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ANNEX

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan for EU foreign policy needs on support to EU engagement on tackling deforestation, space diplomacy, countering disinformation and Kimberley Process for 2024

Action Document Support to EU engagement on tackling deforestation, space diplomacy, countering disinformation and Kimberley Process

ANNUAL PLAN

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

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Support to EU engagement on tackling deforestation, space diplomacy, countering disinformation and Kimberley Process OPSYS number: ACT-62903 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out globally and in particular in Indonesia, Sub Saharan Africa, Botswana.
4. Programming document	NA
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	NA
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Multisector
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: SDG 17 – Partnerships to achieve the goal Other significant SDGs: SDG 5 – Gender Equality SDG 16 – Peace and Justice Strong Institutions
8 a) DAC code(s)	43010 - Multisector aid 15153 – Media and free flow of information
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	40000 – Multilateral organisations

	20000 – Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society				
9. Targets	☐ Migration ☒ Climate ☒ Social inclusion and Human Development ☐ Gender ☒ Biodiversity ☐ Education ☒ Human Rights, Democracy and Governance				
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective	
	Participation development/good governance	☐	☒	☐	
	Aid to environment @	☐	☒	☒	
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	☐	☒	☐	
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	☒	☐	☐	
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	☒	☐	☐	
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	☒	☐	☐	
	Nutrition @	☒	☐	☐	
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective	
	Biological diversity @	☐	☒	☐	
	Combat desertification @	☒	☐	☐	
	Climate change mitigation @	☐	☒	☒	
	Climate change adaptation @	☐	☒	☐	
	11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
		Digitalisation @	☒	☐	☐
digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services		YES ☒ ☒ ☐ ☒ ☒	NO ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒		
Migration @		☒	☐	☐	
Reduction of Inequalities @		☒	☐	☐	
Covid-19		☒	☐	☐	

BUDGET INFORMATION	
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14 02 03 30 (Foreign Policy Needs)
	Total estimated cost: EUR 8 580 000
	Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 8 580 000
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION	
13. Implementation modality ¹	Direct management through: - Grants Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.2

1.2 Summary of the Action

This action will enable the EU to address short and medium-term foreign policy needs and opportunities by supporting innovative policies and initiatives, and by deepening EU relations and dialogues with target communities, forging alliances and partnerships. In particular, this action will strengthen the EU's engagement with Indonesia on the external impacts of EU Green Deal policies and regulatory frameworks with a special focus on deforestation and forest degradation. It will also aim to advance the European perspectives and initiatives in the field of space security and support selected African media actors to strengthen their capacities, practices, structures, and networks to act as genuine providers of fact-based and reliable information and counter the main barrier to information manipulation in Africa. In addition, it will enable the EU to support the effective implementation of the [Kimberley Process Certification Scheme](#) (KPCS), by ensuring the needed logistical and administrative support.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

Priority “Technical engagement with palm oil and timber sectors in Indonesia”: Indonesia is a key partner of the EU due to its strategic location in Southeast Asia, influencing trade routes and regional security, as well as being the largest economy and democracy in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). It is an important EU political priority to maintain an open and continuous dialogue with Indonesia as the country is on track to become the 4th biggest economy in the world by 2050, and it is an important source of agricultural commodities and critical raw materials for the EU. The EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)² entered into force in June 2023. As of 30 December 2024,³ EU operators placing commodities including palm oil, timber, rubber, cocoa, and coffee and some of their derivatives on the EU market will have to ensure that the products are deforestation-free (according to definitions of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations⁴) and in compliance with the relevant legal obligations in the country of production. As a flanking measure, the EUDR stipulates in Article 30 enhanced cooperation with the producer countries worldwide, to help them address the root causes of deforestation and forest degradation, paying particular attention to small producers' needs. Further engagement is needed to ensure continuation of technical engagement and support to the palm oil sector as well as to step up similar engagement with the timber rubber, cocoa and coffee sector in Indonesia. These sectors are impacted by the EUDR based on trading relationship, with important political consequences for the overall EU-Indonesia relationship. The action will appease

¹ Art. 27 NDICI

² Regulation - 2023/1115 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

³ There is however a proposal from the Commission to delay for 12 months the application of the EUDR and country benchmarking. This proposal still needs to be adopted by the European Parliament and the Council (https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_5009)

⁴ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/531a9e1b-596d-4b07-b9fd-3103fb4d0e72/content>

the growing significant political irritant between the EU and Indonesia on palm oil and timber, by supporting an environment in Indonesia in line with EUDR requirements.

Priority “Partnering for responsible behaviours in outer space”: The [EU Space Programme](#) services and data support various activities on Earth. The satellites of the EU Space Programme allow millions of people to benefit from new technologies, to travel by land, sea and air, and to support science-based decision-making processes to tackle global environmental challenges. Space assets are vital in tackling global problems but also applicable to specific needs of each country, such as environmental policy development, identification of geological risk areas, smart city design, and decision-making in emergency situations like natural and manmade disasters.

In April 2021, the Council and the European Parliament adopted a regulation establishing the Union Space Programme for the years 2021 to 2027⁵ that ensures high-quality, up-to-date and secure space-related data and services, greater socio-economic benefits from the use of such data and services, including increased growth and job creation in the EU, enhanced EU security and autonomy, a stronger role for the EU as a leading actor in the space sector.

In 2023, the High Representative and the Commission presented a Joint Communication on an EU Space Strategy for Security and Defence⁶ that will allow the EU to protect its space assets, defend its interests, deter hostile activities in space, and strengthen its strategic posture and autonomy. This strategy established 5 main objectives: 1) shared understanding of space threats; 2) resilience and protection of space systems; 3) responding to space threats; 4) use of space for security and defence; 5) partnering for responsible behaviours in space, including with UN, US, NATO and like-minded partners. The proposed action will support some of these objectives, in particular 1) and 5).

Priority “Support to Kimberley Process Secretariat” (KPS): The Kimberley Process Regulation⁷ sets the criteria for importing or exporting rough diamonds in order to ensure adherence to the requirements of the “Kimberley Process” (KP), preventing the trade in conflict diamonds.

The EU implements the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme through Council Regulation (EC) No. 2368/2002⁹, which establishes a system of certification and import and export controls for rough diamonds. Hence, in addition to being a founding member, the EU participates in the Kimberley Process as a single participant representing all 27 EU Member States. It is important for the EU to continue to play an active role in the Kimberley Process and to contribute to its effective functioning and contribute to the newly established Kimberley Process Secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana. This will help the EU to uphold and promote its values, principles and fundamental interests worldwide by preventing the flow of conflict diamonds.

Priority “African media support package”: Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI), including disinformation, has become one of the main global challenges facing states and societies. While attacks on the information space occur on a regular basis on European soil targeting European audiences, FIMI has increased outside European borders, notably in Sub-Saharan Africa. This action is conceived to respond to the rise of FIMI in Sub-Saharan Africa, with the aim to support a selection of media actors countering disinformation in pilot countries.

2.2 Lessons learnt

Priority “Technical engagement with palm oil and timber sectors in Indonesia”: The proposed action will aim to build on complementarities and synergies with relevant ongoing EU projects implemented in the region, such as

⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/696 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Union Space Programme and the European Union Agency for the Space Programme: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32021R0696>

⁶ JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL European Union Space Strategy for Security and Defence: [https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=JOIN\(2023\)9&lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=JOIN(2023)9&lang=en)

⁷ Council Regulation (EC) No 2368/2002 of 20 December 2002 implementing the Kimberley Process certification scheme for the international trade in rough diamonds: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A32002R2368>

“Support to the EU's bilateral and multilateral engagement on deforestation and forest degradation (EUDR Engagement)” and “Sustainable agriculture for forest ecosystems (SAFE)”. It will also build on lessons learnt from previous projects, such as “Sustainability of Malaysian and Indonesian palm oil (KAMI)” (which ends in December 2024), and “Forest law enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT Asia)”. Projects such as EUDR Engagement and KAMI have demonstrated a clear need for ongoing constructive engagement to transform high-level political discussions related to the EUDR into actionable technical measures. Furthermore, they have highlighted the importance of having tools at the EU disposal to ensure that single political irritants do not overshadow the broader progress the EU has made in its relations with Indonesia on other important issues.

Priority “Partnering for responsible behaviours in outer space”: Key takeaways from previous activities as well as and other space asset-based activities (e.g. civil protection, agriculture, water monitoring, critical infrastructure protection) underscore the need to bridge the gap between professionals who utilise space services and policymakers who may not be fully aware of the risks and consequences associated with the disruption of these services.

In general, there is a willingness to engage with EU counterparts at operational/working level. It is also important to have the same level of engagement at political and diplomatic level as well as to align space initiatives with global agendas through collaboration.

Moreover, it is important to focus on policy development with the involvement of stakeholders across various sectors.

Priority “Support to Kimberley Process Secretariat”: To date, the KP has been supported by the Administrative Support Mechanism (ASM) which has been funded by the industry represented by the World Diamond Council. As the administrative support will not be fully funded by industry through the World Diamond Council as before, all participants to the KPCS should now contribute to the funding of the Secretariat.

This experience highlighted the need for enhancing the administrative support of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) by establishing a permanent structure tasked with managing the statistics, the website, and coordinating the meetings of the KPCS working groups and bodies. Careful monitoring of the budgeting and planning will be essential to ensure the action delivers fully and effectively on its objectives and that the newly created KP secretariat remains within the frame of its mandate.

Priority “African media support package”: The worsening dynamics of information manipulation and interference by foreign actors and their proxies in Sub-Saharan Africa show that a more proactive engagement from the EU with African media actors is required to ensure independent reporting and information release. Support to selected media actors and journalists will be the main approach of this project to combat FIMI. This pilot action will aim to provide a robust, comprehensive and tailored support package to African media actors in target countries. It will capitalize on past and on-going projects supporting media actors and tackling disinformation in Africa, EU Delegations and EEAS growing engagement with media actors in Africa as well as on good practices throughout the media support sector. Lessons learned from this action will complement other actions by the EU and other like-minded partners to strengthen resilience of African States and societies to information manipulation.

2.3 Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis:

Priority “Technical engagement with palm oil and timber sectors in Indonesia”: Indonesia is amongst the countries whose products will be impacted the most by the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) from a trade perspective, with 5 032 billion EUR average annual exports to the EU for all affected commodities (60% of which is palm oil, 19% timber, 16% rubber, 3,3% coffee, 1,8% cocoa). While the EU has actively engaged with Indonesia to present the EUDR during the legislative process and afterwards (notably in the context of a dedicated ad hoc Joint Task Force established in June 2023 at the request of Indonesia and Malaysia), this engagement has so far not proven sufficient to alleviate all concerns.

Indonesia, a major producer country of palm oil and timber, has continuously voiced strong criticism at the political level regarding the Regulation, including on its alleged discriminatory nature, even if parts of civil society and

smallholders have been very supportive. Enhanced technical engagement with local actors of relevant commodities as well as with relevant ministries is needed, to support Indonesia enabling the necessary environment for the supply chain actors, in particular the smallholders to cope with the requirements of the EUDR. In the context of the Joint Task Force on the EUDR, Indonesia has repeatedly emphasised the challenges for palm oil and timber local producers to perform strict traceability of supply chain chains via geolocation (a core component of the EUDR). Support is therefore needed for smallholders in particular, to ensure they are able to provide such information. Due to the high political interest and relevance for the EU-Indonesia relations and the need for a rapid action to mitigate effectively political irritants, and in view of the fast-approaching entry into application of the EUDR, there is an urgent need to scale up technical outreach efforts in Indonesia with the main stakeholders affected.

Priority “Partnering for responsible behaviours in outer space”: Space systems, services and data are essential for societal challenges and economic activities. Components of the EU Space Programme, such as Galileo, Copernicus, and the Space Surveillance and Tracking (SST) system provide critical support to address challenges in many third countries.

At the same time, space is becoming an increasingly contested domain. Several countries now possess the capability to target critical space infrastructure, and some have developed and tested anti-satellite systems that can disrupt or destroy space systems and services. Space assets are also particularly vulnerable to cyber-attacks for instance due to aging hardware or the vulnerable radio communication links. A successful cyber-attack could lead to the loss of control of the target asset, its permanent damage or even to complete destruction. This underscores the growing importance of space security in this complex environment.

In addition, avoiding an arms race in outer space and preventing space from becoming an area of conflict is crucial to preserving its long-term use for peaceful purposes. It is both urgent and important to raise awareness among the public and policymakers about the significance of space security. Advancing European perspectives and initiatives in this field offers a vital alternative to more belligerent approaches.

Priority “Support to Kimberley Process (KP) Secretariat”: The KP is a multilateral forum with 59 participants, representing 85 countries. Section VI of the [Kimberley Process Core Document \(2003\)](#) recognises the necessity of an administrative support to enable the KP to operate effectively.

Priority “African media support package”: Information manipulation thrives on weak media ecosystems. Media sectors in several African countries are characterised by varied journalistic standards across countries and media outlets, dire financial situations that impede the sustainability and structural developments of media actors, increasing restrictions to press freedom and attacks on journalists. While traditional media (notably radio and television) remain the primary source of information for many African audiences, the steady growth of internet penetration and reliance on digital media bring further exposure to information manipulation. Foreign actors like Russia and China have significantly engaged with African media ecosystems in recent years. They are repurposing EU-sanctioned media in or towards Africa, launching Russian and Chinese news agencies in local languages, offering free content and free access to their state-run news wires, providing training and equipment to journalists, co-opting African opinion leaders and media outlets to promote and amplify anti-Western, including anti-EU narratives and content. It is therefore critical to support African media actors, strengthening their capacities, practices, independence of views and structures in order to counteract foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI).

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

Priority “Technical engagement with palm oil and timber sectors in Indonesia”: Main stakeholders will include Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, private sector (palm oil and timber) stakeholders, palm oil (and possibly timber) smallholders, relevant non-governmental organisations and associations of smallholders, EU Member States, EU and EU Member States’ agencies with relevant expertise.

Priority “Partnering for responsible behaviours in outer space”: This action will target the following key stakeholders: governmental organisations in partner countries engaged in space security diplomacy, non-state actors (such as civil society organisations, private sector, academia, think tanks) with stakes in advancing responsible behaviour in outer space, multilateral organisations.

Priority “Support to Kimberley Process Secretariat”: The main stakeholders of the Secretariat are the KPCS participants, including the EU, represented by the European Commission acting on behalf of EU 27, other KP participating countries and observers representing the diamond industry (World Diamond Council) and civil society (Civil Society Coalition), the KP Chair, the KP Working Groups, and the Ad Hoc Working Groups. Botswana, as the host country of the KPS, is a major stakeholder whose engagement will be determinant to ensure that the KPS functions correctly. Rough diamonds producers, in particular African countries, will benefit from the enhanced capacity and consistency of administrative support to the KP Secretary and the staff of the Secretariat. Partner countries’ administrations involved in the regulation of rough diamond trade, as well as other stakeholders working to prevent the flow of rough diamonds (private sector, universities, foundations, etc.), will also gain from the creation of the KPS.

Priority “African media support package”: The action will involve stakeholders that have become essential in how the information is produced, such as via journalists and media outlets, how the information is kept reliable, through fact-checking organisations and how the information is discussed, with influencers and opinion leaders.

When relevant and appropriate, it will address the broader frameworks and bodies that govern media sectors, including media regulation bodies, state news agencies, journalism schools and social media platforms. The target group will be the African media actors and the ultimate beneficiaries the African societies/communities.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective of this action is to support the achievement of the EU’s foreign policy priorities in relation to urgent or imperative engagement in relation to tackling deforestation and forest degradation in Indonesia, space diplomacy, strengthening African societies’ resilience to foreign and domestic information manipulation and supporting Kimberley Process (KP).

The Specific Objectives of this action are to:

1. Increase the capacity of public and private stakeholders in the sector of palm oil and timber to adapt to the EUDR traceability standards and increase their understanding of deforestation-free production based on FAO’s definitions.
2. Increase convergence between the EU and countries benefitting from EU space assets on the application of international law, norms, and confidence-building measures; enhance participation of target groups in regional and global debates on responsible behaviour.
3. Enhance the KP’s administrative support function by reinforcing its governance and strengthening its logistics and administration.
4. Support selected African media actors to strengthen their capacities, practices, structures, networks to act as genuine provider of fact-based and reliable information and the main barrier to information manipulation in Africa.

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

- 1.1 contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1): Increased awareness among smallholders and Indonesian authorities on the benefits and opportunities of enhancing deforestation-free legal and traceable supply chains; increased capacity of smallholders and Indonesian authorities to comply with relevant legislation and standards; and availability of relevant commodities’ mapping.

2.1 contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2): Enhanced constructive engagement with key global partners; increased awareness about threats in space and their consequences for security as well as the multilateral processes to address them; improved and expanded access to high-quality expertise on space diplomacy and resilience-related topics; broader availability of information and research on EU best practices and lessons in advancing responsible state behaviour and strengthening resilience in space; strengthened multistakeholder engagement with research communities, civil society, and the private sector.

3.1 contributing to Outcome 3 (or Specific Objective 3): Enhanced effective implementation of the KPCS as required by the Final Communiqué of the 2022 Plenary and internal EU policies concerning the international trade in rough diamonds (Council Regulation (EC) 2368/2002) on an international dimension as well as the EU's multilateral cooperation strategies.

4.1 contributing to Outcome 4 (or Specific Objective 4): Strengthened journalistic skills of African journalists, through a tailored and needs-based approach; supported media outlets reporting, editorial, production and broadcasting processes and capabilities; promotion of a conducive environment and practical measures to ensure media independence, press freedom and safety of journalists; strengthened synergies between media outlets and other media ecosystems actors such as academia, fact-checking organisations, influencers, social media platforms.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities relating to Output 1.1: Public diplomacy engagement; provision of training; operational exchanges with Indonesian authorities and palm oil, timber, rubber, coffee, and cocoa actors to increase technical understanding on the EUDR; provision of technical assistance support; roll out of registers for smallholders in relevant commodity sectors.

Activities relating to Output 2.1: Space consultations linked to space security; new space technology roundtables, focusing for instance on elements of dual use and export control; European space diplomacy dialogue; space security policy series; on-demand space security and Digital Regime Complex Conference; on-demand space security strategy sessions; research in focus linked to space security; table-top exercises.

Activities relating to Output 3.1: The funding will contribute to support the functioning of the KPS and hence the implementation of the KPCS, EU policies and cooperation strategies by undertaking inter alia activities such as: information sharing and consultation between the participants regarding matters provided for in the KPCS; record keeping of laws, regulations, rules, procedures, practices and statistics notified pursuant to Section V of the KPCS; support to the organisation of KP meetings.

Activities relating to Output 4.1: Training of journalists on practices such as ethics of journalism, investigative journalism, conflict-sensitive reporting, disinformation, fact-checking; support the development of disinformation courses in journalism schools curricula; coaching and mentoring of editorial teams and newsrooms; provision of equipment; provision of free access to independent news wire agencies; organisation of consultations between media outlets and communities and study-visits of African journalists to Europe; coaching on the development of media outlets' business plans and income generation opportunities; research and advocacy on media and information regulations.

3.3 Mainstreaming

This action mainstreams the following cross-cutting issues: Multilateralism (building alliances) contributing to a global order based on international law, EU principles and values (democracy, rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for human dignity, the principles of equality, including gender equality, and solidarity), Resilience and Innovation. The action will be marked G-1 under the Gender Marker.

3.4 Risks

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium / Low)	Mitigating measures
External environment	Priority 1: Indonesian authorities do not sufficiently engage with the project.	Medium	High	EU Delegation to Indonesia will regularly liaise with the relevant national authorities and other counterparts.
Planning, processes and systems	Priority 1: EU Delegation to Indonesia has limited resources to monitor and follow up on project activities.	Low	Medium	Foreign Policy Instruments Regional Team Asia-Pacific will maintain regular operational exchanges with DG ENV and DG INTPA colleagues at the EU Delegation level.
External environment	Priority 3: KPS showing a lack of impartiality	Medium	Medium	Oversight mechanisms within the KPS structure
External environment	Priority 3: KPS surpassing its mandate	Medium	Medium	Oversight mechanisms within the KPS structure
External environment	Priority 2 and 4: low engagement from the stakeholders and targeted group	medium	high	The EEAS and the EU Delegations will support the engagement with local stakeholders.
External environment	Priority 2 and 4: unexpected changes in political landscape	medium	medium	Close monitoring of the political landscape and flexible implementation with potential resources redistribution
Planning, processes and systems	Priority 2: expertise is difficult to mobilise	low	medium	the European Commission and the EEAS will support the identification of experts and partners within the EU
External environment	Priority 4: political tensions, including around elections, leading to harassment of journalists and civil society actors involved in the project	Medium	High	Ensure appropriate risk mitigation measures are built in the project operations to guarantee the physical and digital safety of stakeholders

				involved in project activities.
External environment	Priority 4: The EU is perceived as interfering in national democratic processes or the national information space leading to information manipulation incidents against project beneficiaries or EU representatives in-country	Medium	Medium	Implementing partners and EU Delegations will carefully monitor the information space to mitigate any instances of EU criticism. EU visibility guidelines might be adjusted to ensure flexibility according to political sensitivities. EEAS Sub-Saharan Africa Task Force will assist EU Delegations in case of strategic communications support.
External environment	Priority 4: Working with independent media and journalists may put them at risk in certain countries.	High	Medium	Discretion and tailor-made approaches will mitigate risk on safety of the participants in the projects. European Commission, EEAS, and implementing partners to regularly assess the security situation in the project.

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

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

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 72 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision. This period includes 12 months for contracting and 60 months for implementation period of the corresponding contracts and agreements. Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures⁸.

4.3.1 Direct Management (Grants)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The grant will contribute to achieving specific objective 3 in section 3.1.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the Kimberley Process Secretariat.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because the action requires a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers. The Kimberley Process Secretariat was established to carry out specifically the activities supported by this action (Financial Regulation Article 198 (f)).

4.3.2 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: proven expertise in the environmental sector, sufficient pool of relevant experts on the ground, experience with prior project interventions in the targeted region, the level of acceptance and legitimacy with the relevant authorities in focal countries for this action, and good understanding and pursuit of the EU Green Deal policies, particularly the EUDR. The implementation by this entity entails achieving the specific objective 1 in section 3.1.

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria: the action specifically addresses specific areas in the field of space security and defence, on a global scale and based on a multilateral approach therefore requiring a UN agency having technical competences, high degree of specialisation and administrative power. In addition, given the fast-evolving space security landscape, it is urgent to rapidly enhance the European Union engagement in multilateral fora. The implementation by this entity entails achieving the specific objective 2 in section 3.1.

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services under the following criteria: experience in supporting media actors in Africa (notably in

⁸ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

the focus countries identified) and in partnership with local actors, to manage initiatives responding to information manipulation in Africa and with expertise in dealing with challenging/shrinking democratic space. The implementation by this entity entails achieving the specific objective 4 in section 3.1.

4.3.3 Changes from indirect to direct management mode due to exceptional circumstances

Direct Management (Grants)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

In case indirect management cannot be implemented due to circumstances outside of the European Commission's control, the grant will contribute to achieving specific objective 4 in section 3.1.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

The type of applicants targeted under this action are potentially non-governmental and non-profit organisations, with experience in supporting media actors in Africa (notably in the focus countries identified) and in partnership with local actors, to manage initiatives responding to information manipulation in Africa and with expertise in dealing with challenging/shrinking democratic space.

(c) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to non-governmental / non-profit organisations, selected using the following criteria: experience in the field of the action, operational presence in the country(ies), knowledge of the complexity of the situation in the country(ies) and in the region(s).

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because of the high degree of specialised expertise required by this action due to its sensitivity and complexity.

4.4. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3	
Objective 1 - Technical engagement with palm oil and timber sectors in Indonesia	3 000 000
Objective 2 - Partnering for responsible behaviours in outer space	2 000 000
Objective 4 - Africa media support package	3 500 000
Indirect management with an entrusted entity- cf. section 4.3.2	8 500 000
Objective 3 – EU support to the Kimberley Process Secretariat	80 000
Grants – cf. section 4.3.1	80 000
Totals	8 580 000

4.5 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

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

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

in the legal commitments, will comprise representatives of the European Commission services, the EEAS and relevant EU Delegations.

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

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

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

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

5.2 Evaluation

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

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

The Commission shall inform the implementing partners/contractors at least 3 months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partners/contractors shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

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

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

5.3 Audit and Verifications

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

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

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

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

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