Transport, Infrastructures, Digital), CSOs and the private sector. At the regional/international level, inter alia: the AUC, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, WAPCCO, WACCAP, EAPCCO, the West Africa Research Network (WARNOC) as well as INTERPOL, AFRIPOL, EUROPOL, UN agencies, Council of Europe.

¹⁰ <https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-statistics/empact>

e. Contribution to spending targets and markers (including Global Europe, INTPA and EU targets, expected amounts)

<input type="checkbox"/> Migration and forced displacement	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Climate	Amount:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development	Amount: EUR 4 M
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	Amount:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> G0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G1 <input type="checkbox"/> G2
<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Inequalities	<input type="checkbox"/> I-0 <input type="checkbox"/> I-1 <input type="checkbox"/> I-2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance	Amount: EUR 30 M

Action 7: Zones frontalières pacifiques et résilientes IV – Montant prévu 20 M EUR

a. Résumé

Les zones frontalières d’Afrique subsaharienne sont souvent caractérisées par des mouvements de population, de bétail, de marchandises, et de ressources naturelles. Ces zones, lorsqu’elles sont associées à l’insécurité, aux conflits, aux impacts des changements climatiques, à la pauvreté, ou à l’isolement par rapport à l’État central, peuvent progressivement se muer en foyers d’instabilité. Ceci est notamment le cas des territoires riverains de la frontière entre Mali et Mauritanie, où l’escalade des violences perpétrées par les groupes armés non étatiques au Mali a causé un nouvel afflux d’arrivants maliens et de retournés mauritaniens. Dans la sous-région des Grands lacs, les tensions dans les zones frontalières sont souvent exacerbées par le développement des groupes armés, les difficultés d’accès aux services sociaux de base, l’absence de dialogue politique et le faible progrès économique et développement global de la population. La guerre civile au Soudan et l’afflux de personnes déplacées au Sud Soudan ont contribué à aggraver les tensions dans la zone frontalière déjà en proie de récurrents conflits inter et intra-ethniques violents, potentiel pôle de déstabilisation pour les deux pays.

Cette action vise à prévenir et atténuer l’impact des conflits locaux en améliorant la résilience et la cohésion sociale des communautés transfrontalières. Pour ce faire, une approche intégrée à la sécurité sera appliquée, en promouvant la coopération transfrontalière en tant que levier de paix. Il y aura 3 fenêtres subrégionales :

- 1) **Mali-Mauritanie** : wilayas du Hodh El Chargui, Hodh el Gharbi, Assaba, Guidimaka en Mauritanie, et les régions de Ségou et Nara au Mali.
- 2) **Grands Lacs** : zone frontalière entre RDC, Burundi et Rwanda.
- 3) **Soudan-Sud Soudan** : Zone Administrative d’Abyei.

La composition finale des zones d’intervention sera confirmée au cours de la phase de formulation et de démarrage. Cette action sera complémentaire à d’autres initiatives régionales et bilatérales de l’UE, notamment celles en faveur des populations déplacées, des retournés, des réfugiés et des communautés hôtes (MPRR-SSA, Durable Solutions et Mécanisme Flexible), et celles visant la gestion des ressources naturelles et le développement agropastoral (Grand Muraille Verte). Elle complète les actions de paix et de sécurité financées par les PIM nationaux et le programme thématique du FPI pour la paix, la stabilité et la prévention des conflits 2021-2027.

L’entité en charge de cette action est l’unité A2 de la DG INTPA. Les entités en charge de la gestion des contrats seront la DUE au Mauritanie (fenêtre Mali-Mauritanie) la DUE en République Démocratique du Congo (fenêtre Grands Lacs) et la DUE au Sud Soudan (fenêtre Soudan-Sud Soudan).

b. Logique d’intervention de l’action

Objectif général : Prévenir et atténuer l’impact des conflits locaux dans les zones frontalières.

Mali-Mauritanie

1. Renforcer le capital humain et la cohésion sociale à travers le dialogue communautaire transfrontalier en intégrant la question des mobilités humaines et la prévention de l’extrémisme violent, avec une attention particulière portée à l’inclusion des femmes et des jeunes.
2. Développer des infrastructures communautaires d’intérêt transfrontalier.
3. Sensibiliser les populations aux risques sécuritaires en collaboration avec les forces de sécurité et de défense¹¹ et les leaders communautaires et la société civile.

Grands Lacs

¹¹ Seulement en Mauritanie

1. Renforcer la culture de dialogue, médiation et cohésion sociale dans la gestion et transformation des conflits.
2. Faciliter l'égalité d'accès à de nouvelles opportunités d'emploi décent pour les jeunes femmes et hommes et plus particulièrement aux plus vulnérables d'entre eux.

Soudan-Sud Soudan

1. Soutenir et renforcer, l'inclusivité et l'efficacité de la gouvernance traditionnelle et des infrastructures de paix dans la zone d'Abyei, en lien avec les régions frontalières des deux pays.
2. Renforcer la résilience aux conflits intercommunautaires liés aux ressources naturelles et au changement climatique, par l'identification de nouvelles opportunités de développement et la promotion de solidarités économiques entre communautés.

c. Modalités de mise en œuvre

- **Mali-Mauritanie** : gestion directe via des ONGs (éventuellement en consortium) spécialisées dans la médiation et la gestion de conflits dans les zones ciblées.
- **Grands Lacs** : gestion directe via des ONGs (éventuellement en consortium) spécialisées dans la médiation et la gestion de conflits dans les zones ciblées.
- **Soudan-Sud Soudan** : gestion directe via des ONGs (éventuellement en consortium) spécialisées dans la médiation et la gestion de conflits dans les zones ciblées.

L'entité en charge de cette action est l'unité A2 de la DG INTPA. Les entités en charge de la gestion des contrats seront la DUE au Mauritanie (fenêtre Mali-Mauritanie) la DUE en République Démocratique du Congo (fenêtre Grands Lacs) et la DUE au Sud Soudan (fenêtre Soudan-Sud Soudan).

d. Principaux intervenants

En tant que détenteurs d'obligations, Les principales parties prenantes du projet seront les gouvernements et les forces de défense et de sécurité des pays concernés,¹² les autorités locales (y compris douanières, lorsque possible), les maires des communes concernées ainsi que les autorités et chefferies traditionnelles, les ONGs locales et internationales (y compris celles intervenants dans la prévention, l'alerte et la gestion des conflits), les associations de communautés religieuses et les organisations de défense des droits des femmes, de la jeunesse et les personnes handicapées.

e. Contribution aux cibles et marqueurs de dépenses (y inclus Global Europe, INTPA et les cibles UE, indiquer les montants prévus)

<input type="checkbox"/> Migration et déplacements forcés	Montant:
<input type="checkbox"/> Climat	Montant:
<input type="checkbox"/> Inclusion Sociale et Développement Humain	Montant:
<input type="checkbox"/> Éducation	Montant:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Genre	<input type="checkbox"/> G0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G1 <input type="checkbox"/> G2
<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversité	Montant:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inégalités	<input type="checkbox"/> I-0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I-1 <input type="checkbox"/> I-2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Droits de l'homme, démocratie et bonne gouvernance	Montant : 20 M EUR

¹² À l'exception du Mali, Soudan et Sud Soudan

Action 8: PALOP-TL regional PROCULTURA II – Planned amount EUR 10 M

a. Summary

The Portuguese-speaking African Countries and East Timor (PALOP-TL) are an informal group of six countries with a common historical and linguistic background (Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe, East Timor). The PALOP-TL - EU Co-operation, which started in 1992, aims to strengthen the relationship between PALOP-TL and the EU and its Member States, and is based on the historical, linguistic and cultural affinities between these countries.

This Action is the follow up project of PALOP-TL Procultura that started in 2019 and will end in June 2025 (EUR 19 million). With a reduced budget, this second phase will focus and consolidate the good results achieved by the initial programme.

The Action seeks to increase employability, employment opportunities and income generation in cultural sector in the PALOP-TL countries. The sector in the PALOP-TL has a strong potential in terms of regional and global outreach, which would require investment in qualified human resources, enhanced public funding, audiences building, and access to markets. The Action aims to unlock the following transformative enablers: i) Reinforced skills and technical competences available in the cultural sector; ii) Enhanced mobility of PALOP-TL artists and dissemination of PALOP-TL cultural products with a transversal focus (i.e. music and performing arts sectors that are at the core of PALOP-TL countries' cultural identity, but also audiovisual, cinema, etc.) at national, regional and international level; iii) Improved legislation and regulatory frameworks of cultural public institutions.

The Action will be implemented in indirect management with an EU Member State or an international organization with a mandate on culture and development, experience in strengthening the cultural sector in developing contexts, and a solid presence in the PALOP and Timor-Leste.

The Action objectives are coherent and complementary to the actions under the culture envelope of the MIP for SSA and complementary with the other actions, particularly the ‘Africa-Europe Cultural Cooperation and Promotion of Intercultural Dialogue and Cultural Diversity’ (MAAP 2023-2025).

The lead entity in charge of this action and of contract management is the EUD to Mozambique.

b. Intervention logic for the proposed action

The Action intends to promote sustainable decent jobs and inclusive growth in the PALOP-TL countries through the value chains of the culture and creative industries (CCIs). The specific objective of the Action is to increase the employment creation and income potential of the cultural and creative industries (CCIs) in the PALOP-TL countries. The programme will be centred on 3 components with a transversal focus: i) skills and technical competences available in the cultural sector are reinforced; ii) dissemination and commercialisation of PALOP-TL cultural products and mobility of PALOP-TL artists is enhanced at national, regional and international level; iii) legislation and regulatory frameworks of cultural public institutions are improved.

By enhancing the skills of creators and professionals, supporting favourable environments, and facilitating market access, this programme will contribute to economic growth. It will create job opportunities, encourage entrepreneurship, and boost creativity and innovation, whilst creating long lasting partnerships. Technical assistance will be mobilised in the six PALOP-TL countries in order to ensure effective participation and involvement of all beneficiary entities, support local organisations and institutions to present and implement effective projects, monitor and disseminate information. While the regional approach that reinforces intra-PALOP-TL cooperation is prioritized, flexibility will be allowed to support also national initiatives in order to address the differences between the PALOP-TL countries context.

The intervention logic will be fine-tuned following the ongoing assessment of Procultura and formulation mission.

c. Implementation modality

The Action will be implemented in indirect management with an entrusted entity, such as an EU Member State or an international organization with a mandate on culture and development, experience in strengthening the cultural sector in development contexts, and a solid presence in the PALOP-TL countries.

The lead entity in charge of this action and of contract management is the EUD to Mozambique.

d. Key stakeholders

The main stakeholders of the Action are the following state and non-state culture actors in the 6 PALOP-TL countries: i) Ministries of Culture and public institutions of the CCI sectors as duty bearers; ii) legal entities, profit-making or non-profit making active in the CCI sector requesting and managing funds for projects with creative entrepreneurs (such as national professional associations, national craft associations, national musicians or copyright societies and incubating organizations); iii) Creative entrepreneurs, individuals or legal entities as the end beneficiaries.

e. Contribution to spending targets and markers (including Global Europe, INTPA and EU targets, expected amounts)

<input type="checkbox"/> Migration and forced displacement	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Climate	Amount:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development	Amount: EUR 10 M
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> G0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G1 <input type="checkbox"/> G2
<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Inequalities	<input type="checkbox"/> I-0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I-1 <input type="checkbox"/> I-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance	Amount:

Priority Area 3: Green Transition

Action 9: Supporting Clean Cooking Solutions in Southern Africa – Planned amount: EUR 12 M

a. Summary

The clean cooking sector is gaining traction in several countries of Southern Africa, but some countries lag behind, and the sector remains too fragmented and underfunded to reach the universal access to clean cooking in the region. The Action intends to contribute to increasing and accelerating the access to affordable, clean and sustainable clean cooking solutions in the region. The Action will foster innovative business development and strengthen the enabling framework necessary to the viable transition to clean cooking in selected countries and at regional level.

The Action will contribute to private sector enterprises development, climate mitigation and resilience, forest and biodiversity conservation, gender equality, health (more particularly of women and girls), and sustainable cities.

Implementation partners will be Member State Organisations, Development Financing Institutions (DFIs) or International Organisations through indirect management (Contribution Agreements or blending modality).

The entity in charge of this Action and of contract management is the EUD in Zambia.

b. Intervention logic for the proposed action

The fragmented and nascency of the sector, which limits the access of businesses to finance, the limited affordability of clean cooking solutions for many customers and the lack of enabling policies are barriers to the development of the clean cooking sector.

The Overall objective of the Action is to increase equal access to affordable, clean and sustainable cooking solutions (tier 3 and higher) in the region.

More specifically, the action intends to:

- i. Enhance the enabling environment and institutional capacities for a vibrant and gender-responsive clean cooking solutions sector in targeted countries and at regional level, promoting conducive policies, considering standards and regional trade facilitation.
- ii. Foster business development with coaching and innovative financial solutions for SMEs (clean cooking solution manufacturers, distributors and importers) and consumers. This covers, for example, grants adapted to the maturity of the companies and access to climate finance.

The Action builds on the experience of the EU Zambia contribution to the Modern Cooking Facility for Africa (MCFA) for Zambia (12,5 MEUR). MCFA financially incentivises higher tier cooking solutions' penetration (electric or that use sustainably produced solid and liquid biofuels or biogas solutions). It provides: 1) financial incentives (results-based financing with catalytic grants) to SMEs delivering clean cooking services (stoves and fuels) to paying customers; 2) technical assistance (TA) to SMEs; 3) TA to provide institutional capacity building to beneficiary host government.

Countries will be selected according to their commitment in clean cooking, the complementarity of the Action with other initiatives for a maximized impact of a market-based approach, and the willingness and capacities of the EU Delegations to support this action.

c. Implementation modality

The implementation will combine Technical Assistance and a Finance component. The Technical Assistance will focus on the enabling environment and institutional capacities and the support and coaching to businesses and finance institutions. The Finance component will facilitate the access to finance for SMEs and end users. Indirect management with member state organisations or

International Organisations or assimilated will be considered. For example, the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO), which manages the MCFA; the Netherlands Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) or GIZ, in collaboration with SNV, active in the region through EnDev; other organizations are not excluded. The entity in charge of this Action and of contract management is the EUD in Zambia.

d. Key stakeholders

This initiative will seek to engage European and African public and private sector actors.

- Households, institutions, entrepreneurs (bakeries, fish smoking, agri-transformation, restaurants) will benefit from the increased access to clean cooking solutions;
- Continental (AU), Regional (COMESA), National authorities (including public companies/utilities) and Local clean cooking alliances and authorities will benefit from advisory and capacity building;
- Businesses involved in the value chain of clean cooking solutions will benefit from enabled environment, entrepreneurship support and financing support;
- Local commercial banks and microfinance institutions will benefit from training.
- Donors, Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) and Member States Agencies eligible under the EU blending framework are key to provide strategic, technical and financial support towards the objective of the Action.

e. Contribution to spending targets and markers (including Global Europe, INTPA and EU targets, expected amounts)

<input type="checkbox"/> Migration and forced displacement	Amount:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate	Amount: EUR 12 M
<input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	Amount:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> G0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G1 <input type="checkbox"/> G2
<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Inequalities	<input type="checkbox"/> I-0 <input type="checkbox"/> I-1 <input type="checkbox"/> I-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance	Amount:

Action 10: Supporting Clean Cooking Solutions in Central and East Africa – Planned amount EUR 20 M

a. Summary

The clean cooking sector is gaining traction in some countries of East and Central Africa, but it remains fragmented and underfunded. The Action intends to contribute to increasing and accelerating the access to affordable, clean and sustainable clean cooking solutions in the region. The Action will foster innovative business development, including de-risking mechanisms, and strengthen the enabling framework necessary to the viable transition to clean cooking in selected countries and at regional level.

The action will contribute to climate mitigation and resilience, forest and biodiversity conservation, gender equality, health (more particularly of women and girls), and sustainable cities.

Implementation partners will be Member State Organisations, Development Financing Institutions (DFIs) or International Organisations through indirect management (Contribution Agreements or blending modality).

The entity in charge of this Action and of contract management is the EUD in Tanzania.

b. Intervention logic for the proposed action

The fragmented and nascency of the sector, which limits the access of businesses to finance, the limited affordability of clean cooking solutions for many customers and the lack of enabling policies are barriers to the development of the clean cooking sector.

The Overall objective of the Action is to increase access to affordable, clean and sustainable cooking solutions (tier 3 and higher) in the region.

More specifically, the action intends to:

- iii. Enhance the enabling environment and institutional capacities for a vibrant and gender-responsive clean cooking solutions sector in targeted countries and at regional level, promoting conducive policies, considering standards and regional trade facilitation.
- iv. Foster business development with coaching and innovative financial solutions for SMEs (clean cooking solution manufacturers, distributors and importers) and consumers. This covers possible grants, climate finance, and de-risking mechanisms to facilitate the equal access to loans and the engagement of local finance institutions.

The Action builds on the existing EU funded programme in Tanzania "Integrated Approach to Sustainable Cooking Solutions" spearheading the sector in the country, and which has a strong market-oriented approach through its component: "CookFund for accelerated market roll-out of clean cooking solutions". The Action will reinforce and extend this component to several countries of the region. Countries will be selected according to their commitment in gender-responsive clean cooking, the complementarity of the Action with other initiatives for a maximized impact of a market-based approach, and the willingness and capacities of the EU Delegations to support this action.

c. Implementation modality

The implementation will combine Technical Assistance with a Blended Finance component. The Technical Assistance will focus on the enabling environment and institutional capacities and the support and coaching to businesses and finance institutions. The Blended Finance component will facilitate the equal access to finance for SMEs (including those led by women) and end users with grants and de-risking investment (transaction support, guarantee fund). Indirect management with member state organisations or International Organisations or assimilated will be considered. For example, AFD, in collaboration with Expertise France; the Netherlands Directorate-General for

International Cooperation (DGIS) or GIZ, in collaboration with SNV; other organization are not excluded.

The entity in charge of this Action and of contract management is the EUD in Tanzania.

d. Key stakeholders

This initiative will seek to engage European and African public and private sector actors.

- Households, institutions, entrepreneurs (bakeries, fish smoking, agri-transformation, restaurants) will benefit from the increased access to clean cooking solutions;
- Continental (AU, AWCCP), Regional (EAC, EACREE), National authorities (including public companies/utilities) and Local clean cooking alliances and authorities will benefit from advisory and capacity building;
- Businesses involved in the value chain of clean cooking solutions will benefit from enabled environment, entrepreneurship support and financing support;
- Local commercial banks and microfinance institutions will benefit from the training and financial support.
- Donors, Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) and Member States Agencies eligible under the EU blending framework are key to provide strategic, technical and financial support towards the objective of the Action.

e. Contribution to spending targets and markers (including Global Europe, INTPA and EU targets, expected amounts)

<input type="checkbox"/> Migration and forced displacement	Amount:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate	Amount: EUR 20 M
<input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	Amount:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> G0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G1 <input type="checkbox"/> G2
<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Inequalities	<input type="checkbox"/> I-0 <input type="checkbox"/> I-1 <input type="checkbox"/> I-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance	Amount:

Action 11: Fit for Market for Africa 2030 – Planned amount EUR 50 M

a. Summary

The Action aims to enable agribusinesses, MSMEs, farmer groups, and farmers to maintain and improve access to domestic, regional and international markets, amongst which the EU, in line with the AfCFTA commitment (main focus on fruit and vegetables, but open to other agri-food value chains). The Action will increase the resilience, fairness (inclusiveness), competitiveness and sustainability of **a selected number of agricultural value chains**, through the development and adoption of safe, inclusive and sustainable practices, skills and technologies, which in turn are expected to contribute to decent job creation and the sustainable transformation of the agri-food sector in the target countries. The Action will consist of two components:

(1) Continental facility: This component will operate on demand at continental level. It will aim at providing the knowledge, expertise, skills and technologies for Sub-Saharan Africa's fruit and vegetable value chains, supporting private sector actors as well as their enabling environment to adopt sustainable (food safety) practices for better access to domestic, regional and international markets.

(2) Country facility: The second component will provide in depth tailor-made technical assistance and services to **at least 8** to be selected [country / agri-food value chain] combinations. It aims to secure a lasting improvement in the capacity of all stakeholders along the value chains selected to adapt to evolving Food safety, commercial, social and environmental requirements. The agri-value chains will be identified by their existing and/or potential socio-economic-environmental impact in line with their current and/or potential access to the domestic, regional and international markets, amongst which more specifically the EU. An important criterion in selecting the value chain/country combinations will be the synergy with large ongoing programmes for economic regional development as MARKUP II and the added value to the strategic corridors in Africa and at large with the Global Gateway investment agenda. Under this component, collaboration with EU private sector will be explicitly sought for.

Both components leverage upon more than twenty years' experience and success of the COLEAD (ex-COLEACP) model, working as B2B and with the public sector in the delivery of technical assistance, trainings, capacity building, market insights and other services (PIP, EDES, Fit For Market, Fit for Market-SPS, Fit for Market+, AGRINFO and the NEXt Kenya interventions). The final evaluation of the Fit for Market interventions (2016-2023), carried out in Q4 2023, highlights that *“FFM programmes have been extremely effective in meeting needs of stakeholders, and in helping address many constraints they face. Effectiveness resulted from the superiority of the COLEAD capacity building system in terms of support strategy, training methodology, accuracy and quality of contents”*.

The entity in charge of this Action and of contract management is DG INTPA Unit F3.

b. Intervention logic for the proposed action

Overall objective

The **overall objective** of the Action is to contribute to poverty reduction and improved food and nutrition security in African countries, by supporting the building of a fairer, safer, inclusive, climate resilient and sustainable agri-food sector.

Component 1 – Continental facility: Empowering the transition towards sustainable food systems in SSA

Important challenges and bottlenecks are impairing the competitiveness of the agri-food and more specifically the horticultural sector in Africa. The enabling environment struggles to effectively support the private sector by providing adequate and cost-effective services such as extension, regulation, certification, logistics and in general enabling a predictable and stable business

environment. In this context, this component will focus on strengthening national horticultural production and distribution systems across SSA countries. This means supporting **agri-food MSMEs** (including farmer groups and cooperatives), local services providers in the horticultural sector and the **national competent authorities**, to strengthen their capabilities (sustainable agricultural practices, equal access to markets, market intelligence, compliance with the new legislations, SPS issues, certifications, business skills, equal access to finance) and support a strong African horticultural sector. By improving **access to domestic, regional and international markets** for fruit and vegetable value chains, as well as equal access to finance, this component will create an operational and enabling platform that contributes to the overall transformation of food systems in SSA within a sustainable and inclusive framework. Component 1 will seek the development of partnerships with African educational institutions to develop massive open vocational capacity building.

The specific objectives are:

- to support agribusinesses and MSMEs (including those led by women) as well as women and men farmer groups and farmers to maintain and **improve equal access to domestic, regional, and international horticultural markets** while adapting to policy, regulatory, and market changes in the operating environment.
- to enable agribusinesses and MSMEs, (including those led by women) as well as women and men farmer groups and farmers in the horticultural sector to seize new market opportunities through the development and **adoption of safe, gender-responsive and sustainable practices, skills and technologies** which allows a smooth **sustainable food systems transition**.

Component 2 – Country facility

In an era where the **agri-food trade** in and from Africa is expanding towards intra-continental exchanges as well as markets in the Middle East and Asia, the European Union continues to be a highly appealing market. Agri-food exports from SSA economies to the EU are of pivotal importance in terms of generating income and employment, and key contributors towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Nonetheless, **meeting evolving EU Regulations and Standards** remains a major and challenging determinant for market access, as well as competitiveness. The evolution of EU market requirements under the Farm to Fork strategy of the European Green Deal aims to accelerate the much-needed transition to more sustainable food systems and is an opportunity to positively influence production and trade in third countries. This transition will also evidently impact the international relations and it is critically important to ensure through a meaningful dialogue with our Southern partners that this transition is aligned with the SDGs, and that the poorest and most vulnerable players are not left behind.

This component aims to provide **in-depth tailor-made technical assistance and training** for prioritised combinations of value chain / country and their stakeholders (producers, agri-food MSMEs, traders, Business Membership Organisations and competent authorities...) to ensure that exported produce remains compliant and **retains access to domestic, regional and international markets, amongst which the EU**, in line with the **AfCFTA commitment**. To achieve this, it will be key to monitor all EU regulatory and standards changes and understand their implications at country level, as well as enhancing public-private collaboration, through national public-private Task Forces.

This component will have a country entry point and a value chain approach. The selection of countries and value chains will be carried out in close collaboration with the EUDs. The aim of this component is to intervene where the EUDs have identified a potential in a specific agri-food value chain, and in close synergies with the EU bilateral interventions. An important criterion in selecting the value chain/ country combinations will be the **synergy with large ongoing programmes** for economic regional development as MARKUP II and the ones in support of the EPAs implementation, and the **added value to the strategic corridors** in Africa and at large with the

Global Gateway investment agenda. In this component, all the agri-food value chains have the potential to be chosen. The specific objective is:

- Secure a lasting improvement in the capacity of all stakeholders in the agri-food value chains selected at national level to adapt to evolving SPS, economic, social and environmental requirements on local, regional and international markets through the development and adoption of safe, gender-responsive and sustainable practices, skills and technologies which allows a smooth sustainable and inclusive food systems transition.

Some of the key principles which will drive this Action are: i) demand driven intervention (in the case of the first component); ii) local appropriation; iii) no substitution of local stakeholders; iv) investment in local expertise and human resources; v) participatory approach; iv) private sector and CSOs as entry points.

c. Implementation modality

The Action will be implemented through direct granting to COLEAD.

The entity in charge of this and of contract management is DG INTPA Unit F3.

d. Key stakeholders

The direct beneficiaries will be:

- Target operators, incl. agri-food MSMEs, brokers/intermediaries and transporters linked to the agri-food value chains; farmer groups/cooperatives; large, medium and small outgrowers linked to formal markets.
- Support services (enabling environment), including consultants and consultancy companies; business membership organisations (i.e. producer organisations/professional associations); training centres (technical and educational institutions, research centres, universities); certification bodies and auditors; small farmers support structures such as NGOs, public or private extension services, local support programmes for small farmers; entities involved in logistics and freight; and national/regional public-private technical working groups.
- Competent authorities at national and county level, including official controls.

Indirect partner beneficiaries include local and international consumers, rural communities, and local and international purchasing and retail companies (stimulating investments).

e. Contribution to spending targets and markers (including Global Europe, INTPA and EU targets, expected amounts)

<input type="checkbox"/> Migration and forced displacement	Amount: 0
<input type="checkbox"/> Climate	Amount: EUR 20 M (40%)
<input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development	Amount: 0
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	Amount: 0
<input type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> G0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G1 <input type="checkbox"/> G2
<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity	Amount: 0
<input type="checkbox"/> Inequalities	<input type="checkbox"/> I-0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I-1 <input type="checkbox"/> I-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance	Amount: EUR 7,5 M (15%)

Action 12: Lake Chad Basin Transboundary Water Resources Management – Planned amount EUR 30 M

a. Summary

Over the years, the Lake Chad Basin has been grappling with many challenges ranging from institutional reforms, climate and environmental issues, population growth, human and economic development to conflicts and instability. The current crisis was triggered by armed violence linked to armed opposition groups, such as ‘Islamic State West Africa’ and ‘Boko Haram’ in Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria. The crisis is rooted in factors such as inequality, long-term political marginalization and exclusion. **This action intends to contribute** to the development and stabilisation of the region through the integrated and sustainable management of the basin’s transboundary water resources. Two specific objectives are foreseen under the programme. **Objective 1** will focus on strengthening the implementation capacity of regional, national, state and local institutions to enhance climate change adapted, gender-sensitive and conflict-reducing water resources management while specific **objective 2** is to improve equal access to water resources availability and address water quality degradation to meet the growing and competing needs of the region. The action will be implemented in five countries namely Chad, Cameroun, Nigeria, Niger and Central African Republic (CAR) and contribute to the Great Green Wall initiative. Regarding Niger, the project will have to adapt some activities depending on the political situation.

The lead and responsible entity in charge of the Decision and contract will be EU Delegation Nigeria who will work in close collaboration with EU Delegations in Chad, Cameroun, Niger and CAR. The implementing partners will be member state agencies in coordination with the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC). Also, a contribution of 5Mio is foreseen to WB through their Trust fund CIWA (Cooperation in International Waters in Africa), a major actor in the Lake Chad and support to LCBC.

b. Intervention logic for the proposed action

The overall objective of this action is to contribute to the development and stabilisation of the region through the integrated and sustainable management of the Basin’s transboundary water resources. To that aim, the action intends to:

- ***Strengthen the implementation capacity of regional, national and local institutional bodies to enhance climate change adapted, gender-responsive and conflict-reducing water resources management.***

Capacity building of LCBC and its member states to apply and align transboundary governance framework and managerial instruments as the Lake Chad Information system. Enhancing local actors institutional and technical capacities to implement measures to improve resilience to climate change.

- ***Support to improve equal access to water resources availability and address water quality degradation to meet the growing and competing needs of the region.***

Improved equal access to water to local actors including improvement of existing water supply infrastructures while insuring conflict-prevention measures. Related activities are considered in the light of improved capacity for water quality management in the Lake Chad Basin, thanks to accurate pollution mapping, impact analysis of water quality on biodiversity in selected sites, focusing on those sites which pose a threat to human health and biodiversity.

c. Implementation modality

. The entity in charge of the Decision and the Administrative Agreement with the WB will be INTPA Unit A2. The lead and responsible entity in charge of all other contracts will be the Delegation in Nigeria in close collaboration with the Delegations in Chad, Cameroun, Niger and

CAR The Action will be preferably implemented in indirect management by EU Member State agencies and through the WB trust fund CIWA. The choice will be based on comparative advantages of their on-going interventions in the region.

d. Key stakeholders

The main stakeholders include the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), River Basin Organizations (RBOs), national, state and local authorities responsible, as duty bearers, for water resources management, multilateral organizations such as the WB/CIWA, AfDB, EU Member State agencies Acewater III Centres of Excellence and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

e. Contribution to spending targets and markers (including Global Europe, INTPA and EU targets, expected amounts)

<input type="checkbox"/> Migration and forced displacement	Amount:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate	Amount: EUR 30 M
<input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> G0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G1 <input type="checkbox"/> G2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity	Amount: EUR 12 M
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inequalities	<input type="checkbox"/> I-0 <input type="checkbox"/> I-1 <input type="checkbox"/> I-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance	Amount:

Action 13: Transboundary Water Management in Southern Africa– Planned amount EUR 20 M

a. Summary

Water resources in Southern Africa are increasingly becoming scarce. Rapid population growth, agriculture development and industrialisation has led to a surge in water demand, while climate change and environmental degradation have made water supplies less predictable. These changes are affecting both the availability and quality of previously reliable water sources. This is putting at risks the economic development of the region and has already dire impacts on agriculture and energy development (see current extreme drought crisis¹³), health (several cholera outbreaks) or social stability (riots and protests). Addressing these challenges requires a dual approach: preserving existing water stocks and promoting efficient water use. This regional program aims to implement sustainable water management practices at two different scales:

1. At the **Hydrological-Ecological Base Unit Level**: it will focus on the Okavango Basin, which spans Angola, Namibia, and Botswana, with a goal to preserve water quality and availability, and strengthen cross-border cooperation for basin management. It will develop and implement sustainable water management practices and enhance governance and finance mechanisms to support water security and sustainability.
2. At the **Comprehensive, Partnership Level**: will aim to foster regional partnerships to improve water management and enhance data-driven decision-making processes. This will be done by expanding, upgrading and harmonizing data applications for water management. Enhancing digital systems and capacities within regional organizations to drive informed cooperation across basins and riparian states.

Whilst the SADC region, 16 Member States encompassing all of Southern Africa, is characterized by an unaffordable high degree of inefficiency in water use, numerous large scale water transfer projects are emerging, whereby stakeholders are not able to provide a clear overview of the implications of those projects on stocks of water resources, vulnerability regarding climate change, or the effects on the ecosystem, among others. Without proper planning and coordination, new development projects in Angola, such as hydropower dams, could end the regular flooding of the Okavango Delta, impacting ecosystem vitality and in turn related economic activities and ecosystem services. Pollution of water sources from agriculture, (informal) settlements, (historic) mining activities and poor land management practices are also of concern in the region.

The Action will deliver on the Global Gateway by promoting private sector investments (with innovative financing mechanisms) and securing other investments in the region. This Action will also be part of the Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Transboundary Water Management in Africa.

Improving the governance, coordination, knowledge, and management of water resources is rapidly emerging as a crucial priority.

The lead entity in charge of this action and of contracting is the EUD in Botswana.

b. Intervention logic for the proposed action

The **Overall Objective** of the action is to conserve inland water ecosystems and preserve water stocks vis-à-vis increasing water demand due to growing population, the effects of climate change and environmental degradation, as well as other correlated stressors.

The envisaged Specific Objectives (SOs) are the following:

SO1: Catalyse and scale up transboundary water cooperation in the Okavango basin, including by strengthening dedicated, sustainable financing mechanisms and supporting

¹³ https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/jrc-news-and-updates/drought-worsens-crisis-southern-africa-2024-04-19_en

governance framework, to protect the ecological and water resources of the entire basin and foster collaboration among multiple countries.

Indicative activities would include:

- Set the stage for mobilising of (blended) finance sources for seed funding or scale-up innovative finance facilities, including trust funds, to address TWM interventions in the basin, such as sustainable and inclusive investment practices that support ecosystem resilience, enhance efficient water use, improve livelihoods for women and men, and provide equitable benefits to the riparian states of the river basin.
- Support the expansion of the Okavango Delta *World Heritage Site* beyond Botswana into Namibia and Angola to attain full eco-system coverage, as proposed by UNESCO.

SO2: Enhance Integrated Catchment Management approaches **and strengthen decision support systems of River Basin Organisations across the SADC Region** to support implementation, cooperation and coordination in a unified way.

Indicative activities would include:

- Improve data collection, management and harmonisation, in alignment with the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) process, through technical assistance to develop an effective automation and integration of data systems comprising the Strategic Spatial Development Framework (SSD) of River Basin Organisations (RBOs). The TA activities will be open to participation by all willing RBOs and will address the ‘water towers’ of the most prominent river/aquifer basins first, to improve understanding of basin hydrology and available supplies, hydropower plant scenarios and models of dam cascades, water security, including environmental flow requirements, develop alternative scenarios more based on Nature Based Solutions and apply lessons-learned from RBOs and their respective countries.
- Support governance reforms for deploying Integrated Catchment Management in the region with River Basin Management Planning at Basin and sub-catchment levels (according to notably country level governance systems), the deployment of the data systems and the use of the Water Energy Food Ecosystem (WEFE) Nexus approach.
- improve communication, dialogue, cooperation, and coordination among riparian states at local, national, river basin, and regional levels; and accompany the enforcement of agreements between riparian states, such as the SADC Protocol on Transboundary Water Management (TWM)
- Explore Possibilities to further develop longer term financing mechanisms for Integrated Catchment Management and Water Use Efficiency, including involving the private sector.

c. Implementation modality

Regarding the transboundary water management fund, contracts will be managed by the delegation in Botswana for the Okavango basin. The implementation modality is to work through contribution agreements with EDFIs, and UN organizations; potential candidates are AfD, GEF, GiZ, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and UNESCO.

Regarding the data management & hydrologic assessment element, multiple partners are envisioned. An administrative agreement is foreseen with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) to benefit from its scientific capacities, (including access to interferometric data from SWOT SAR radars). Similarly, a close cooperation with the EU funded project, African Centres of Excellence, ACEWATER III, is desired to integrate its network of African universities, research institutions and scholars.

A simplified Financing Agreement with SADC is planned.

The lead entity in charge of this action and of contracting is the EUD in Botswana.

d. Key stakeholders

The key stakeholders will include local, state and national authorities responsible for water resources management; the South Africa Development Community (SADC); River Basin Organizations (RBOs) such as LIMCOM (Limpopo Watercourse Commission), OKACOM (Okavango Commission), ORASECOM (Orange/Senqu Commission), ZAMCOM (Zambezi Commission) and ZRA (Zambezi River Authority).

e. Contribution to spending targets and markers (including Global Europe, INTPA and EU targets, expected amounts)

<input type="checkbox"/> Migration and forced displacement	Amount:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate	Amount: EUR 20 M
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development	Amount: EUR 5 M
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> G0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G1 <input type="checkbox"/> G2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity	Amount: EUR 8 M
<input type="checkbox"/> Inequalities	<input type="checkbox"/> I-0 <input type="checkbox"/> I-1 <input type="checkbox"/> I-2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance	Amount: EUR 5 M

Action 14: Projet de Gestion intégrée des Ressources en Eau de Surface et Souterraines dans les bassins du fleuve Sénégal et de l'aquifère Sénégal-Mauritanien ('PROGRESS') - Planned amount EUR 15 M

a. Résumé

L'action vise à renforcer la résilience aux changements climatiques des systèmes des eaux de surface (Bassin du Fleuve Sénégal ou BFS) et des eaux souterraines (Bassin Aquifère Sénégal-Mauritanien ou BASM) à travers l'amélioration du suivi et de la gestion durable des ressources en eau et des écosystèmes. Elle s'inscrit dans la stratégie Global Gateway en investissant sur des activités d'adaptation et de résilience face au changement climatique et renforce le rôle de leader de l'Equipe Europe sur la gestion des eaux transfrontalières et de leurs bassins versants en Afrique. Le fleuve Sénégal, dont le bassin couvre partiellement la Guinée, le Mali, la Mauritanie et le Sénégal, est une ressource clé pour les populations et les acteurs économiques des pays riverains, tant pour le secteur agricole, de l'élevage et de la pêche, que pour la production énergétique et l'alimentation en eau de villes majeures, telles que Dakar et Nouakchott. Il alimente également des aires protégées présentant une grande biodiversité, tels que les parcs ornithologiques du Djoudj au Sénégal et du Diawling en Mauritanie. Le BFS dispose d'un fort potentiel de développement des ressources en eau avec néanmoins des risques associés, en particulier en ce qui concerne la qualité de l'eau pour les usages humains et les écosystèmes, exacerbés par les effets du changement climatique.

Le bassin aquifère sénégal-mauritanien (BASM) représente également une source d'eau cruciale dans la région. Il englobe 100% de la Gambie, 27% de la Guinée Bissau, 14% de la Mauritanie et 84% du Sénégal. L'Organisation pour la mise en valeur du fleuve Sénégal (OMVS) et l'Organisation pour la mise en valeur du fleuve Gambie (OMVG) sont à cheval sur le BASM et assurent tous deux le secrétariat du Groupe de Travail Régional (GTR) du BASM constitué en 2020 pour orienter et coordonner les activités sur le bassin. Là encore, les effets du changement climatique impactent la recharge des nappes souterraines ce qui, couplé à des prélèvements excessifs, constitue une menace pour le développement socio-économique durable de millions de personnes.

Six axes prioritaires ont été identifiées et sont issues des documents programmatiques élaborés par l'OMVS pour ce qui concerne le BFS et par le Groupe de Travail Régional du BASM (cogéré par l'OMVS et par l'OMVG). Ces organismes seront responsables du pilotage de l'action, qui serait mise en œuvre en coopération déléguée avec des Agences des États membres de l'UE ainsi qu'en gestion directe pour certaines activités. L'entité en charge de l'action et de la gestion des contrats est la DUE Sénégal.

b. Logique d'intervention de l'action

L'action vise à améliorer la résilience aux changements climatiques des systèmes des eaux de surface dans le bassin du fleuve Sénégal et des eaux souterraines dans le bassin aquifère Sénégal-Mauritanien (OG).

L'action se décline en deux objectifs spécifiques que sont OS1 : Le suivi et la gestion durable des ressources en eau de surface et souterraines sont renforcés et OS2 : L'état des ressources naturelles et de la biodiversité est amélioré.

Pour atteindre ces objectifs spécifiques, l'action développera des activités autour de six axes prioritaires émanant des documents programmatiques des bassins concernés : (i) un mécanisme permanent pour le suivi de la qualité de l'eau dans le BFS est mis en place, (ii) un observatoire du BFS au Massif du Fouta-Djalou est opérationnel, (iii) la gestion intégrée et durable des ressources en eaux souterraines du BASM est améliorée, (iv) la capacité des acteurs régionaux en matière d'hydrodiplomatie et de coopération dans le domaine de l'eau est renforcée, (v) la prolifération du typha au niveau du BFS est contrôlée et (vi) un fonds pour la réalisation des études prioritaires et de projets pilotes au niveau du BFS est mis en place.

L'action est complémentaire avec les initiatives en cours ou planifiées notamment portées par la Banque mondiale et l'AFD pour ce qui concerne le BFS et le Geneva Water Hub, les Centres d'Excellence sur l'Eau (Acewater III), le Secrétariat de la Convention sur la protection et l'utilisation des cours d'eau transfrontaliers et des lacs internationaux, fournis par la Commission économique pour l'Europe des Nations Unies (CEE-ONU) et le Centre international d'évaluation des ressources en eau souterraine (IGRAC) pour le BASM. Elle s'appuie aussi sur l'évaluation et les leçons apprises du projet WEFÉ Sénégal, clôturé en 2022, cofinancé par la Commission européenne et l'Agence de coopération italienne. Pour assurer la pérennité de l'action, l'engagement des différentes institutions au niveau national et régional est indispensable. Pour ce faire, l'action pourra s'appuyer sur le leadership déjà bien ancré au niveau régional de l'OMVS, souvent citée comme modèle dans le domaine de la coopération en matière d'eaux transfrontalières en Afrique subsaharienne.

L'entité en charge de l'action et de la gestion des contrats est la DUE Sénégal.

c. Modalités de mise en œuvre

La signature de conventions de contribution est envisagée avec des Agences des États membres de l'UE localisées dans la zone d'intervention. Parmi celles-ci, l'AFD (FR) et AICS (IT) sont des potentiels bénéficiaires, ayant déjà manifesté leur intérêt à sa voir associés à l'action avec de possibles cofinancements. Pour la composante relative aux activités d'hydrodiplomatie, une gestion directe est envisagée. Cette action est portée par la Délégation du Sénégal, désignée chef de file. La période indicative de mise en œuvre opérationnelle de la présente action serait de 60 mois.

d. Principaux intervenants

Les organismes des bassins du fleuve Sénégal (OMVS) et du fleuve Gambie (OMVG) constituent les premiers intervenants de l'action, ayant tous deux pour mandat la gestion des ressources en eau et des investissements socio-productifs dans leurs zones de compétence et assurant tous deux le secrétariat du Groupe de Travail Régional (GTR) du BASM. A ce titre, le pilotage global de l'action et la mise en œuvre de certaines activités seront de leur responsabilité directe. Au niveau de chaque pays, les ministères compétents ainsi que les autorités locales seront impliqués dans le suivi des activités selon les mécanismes institutionnels déjà fonctionnels au niveau de chaque organisme de bassin. Au niveau régional, la CEDEAO, porteuse du Programme régional d'aménagement intégré du massif du Fouta Djallon (PRAI-MFD), sera tout particulièrement impliqué dans l'opérationnalisation de l'Observatoire. L'action permettra dans sa mise en œuvre d'impliquer de nombreux autres intervenants qu'ils soient de la société civile, du secteur privé ou encore des universités ou centres de recherche locaux ou internationaux. Au-delà des partenaires de mise en œuvre identifiés, les partenaires techniques et financiers qui accompagnent les organismes de bassins ciblés seront également pleinement impliqués.

e. Contribution aux cibles et marqueurs de dépenses (y inclus Global Europe, INTPA et cibles UE)

<input type="checkbox"/> Migration et déplacements forcés	Montant: EUR 0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climat	Montant: EUR 15 M (100%)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inclusion Sociale et Développement Humain	Montant: EUR 6 M (40%)
<input type="checkbox"/> Éducation	Montant: EUR 0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Genre	<input type="checkbox"/> G0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G1 <input type="checkbox"/> G2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversité	Montant: EUR 6 M (40%)
<input type="checkbox"/> Inégalités	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I-0 <input type="checkbox"/> I-1 <input type="checkbox"/> I-2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Droits de l'Homme, Démocratie et bonne gouvernance	Montant: EUR 2.25 M (15%)

Priority Area 4: Digital, Science, Technology, and Innovation

Action 15: Africa-EU Space partnership programme (part 2) – Planned amount EUR 55 M

a. Summary

The Action is the second part of the EU-Africa Space partnership for which a total amount of EUR 100M has been foreseen. The first part (EUR 45M) has been decided by the Commission as part of the MAAP 2023-2025 – SSA MIP priority area STI.

The Action will contribute to make more effective use of space technologies, based on the EU Space programme such as Copernicus and Galileo, through the development of services and applications focusing on most pressing challenges related to the green transition sectors.

The Action will build and capitalise on ongoing EU supported space related programmes such as GMES&Africa¹⁴, ClimSA¹⁵ and ASECNA-JPO¹⁶.

Focus will be given on operationalise Earth Observation (EO) and Satellite Navigation (SatNav) based services. Specific attention will be paid to complementarities and added value of joining the use of these two space technologies in selected sectors of intervention.

The sectors of intervention will be selected according to Africa priorities in the green transition and building on ongoing programmes and the longstanding partnership with Africa, strengthening synergies of combining EO and SatNav technologies. The Action may therefore focus on Land and Water Management; Marine and Coastal area; Agriculture and Food security; and Climate change. However, new topic(s) may be added to the intervention (i.e. urban planning). During the formulation phase, the sectors will be confirmed. In addition, a potential focus for sustainable development for SIDS will be explored.

Support will be given to the African organisations that are developing the space-based services but also to public institutions that utilise those products and services to improve decision-making processes and to digital private sector as to develop the African space ecosystem. The programme will foster synergies with TEI and other regional and national programmes. Further to that, the Action will explore how to better support national priorities in the green transition areas by strengthening the link between the regional and national dimensions.

The lead entity in charge of the action is DG INTPA Unit A2.

The entity in charge of contract management: TBD depending on the implementing modalities and partners (between A2, F5, EUDAU or individual EUDs).

b. Intervention logic for the proposed action

Overall Objective: to contribute to sustainable and inclusive development, and the green transition in Africa through an enhanced strategic EU-Africa Space partnership, building on the EU Space programme.

Specific Objective: African organisations, policy-makers, practitioners and private sector make more effective use of space technologies to develop relevant operational information services to support green transition.

The indicative activities will be carried out through the following **outputs**:

Output 1: Policy and institutional framework

¹⁴ GMES&Africa : Global Monitoring for Environment and Security & Africa

¹⁵ ClimSA: Intra-ACP Climate Services and related applications

¹⁶ ASECNA – JPO : Agence pour la Sécurité de la Navigation Aérienne en Afrique et à Madagascar – Joint Programme Office

Policy and institutional frameworks are improved to contribute to better decision-making processes for the green transition based on Space Science and Technology applications.

Indicative activities: (i) engage with relevant organisations / processes at continental level on including space data and technologies for decision-making processes; (ii) strengthen engagement with regional and national institutions to ensure the effective use of space data and information services for decision-making processes, (iii) develop a strategy for user engagement and uptake for policy maker; and (iv) support the mainstream of EO in other relevant green transition policies.

Output 2: Space data access

Improved access to EO (e.g. Copernicus) & SatNav data and information products on green transition sectors in relevant African organisations.

Indicative activities: (i) improve EO data access (e.g. strengthen access to digital platform in line with EU space programme and technologies); (ii) identify and improve access to satnav data in the context of the pilot / demonstrator projects; (iii) explore the need for a secure and sustained local digital infrastructure (e.g. Copernicus Hubs, African EO cloud).

Output 3: Space-based Information services related to green transition

Space-based information services are operational for policy makers, scientists, private sector and end-users.

Indicative activities: (i) consolidate and build on existing GMES and ClimSa services, based on a user-driven approach, and promote their extension and application to other African regions (when relevant); (ii) follow-up and monitor the operation, usage and impact of GMES and ClimSa services; (iii) establish a feedback mechanism to improve the delivery of the services based on user needs; (iv) conduct a mapping of needs, carry out feasibility studies and cost-benefit analyses/scenarios to evaluate possibilities for service expansion based on validation results and identify which segments of the value chain, according to thematic approaches (e.g. CO₂, biodiversity, water, urban), require further actions; (v) support the development of new green transition related space services; (vi) support the development of pilot services /demo showcasing the benefits of integrating both EO and Satnav technologies in selected sectors.

Output 4: Gender-sensitive Capacity building and Knowledge management

Capacities of African public institutions, users of GMES and ClimSa services and private sector are enhanced, to take advantage of EO-based information for green transition applications. Specific attention will also be paid to address in the training programmes the added value of combining EO and SatNav technologies. Capacity building activities may be envisaged to support national stakeholders to connect with the regional institutions.

Indicative activities: (i) establish a gender sensitive training strategy; (ii) carry out training of GMES and ClimSa beneficiaries as well as relevant public institutions and private sector; (iii) develop and maintain digital learning tools; (iv) establish and maintain thematic communities of practice; (v) foster inter-regional cooperation to build and replicate successful services; (vi) carry out a skills development programme.

Output 5: Outreach, uptake and dissemination

The Africa – EU Space partnership programme visibility is enhanced at various levels promoting the EU as a key player in the African space ecosystem.

Indicative activities: (i) develop and implement a gender-sensitive communication strategy to raise awareness on the benefits of EO for green transition using a coherent, innovative and harmonized set of communication tools and activities; (ii) engage with private sector to encourage innovative downstream services; and (iii) strengthen synergies with other EU-funded programmes.

c. Implementation modality

The Action will be implemented by relevant African regional or continental centres / organisations. These centres will be selected based on their capacity to reach the expected results at thematic, technological and management capacity levels and to work at multi-country / regional level. The organisations will be in particular selected among the centres that are already implementing EU supported programmes such as GMES&Africa and ClimSA.

These centres would be contracted through intermediary organisations that can be the European Copernicus Entities such as ECMWF, Mercator Ocean International, the European Space Agency, etc. From the African side, the African Space Agency (AfSA) could also be considered as an intermediary organisation. The purpose of having intermediary organisations is to provide technical, scientific and management capacity or political added value to the Action.

This option to be confirmed during the formulation phase is justified by the fact that calls for proposals are not considered an efficient option to reach the policy objectives and to continue the strategic support to the African organisations which whom DG INTPA has built a long partnership. On the other side, direct contracts with the regional centres appear to be too complex to manage.

The lead entity in charge of the action is DG INTPA Unit A2.

The entity in charge of contract management: TBD depending on the implementing modalities and partners (between A2, F5, EUDAU or individual EUDs).

Synergies with the digital investment envelop and pipeline will be explored especially for the infrastructure development activities (Output 2).

A possible Administrative Arrangement with DG JRC has to be discussed.

d. Key stakeholders

The Action will involve a diverse range of stakeholders across Africa, including:

- i) AUC: As the leading continental institution, the AUC plays a central role in coordinating Africa's space-related activities and strategies.
- ii) AfSA: it represents a pivotal institution, as an organ of the AUC, for the development and coordination of space activities across Africa.
- iii) African Space Council: it serves as a strategic advisory body, providing guidance and coordination for space-related initiatives.
- iv) African National Space Agencies: they will play a crucial role in benefiting from the Action, contributing with their expertise and resources to achieve common objectives.
- v) African Centres active in green transition: this includes Regional Centres of Excellence, Regional Climate Centres, and Regional and National Specialised Meteorological and Hydrological centers. These institutions are key stakeholders in the production of services related to green transitions, and their involvement will ensure the Action's relevance and impact in addressing environmental challenges.
- vi) African Policy makers at various levels: including national, regional, and continental, will benefit from the expansion of services and applications facilitated by the Action. Their engagement will ensure the integration of space technologies into policy frameworks and decision-making processes.
- vii) Regional and National space-related actors: This encompasses a wide range of stakeholders, including RECs, national departments/ministries in charge of environmental protection, job, and growth, as well as international organizations with mandates for space. Agencies such ASECNA will ensure a regulatory role and the provision of services for the benefit of civil aviation.

viii) International space-related and/or green transition-related actors.

ix) Copernicus entities.

x) Private sector (start-ups): Private sector stakeholders include companies involved in EO and SatNav technology development, service provision, and applications. They will drive innovation and entrepreneurship in the space sector, contributing to economic growth and job creation.

xi) Academia: Academic institutions play a crucial role in EO and SatNav research, training, and knowledge dissemination in the space sector. Their engagement will support capacity-building efforts, promote scientific advancements relevant to the Action, and foster collaboration with industry and government partners.

e. Contribution to spending targets and markers (including Global Europe, INTPA and EU targets, expected amounts)

<input type="checkbox"/> Migration and forced displacement	Amount: N/A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate	Amount: EUR 55 M
<input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> G0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G1 <input type="checkbox"/> G2
<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity	Amount: EUR 25 M
<input type="checkbox"/> Inequalities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I-0 <input type="checkbox"/> I-1 <input type="checkbox"/> I-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance	Amount:

Action 16: Africa Research Initiative for Scientific Excellence ARISE 2.0 – Planned amount EUR 25 M

a. Summary

This action is continuation of ongoing successful African Research Initiative for Scientific Excellence Pilot Programme (ARISE-PP) financed by the EU, to further strengthen Africa's scientific landscape and provide opportunities for talented researchers, whether they're from Africa or returning after working abroad.

The project will support, through call for proposals, mid-career and senior African scientists to develop their most promising project ideas, establishing research teams and continuing to develop a successful career in Africa. The selection of the project ideas will be mainly based on excellence and the potential to make a real impact – considering pressing local, national, and regional research needs, resources, and priorities. The chosen researchers will receive funding to strengthen their own research teams and projects which could cooperate with early-to-mid career research from the ARISE-PP edition.

The African Academy of Sciences will play the pivotal role of launching the grants and oversee the programme implementation, including communication activities. African Union Commission (AUC) and its member states with support from other African research, science and higher education organisations will play a crucial role in guiding the programme's direction.

During the formulation of the programme, we will seek the partnership and involvement of the European Research Council (ERC) to promote exchanges and fellowships in hosting European research institutes.

The lead entity in charge of this action and of contract management is DG INTPA Unit A2.

b. Intervention logic for the proposed action

By supporting the best women and men African researchers, the project aims at fostering more innovative research in Africa and cultivate the next generation of scientific leaders, also in the context of the EU-AU Innovation Agenda¹⁷. Eventually, support through ARISE 2.0 will also amplify the gains made thus far and accelerate Africa's research, development, and innovation capacity and capabilities along the next Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2025¹⁸ and to achieve the sustainable development goals and the Africa Union Agenda 2063.

The **Overall Objective** of this action is to solidify Africa's research and innovation landscape, contributing to a knowledge-based and innovation-led continent.

The **Specific Objectives** of this action are to:

1. *Enhance the capabilities of women and men African research leaders committed to a career in research and teaching in Africa.*

Through an open call for proposals, identify, on the basis of the principle of equality of opportunities, at least women and men 15 best mid- and advanced-career African researchers based on an ambitious proposal demonstrating feasibility and ground-breaking nature of the research and to consolidate their independence by establishing a gender-balanced research team, selected on the basis of excellence.

2. *Strengthen institutional research management and support systems to facilitate the flourishing of pan-African research.*

¹⁷ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-07/ec_rtd_au-eu-innovation-agenda-final-version.pdf

¹⁸ The strategy is under renewal.

Through capacity-building and networking activities strengthening cooperation among African researchers and hosting institutions participating in the ARISE fellows programme, aligning better with the vision and ambitions of AUC Education, Science, Technology & Innovation (ESTI) department, and bringing diverse expertise from EU member states R&I or other governmental institutions.

3. *Support the generation of cutting-edge research.*

By providing equal opportunities to women and men African researchers to pursue research collaboration with European colleagues already supported through EU-funded European Research Council (ERC) grants; organising tailored trainings and workshops focusing further even on SDG-related topics; looking for synergies with relevant actions implemented by other African partners through other EU-funded and EU member states programmes; and connecting ARISE fellows with Africa Centres of Excellence aiming to address common challenges and prevent brain drain.

To achieve the latter, during the formulation of the action document, we will assess the opportunity of having formal engagements between African Institutions and the European Research Council Executive Agency European. This would allow to create and develop linkages between Arise partners and the European ERC’s grantees and promote a Team Europe approach.

c. Implementation modality

This action may be implemented through:

- Direct grant with African Academy of Science (AAS)¹⁹.

The lead entity in charge of this action and of contract management is DG INTPA Unit A2.

d. Key stakeholders

The African Academy of Science (AAS) has a unique role as a pan-African scientific organisation promoting international research partnerships and the development of a robust research ecosystem in Africa. Set up in 1985 the AAS is well positioned and internationally recognised to forge strategic science partnerships on the African continent and globally. It has a three-part mandate of pursuing excellence by recognising scholars and scientists, providing advisory and think tank functions for shaping the continent’s strategies, as well as managing and implementing key Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) funding programmes that can tackle developmental challenges. AAS will manage and implement the call for proposals of the ARISE 2.0.

The AUC department for Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation (ESTI) is represented in the Board of the AAS. ESTI coordinates the AU programmes on human resource development, education, science, technology and promoting the youth development agenda.

Furthermore, the scientific community in Europe (e.g., ERC, Horizon Europe-MSCA) will have additional possibilities for collaboration, building R&I capacity and producing results. Additionally, as some of the EU member states have, so far, actively taken an interest in the development of the ARISE 2.0 (through the ERA Forum Standing Group on the Global Approach), could be further involved in its promotion and strategic oversight, as well as (over time) in possible financial and non-financial contributions to subsequent and follow-up phases.

e. Contribution to spending targets and markers (including Global Europe, INTPA and EU targets, expected amounts)

<input type="checkbox"/> Migration and forced displacement	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Climate	Amount:

¹⁹ <https://aasciences.africa/>

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development	Amount: EUR 25 M
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	Amount: EUR 0 M
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> G0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G1 <input type="checkbox"/> G2
<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity	Amount: 0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inequalities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I-0 <input type="checkbox"/> I-1 <input type="checkbox"/> I-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance	Amount: 0

Priority Area 5: Sustainable Growth and Decent Jobs

Action 17: Enablers to Sustainable Trade and Investment in Africa – Planned amount EUR 40 M

a. Summary

This Action is central to the Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package roll-out and contributes to the Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on support to economic integration towards the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), a flagship project objective of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and a major priority for the European Commission.

This Action is part of EU's strategic approach in support of African economic integration at the national, regional, and continental level which focuses on the different key areas part of trade agreements. It will complement support provided under MAAP 2022-2024 (trade in goods and trade in services), MAAP 2023-2025 (trade facilitation across strategic corridors and competition) and MAAP 2024-2025 (digital trade), by enabling EU-Africa and intra-African sustainable trade and investment, focusing on 4 additional key elements:

1. Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs). Key for European investment and innovation facilitation and protection in Africa. Follow up on an existing Action, the focus will be on harmonisation, creation, registration, management, protection, and enforcement through the support of continental, regional and national: (i) IP legal and policy frameworks; (ii) African IP administration capacities; and the support to (iii) the African and EU productive sector with a particular focus on SMEs.

This enabler will potentially be implemented by the EU Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) through indirect management. Ongoing strong collaboration with DG TRADE, DG AGRI and DG GROW.

2. EU-Africa Trade and investment partnerships. Key for EU-Africa trade and investment agreements implementation. Focus: Promoting trade capacities of African partners through the development of a flexible tool that can accommodate specific support to countries with whom the EU shares preferential trade and investment agreements (EPAs, SIFAs, GSP+, etc.).

This enabler is expected to be implemented by EU MS agencies (still TBD) through indirect management. To be developed in close collaboration with DG TRADE.

3. Customs Integration. GG relevance: Main trade enabler essential for all trade. Follow up on an existing Action, Focus: Development and implementation of key custom pillars through dedicated technical capacity support to: Rules of Origin (RoO), Harmonized system (HS) and customs valuation.

This enabler will potentially be implemented by the World Customs Organization (WCO) through indirect management. Ongoing strong collaboration with DG TAXUD.

4. Investment Facilitation. Main soft enabler to accompany hard investments. Focus: Establishment of the Africa Virtual Investment Platform (AfVIP), whose objective is to enhance the investment landscape in Africa with comprehensive, timely information and analysis on all types of investment - both foreign and domestic, public, and private - and related policies across all African countries and sectors.

The AfVIP will potentially be implemented by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) through indirect management. To be developed in close collaboration with DG TRADE.

The lead entity in charge of this action is DG INTPA Unit A2 in collaboration with DG INTPA Units E2, A1, above Line DGs.

The entities in charge of the contracts management are DG INTPA Unit A2, EUD to the African Union (AU), others under discussion.

b. Intervention logic for the proposed action

Under NDICI-Global Europe and the GG, the EU has built a strategic approach in support of African economic integration at the national, regional, and continental level. To boost EU-Africa and intra-African sustainable trade and investment, the EU is anchoring its support on key priority areas under intra-African and EU-Africa trade agreements.

This Action focuses on key enablers of trade and investment in the framework of trade agreements, namely intellectual property rights, customs integration, investment facilitation and technical support to EU-Africa trade and investment partnerships.

Its proposed result framework is the following:

The **Overall Objective** (Impact) of the Action is to contribute to enabling sustainable trade and investment in Africa.

The **Specific Objectives** (Outcomes) of the action are to:

1. Further upgrade and harmonise systems for the creation, protection, use, administration and enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in line with international/European standards.
2. Facilitate the implementation of EU-Africa Trade and Investment Agreements.
3. Strengthen Customs efficiency and operationalisation.
4. Develop data, analysis, and data management capacities on Africa’s investment landscape.

The indicative budgetary allocation, to be confirmed during the formulation phase, is the following:

<i>Component</i>	<i>Lead Entity</i>	<i>Indicative budget (tbc)</i>
<i>IPRs</i>	INTPA A2	14.000.000
<i>EU-Africa Trade and Investment Partnerships</i>	Under discussion	13.000.000
<i>Customs Integration</i>	INTPA A2	8.000.000
<i>Investment Facilitation</i>	EU Delegation to AU	5.000.000

c. Implementation modality

SO1: The intended implementation modality is indirect management potentially with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO).

SO2: The intended implementation modality is indirect management with MS agencies (TBD).

SO3: The intended implementation modality is indirect Management potentially with the World Customs Organisation (WCO).

SO4: The intended implementation modality is indirect management potentially with the OECD.

The lead entity in charge of this action is DG INTPA Unit A2 in collaboration with DG INTPA Units E2, A1, above Line DGs.

The entities in charge of the contracts management are DG INTPA Unit A2, Unit E2, EUD to the African Union (AU).

d. Key stakeholders

- Public bodies:

Continental: AUC Department of Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining (ETTIM), AUC Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE); AfCFTA Secretariat, AUDA-NEPAD

Regional: Regional Economic Communities, Regional IP Organisations (ARIPO and OAPI)

National: Sectoral Ministries (trade, economy, investment), International Cooperation/Foreign Affairs Ministries, National IP Offices, National Customs Authorities

- Private Sector:

Continental, Regional, National Business Councils; continental, Regional, National Business Associations and Chambers of Commerce; National Trade Promotion Organisations; Foreign investors/MNEs and domestic businesses including SMEs associations, SMEs MEs and industry and investment promotion agencies,

- CSOs, Consumer organisations

e. Contribution to spending targets and markers (including Global Europe, INTPA and EU targets, expected amounts)

<input type="checkbox"/> Migration and forced displacement	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Climate	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	Amount:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> G0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G1 <input type="checkbox"/> G2
<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Inequalities	<input type="checkbox"/> I-0 <input type="checkbox"/> I-1 <input type="checkbox"/> I-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance	Amount:

Action 18: Regional Programme for “Responsible Business Conduct Africa” – Planned Amount EUR 30 M

a. Summary

The health, social and economic crisis brought on by events like COVID-19 and Russian war of aggression on Ukraine hit African economies and societies hard. Several Sub-Saharan African (SSA) governments are engaging in reforms to promote recovery, foster greater resilience, improve the investment climate, strengthen responsible business practices, and further enhance the development impact of Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) and intra-African trade to regain sustainable growth. It is expected that initiatives like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the African Union (AU) Business and Human Rights Policy (BHR) will serve as a vehicle for diversifying, industrializing, and transforming the economies of African countries and will contribute to their sustainable and inclusive development in accordance with the AU Agenda 2063.

For the EU and Africa, it is of mutual interest to step up cooperation towards a sustainable, resilient and inclusive long-term economic recovery while promoting and fostering good governance, human rights and responsible business practices. The EU - the largest trading partner and source of FDI for Africa has strengthened initiatives and regulations to promote Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) among EU enterprises and markets and their value chains over recent years. Current and forthcoming EU legislation, in particular the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CS3D, which builds upon global standards on RBC, including the UN Guiding Principles (UNGPs) and the OECD Due Diligence Guidelines) will affect economies beyond the EU, including enterprises in SSA that have business links with EU enterprises.

Against this backdrop, the EU is committed to reinforcing its collaboration with main African and international partners and stakeholders and to identify and support accompanying measures to promote RBC practices, EU upcoming legislations and International Standards promoting smart and inclusive economic growth and sustainable development in Africa. This action will promote the scaling up of political, financial, and technical cooperation with relevant partners in SSA to establish a supporting ecosystem for promoting RBC, including with mitigating and accompanying measures, for the uptake of EU upcoming CS3D legislation at partner country level.

The lead entity in charge of this action and of contracting is DG INTPA Unit A2.

b. Intervention logic for the proposed action

Building on the experience of completed and ongoing programmes supported by the EU in this field in other regions, the main goal of the RBC Africa project will be to promote smart and inclusive growth and sustainable development in SSA by supporting responsible business practices, promote the uptake and anticipating the effects of upcoming EU legislations (e.g. CS3D, Forced Labour Regulation etc.) in line existing frameworks such as the AU BHR policy and with internationally agreed norms and principles set out in the UN, ILO and OECD instruments and promoting on regulatory and policy developments on RBC, particularly on due diligence.

This action will be developed around a number of country packages which will be designed under the steer of the EU Delegations and in line with Global Gateway priorities in each selected country. These country packages will complement activities envisaged at the country level through the country MIPs, particularly as regards the choice of sector or value chain and also build on the partner countries' national plans and strategies on RBC.

To promote multilateralism, harmonization of existing global standards and the uptake of upcoming EU legislations, the action will be managed by a consortium of International Organisations (IOs) in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and with the EU Delegations in the selected Countries. Activities will focus around four main components: (1) Policy-making and regulatory dimension (2) Capacity building and skills development of relevant actors (3) Enhancing remedy frameworks

and strengthening access to remedies, (4) Fostering stakeholders’ engagement for RBC. Targeted sectors will be defined during formulation.

c. Implementation modality

It is foreseen to have one Contribution Agreement with a potential Consortium of pillar assessed IOs (OHCHR, ILO, ITC, UNDP and OECD) for the implementation of the activities in 11 selected countries where the successful uptake of EU legislation is key to enable investment and trade and where these organisations already have solid track record and cooperation with the EU, the governments and the relevant partners.

The regional ‘*chapeau*’ component of the action will focus on the continental and regional activities (e.g., with RECs and RECs Business Councils capacity building on due diligence and responsible business conduct, work with the AU on implementation of its BHR policy etc.). This component will also provide a level of coherence and coordination for the activities deployed in the country packages. At the country level component, the ‘country packages’ of activities will be developed on the basis of the work and similar programmes designed and implemented by the EU Delegations with relevant partners and organizations in order to maximise the transformational impact and avoid duplications. The concerned EU Delegations will provide the steer in the design of the country packages and the roll-out of activities.

For this project only one contract will be signed.

The lead entity in charge of this action and of contracting is DG INTPA Unit A2.

d. Key stakeholders

Key stakeholders for this action include African governments as duty bearers, African Union, RECs, employers' and workers' organisations, enterprises and business organizations, civil society organisations (CSOs), local or indigenous community groups, experts and academics, human rights defenders, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), etc.

e. Contribution to spending targets and markers (including Global Europe, INTPA and EU targets, expected amounts)

<input type="checkbox"/> Migration and forced displacement	Amount:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate	Amount: 40% (indicatively)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development	Amount: 40% (indicatively)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	Amount: 10% (indicatively)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> G0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G1 <input type="checkbox"/> G2
<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity	Amount:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inequalities	<input type="checkbox"/> I-0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I-1 <input type="checkbox"/> I-2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance	Amount: 30% (indicatively)

Priority Area 6: Migration and Forced Displacement

Action 19: EU Support to the fight against human trafficking and migrant smuggling in the Horn of Africa Region– Planned amount EUR 20 M

a. Summary

Within the region and across two main routes (i.e. Eastern Route and Central Mediterranean Route) nationals of countries such as Sudan, Ethiopia, South Sudan are often migrating in vulnerable conditions and across perilous journeys. The routes are characterised by extreme weather conditions, legal and regulatory barriers, financial constraints, xenophobia, lack of access to protection services. Forced to flee due to multiple reasons and often in economic need, displaced populations can be targeted by traffickers and smugglers, who often abuse their vulnerability exposing them to life-threatening journeys and violence, in particular for women and children. Migrants are also often in extremely vulnerable situations and fall prey to organised and non-organised criminal networks of traffickers and smugglers, who treat them as commodities with the false promise of safe and quick passage across international borders. Migrants are using dangerous routes, being exposed to abuse and exploitation along the way, but also risking their lives. Often journeys are not linear and are diverted in many directions through which the migrants try to reach their destination, being exposed to exploitative conduct and abuse by several criminal actors. Trafficking in human beings is often linked with other forms of organised crime such as drug trafficking, extortion, money laundering, document fraud, payment card fraud, property crimes, cybercrime and other. Trafficking in human beings and the smuggling of migrants are two different, but often connected, forms of organised crime. As a whole they represent an illegal 150 Billion Dollar industry, according to UNODC estimations.

Since 2015's EUTF first implementation, the fight against the Trafficking of Human Beings (THB) and the Smuggling of Migrants (SoM) have been high on the EU agenda as two of the main EU-Africa migration management cooperation areas. Starting in 2015, the EU has supported IGAD and its Member States through the Better Migration Management (BMM) and the Regional Operation Centre in Khartoum (ROCK) programmes. This Action will allow the EU to build on the results achieved under both programmes. It will (1) strengthen national capacities of Horn of Africa countries to manage migration as well as protect, support and empower victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants, with particular attention to women and children; and (2) reinforce regional cooperation in the fight against trafficking and smuggling.

The action will complement key EU regional initiatives such as the HoAI and the EU support to the IGAD's Protocol on Free Movement of Persons and the IGAD's Protocol on Transhumance and build on the results of the AML-THB & CFT programme. INTPA A.2 will be the lead entity for the action. Contracts will be managed by the EU Delegations in Djibouti and Kenya.

The lead entity in charge of this action and of contract management is DG INTPA Unit A2.

b. Intervention logic for the proposed action

The Overall Objective is to support Horn of Africa countries in the region to promote the safe, orderly and regular migration, whilst combating illegal migration through human-rights-based and gender-responsive approaches.

The Specific Objectives are:

1. Strengthening the capacities, including from a gendered and human rights dimension, of investigation actors, the judiciary, border and immigration authorities, civil society organisations to enhance border management, improve regulatory frameworks on migration, and improve access to assistance, protection, empowerment and sustainable solutions for

Victims of Trafficking and vulnerable migrants (BMM IV), in particular women, children and people with disabilities;

2. Enhance the support to and continuation of regional/continental/international law enforcement and judiciary cooperation and exchange in the fight against trafficking and smuggling networks whilst ensuring a smooth and balanced transition to the AU continental Centre (ROCK III).

c. Implementation modality

Specific Objective 1 will be implemented in indirect management by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) through the BMM Phase IV in Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, South Sudan, Somalia.²⁰

Specific Objective 2 will be implemented in indirect management by CIVIPOL through ROCK Phase III.²¹

The lead entity in charge of this action and of contract management is DG INTPA Unit A2.

d. Key stakeholders

Stakeholders include the AU Commission, EU and African Khartoum Process countries, AU-HoAI, IGAD, Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (EAPCCO), the African Police Cooperation Organisation (AFRIPOL), Committee for Intelligence and Security Services in Africa (CISSA), relevant CSOs, respective Ministries of Interior/ Internal Security/ Internal Affairs of the selected countries in the HoA region.

e. Contribution to spending targets and markers (including Global Europe, INTPA and EU targets, expected amounts)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Migration and forced displacement	Amount: EUR 20 M
<input type="checkbox"/> Climate	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> G0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G1 <input type="checkbox"/> G2
<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Inequalities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I-0 <input type="checkbox"/> I-1 <input type="checkbox"/> I-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance	Amount:

²⁰Uganda and Eritrea, both included in the previous phases of the program, are unlikely to take part in the new phase of the program. Uganda’s migration regulatory systems are deemed more advanced and in less need of support than those of other countries. Eritrea, has seen BMM operations stopped for several years due to the political situation in the country.

²¹ The program will cover the countries of the Khartoum Process, the African Union – Horn of Africa Initiative (AU-HoAI), countries involved in emerging migration routes and interested in cross-border cooperation opportunities and who have sent already a Liaison officer to the ROCK during the first and second phase, countries involved in the transition from the ROCK to the AU’s Khartoum Centre.

Action 20: Protection, Assistance and Solutions for Forcibly Displaced Populations in Sub-Saharan Africa – Planned amount EUR 115 M

a. Summary

This action supports the pursuit of protection, assistance and solutions to the forcibly displaced (asylum seekers, refugees, refugee returnees, and internally displaced persons (IDPs)) in Sub-Saharan Africa, including: i) Sudanese crisis: Chad (EUR 20 million) and South Sudan (EUR 12 million); ii) Central Sahel: Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger (EUR 20 million)²²; iii) protracted situations: IGAD Support Platform (EUR 3 million), Sudan and South Sudan Solutions Initiative (EUR 12 million), CAR refugees in Cameroon and CAR refugee returnees (EUR 15 million), and refugees in Uganda (EUR 15 million); iv) Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) in Rwanda (EUR 11 million); and v) IDPs in Somalia (EUR 7 million).

Conflict and the adverse effects of climate change in countries targeted by the action aggravate populations' pre-existing vulnerabilities and inequalities and induce forced displacement both internally and across borders. In 2023, there were 19.3 million IDPs (90% as a result of conflict and violence and 10% as a result of disasters) and almost 6 million refugees in the above-mentioned countries.

Given the scale and persistency of forced displacement in the coming years in the climate-vulnerable countries concerned by the action, there is a need for integrated and holistic responses to forced displacement, conceived along a humanitarian-development-peace nexus. The action will focus on the provision of longer-term assistance and protection, as well as durable solutions to foster social cohesion, and to support socio-economic integration and – where feasible – legal/policy reforms. The climate change component, a factor exacerbating the risk of displacement, will be mainstreamed, including via access to services (sustainable water, clean energy, climate-resilient shelter, shock-responsive social protection, environmentally sustainable livelihoods, etc.). Where feasible, regarding livelihood activities, collaboration with the UNHCR – IFC Joint Initiative will be explored to create inclusive opportunities benefitting refugees and their host communities.

The lead entity in charge of this action is DG INTPA Unit A2.

The entities in charge of contract management are the EUDs in the countries targeted by the action.

b. Intervention logic for the proposed action

The overall objective of the action is to address forced displacement (asylum seekers, refugees, refugee returnees and IDPs, with a particular focus from those on women, children and people with disabilities) in selected Sub-Saharan African countries through regional approaches.

The specific objectives of the action are to: i) provide inclusive and durable (economically, socially, environmentally) solutions for the most vulnerable refugees, IDPs and host communities, in particular women, persons with disabilities and children; ii) provide assistance to refugees trapped in Libya through emergency evacuation to Rwanda with a view to process durable solutions in resettlement countries; iii) support the countries concerned by the action to undertake gender, disability inclusive and human rights responsive policy/law reforms on forced displacement issues as needed; and iv) achieve a stronger political dialogue at regional level on forced displacement.

The following key activities will be envisaged: development/revision of legislation/policies addressing forced displacement challenges and opportunities from a gender, disability and human rights approaches; food security; access to inclusive basic services on equal footing with local populations, environmentally sustainable housing, and decent climate-adapted employment for forcibly displaced people and host communities; provision of safe resettlement opportunities to

²² For these countries, the action's focus will be for the benefit of the population

refugees, including for women and children; and strengthening regional responses to forced displacement.

The action is based on the assumption that the flux of the forcibly displaced remains at the same level and that governments in concerned countries maintain support and commitment to addressing forced displacement issues, in line with the pledges they made during the 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF).

This action will complement other actions at regional and country levels, such as the Rapid Response Pillar and Borderlands V under AAP 2025.

c. Implementation modality

The action will use a mix of modalities of implementation combining indirect management with UN and Member States agencies and direct management through grants to international NGOs.

The lead entity in charge of this action is DG INTPA Unit A2.

The entities in charge of contract management are the EUDs in the countries targeted by the action.

d. Key stakeholders

The key stakeholders are: governments at central and local level, international organisations working on forced displacement, cities receiving forcibly displaced population, final beneficiaries (asylum seekers, refugees, refugee returnees, IDPs, host communities), international and local CSOs, relevant regional organizations, the private sector, and women, refugees and youth organizations.

e. Contribution to spending targets and markers (including Global Europe, INTPA and EU targets, expected amounts)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Migration and forced displacement	Amount: EUR 115 M
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate	Amount: EUR 0 M
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development	Amount: EUR 12 M
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	Amount:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> G-0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G-1 <input type="checkbox"/> G-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity	Amount:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inequalities	<input type="checkbox"/> I-0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I-1 <input type="checkbox"/> I-2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance	Amount: EUR 12 M

Support Measures

Action 21: AAP 2025 Support Measures – Planned amount EUR 61.34 M (SSA MIP EUR 57.78 M, Pacific MIP EUR 1.59 M, Caribbean MIP EUR 1.97 M)

a. Summary

The action will implement support measures foreseen in the Regional MIP through **three** components:

Technical Assistance: Technical Assistance is needed to translate through appropriate programme identification, formulation and implementation the political and strategic priorities formulated in the Regional MIP into concrete activities achieving the intended impact. This component will make available the expertise (including regarding gender equality, disability inclusion and the human rights-based approach) required to achieve these objectives. Activities will be implemented through the procurement of services and the award of grants. The latter will include a grant to International Crisis Group (ICG) to provide granular analysis and policy recommendations on the drivers of instability, insecurity and forced displacement in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, support may be provided through indirect management with the African Union Commission and direct grants to Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to ongoing early response interventions under the African Union Peace Fund's Crisis Reserve Facility (CRF) and other African Union or RECs early response initiatives, to be assessed on a case-by-case basis depending on EU interest.

Capacity Building: The EU aims to forge stronger partnerships with African multilateral and regional organisations including by supporting capacity building (including on gender equality, disability inclusion and human rights when relevant) for these actors. Support will focus on upgrading administrative and financial systems. The Action will target the African Union Commission and entities under its financial and administrative supervision. Other Regional Organisations were supported in previous AAPs.

OACPS-EU Partnership's Institutional Framework Support: The objective of this component is to provide support to the OACPS-EU Partnership's Institutional Framework between 2025-2027. This support will contribute to: i) strengthen the capacity of the OACPS Secretariat to fulfil its role as administrative and executive body of the OACPS in the implementation of the OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement; ii) strengthen the OACPS-EU partnership by supporting the active dialogue at the level of the joint EU-OACPS institutions and the EU-OACPS partnership in international fora and events.

The lead entity in charge of this action is DG INTPA Unit A2.

The entities in charge of the contract management are:

Component 1: DG INTPA HQ Units and EU Delegations;

Component 2: DG INTPA Unit A1 and EU Delegation to the African Union.

Component 3: DG INTPA Unit A1

b. Intervention logic for the proposed action

1. Technical Assistance

Through the technical assistance, the action intends to i) contribute to the EUDs and DG INTPA HQ identification, including from a gender, disability inclusive and human rights perspectives, of SSA programmes in fields such as human development, trade/free trade zone negotiations, trade facilitation and digital trade, competition and market access, digitalisation, infrastructure development, migration and forced displacement, borderland stability, peace and security; ii) strengthen Africa-Europe cooperation in fields such as youth and culture, and peace and security; (iii) improve existing outreach, engagement and coordination platforms used by non-state actors and private sector; (iv) enhance the monitoring and evaluation (including from a gender, disability

inclusion and human rights approaches) of current EU-funded initiatives implemented by partners and improving the quality of commitments tracking.

2. Capacity Building

Support will include the implementation of a new staff exchange and administrative arrangement with the African Union Commission (AUC). Exchanges between staff from strategic organs of the African Union (AU) for the Africa-EU Partnership and the ongoing AU Reform, in particular AUC (and other entities under the financial and administrative supervision of the AUC such as AUDA-NEPAD, AfCFTA Secretariat) with relevant European Commission services will foster administrative and institutional cooperation in pre-identified areas of mutual interest and strengthen the institutional capacity of the AU.

3. OACPS-EU Partnership's Institutional Framework Support

This component will contribute to the effective implementation of the EU-OACPS Partnership Agreement (Samoa Agreement), by financing part of the costs associated with the functioning of the OACPS Secretariat, the organisation of meetings of joint institutions under the Samoa Agreement, including its regional protocols, and the Secretariat's participation in international events that contribute to the EU-OACPS Partnership.

The foreseen amount allocated to this action is EUR 24 435 582 (EUR 20 881 582 from regional MIP for Sub-Saharan Africa, EUR 1 586 000 from regional MIP for Pacific and EUR 1 968 000 from regional MIP for Caribbean).

c. Implementation modality

The identified implementation modalities are the following:

- 1. Technical Assistance:** Indirect management, direct management through framework contracts, a service contract and grants;
- 2. Capacity Building:** Direct management.
- 3. OACPS-EU Partnership's Institutional Framework Support:** Direct management through yearly operating grants to support the functioning of the OACPS Secretariat, procurement and multi-annual action grants to co-finance the actions that contribute to the EU-OACPS Partnership, including part of the operational costs of the EU-OACPS joint institutions.

The lead entity in charge of this action is DG INTPA Unit A2.

The entities in charge of the contract management are:

Component 1: DG INTPA HQ Units and EU Delegations;

Component 2: DG INTPA Unit A1 and EU Delegation to the African Union.

Component 3: DG INTPA Unit A1

d. Key stakeholders

It is foreseen to work with a broad range of stakeholders on the basis of technical assistance demands received from INTPA HQ and EU Delegations. The foreseen stakeholders may include, but are not limited to, the African Union Commission, African Regional Organizations, African partner organizations, African national governments, civil society organizations active in the region (e.g. International Crisis Group), OACPS Secretariat and Member States, Regional Economic Communities, members of the Joint and Regional Parliamentary Assemblies.

e. Contribution to spending targets and markers (including Global Europe, INTPA and EU targets, expected amounts)

<input type="checkbox"/> Migration and forced displacement	Amount: 0 million
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<input type="checkbox"/> Climate	Amount: 0 million
<input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development	Amount: 0 million
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	Amount: 0 million
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> G0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G1 <input type="checkbox"/> G2
<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity	Amount: 0 million
<input type="checkbox"/> Inequalities	<input type="checkbox"/> I-0 <input type="checkbox"/> I-1 <input type="checkbox"/> I-2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance	Amount: EUR 24.8 M