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EUROPEAN INSTRUMENT FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

MULTIANNUAL INDICATIVE PROGRAMME (2018-2020)

The European Union is founded on the fundamental values of respect for democracy, the rule of law, the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for human dignity, the principles of non-discrimination, equality and solidarity, as stated in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union. The Union's aim is to promote these values worldwide in line with Article 21(2) of the Treaty on European Union.

The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2018-2020 is a strategy paper as referred to in Articles 4 and 5 of the Regulation (EU) No 235/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for democracy and human rights worldwide.

Built upon the EIDHR MIP 2014-2017¹, the MIP 2018-2020 is consistent with the overall purpose, objectives, scope and principles of the EIDHR regulation, while reflecting the changes of circumstances and policy since 2014, as human rights are under increasing threat. Furthermore, it takes into account the results, findings and conclusions of the EIDHR mid-term evaluation² as well as of the Mid-Term Review Report³, ensuring coherence and complementarity with the other external financing instruments.

¹ Commission Implementing Decision C(2014) 7529 final of 21.10.2014

² External evaluation of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) 2014-2020: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/evaluation-european-instrument-democracy-and-human-rights-eidhr-2014-2020-draft-evaluation-report-1_en; Staff Working Document "Evaluation of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights" (reference to be added)

³ Reference to be added

Table of contents

1. POLICY DEVELOPMENT SINCE 2014.....	3
1.1 Emerging Human rights and democracy challenges worldwide.....	3
1.2. EU policy context	5
2. ROLE OF THE EIDHR	7
2.2. Operating principles.....	8
2.3. Complementarity to other external financing instruments.....	9
2.4. Intervention logic and indicators.....	10
3. EIDHR OBJECTIVES	11
OBJECTIVE 1 – SUPPORT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN SITUATIONS WHERE THEY ARE MOST AT RISK.....	11
OBJECTIVE 2 – SUPPORT TO OTHER EU HUMAN RIGHTS PRIORITIES	14
OBJECTIVE 3 – SUPPORT TO DEMOCRACY	22
OBJECTIVE 4 – EU ELECTION OBSERVATION.....	24
OBJECTIVE 5 _SUPPORT TO TARGETED KEY ACTORS AND PROCESSES, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS.....	23
SUPPORT MEASURES	26
4. FINANCIAL ALLOCATION 2018-2020 AND IMPLEMENTATION	27

1. POLICY DEVELOPMENT SINCE 2014

Over the period 2018 – 2020, the EIDHR will evolve and adapt to the deteriorated human rights and democracy situation at international, regional and local levels, by operationalising the EU human rights and democracy policy framework, backed-up by political dialogues and diplomatic initiatives as well as other forms of bilateral development cooperation.

1.1 Emerging Human rights and democracy challenges worldwide

The year 2018 is marked by the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 25th anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the 20th anniversary of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the 20th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. Furthermore, the year 2020 will coincide with the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. These fundamental texts, which underpin international human rights law, inspire the EU to continue to contribute forging societies in which participation, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, transparency and accountability, solidarity and equality prevail.

A strengthened EU action is needed now more than ever as in the past few years, the promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights and democratic values have been under increasing threat globally and the universality of human rights has been challenged in a growing number of countries.

Multilateralism which has proved to be an effective way to address human rights and democracy issues faces unprecedented challenges. Withdrawals from the International Criminal Court, the ongoing debate about a possible reform of the Human Rights Council and the increasing pressure on the European Court of Human Rights by State parties that have ratified the European Convention of Human Rights risk to undermine the credibility of multilateral processes, including the remarkable results achieved after the 20th century's world wars.

Civil society organisations (CSOs) have been facing an unprecedented crackdown, commonly labelled the "shrinking space for civil society", marked by new pieces of legislation on foreign funding, restrictions in registration or association, anti-protest laws, gagging laws⁴ and laws that criminalise online dissent and expression and block the access to websites and social media. In some cases, the access to the internet is restricted on a permanent basis. However, governments have not been the only culprits for the increasing crackdown on CSOs. Non-state actors, which include *inter alia* armed groups, criminal gangs, violent extremists and multinational corporations, have been also responsible, both on their own initiative and as drivers of government assaults, for an unprecedented number of attacks against CSOs which advocate for universal values that these actors firmly reject. Disinformation and misinformation campaigns and propaganda fuelled by both states and non-state actors have seriously endangered quality journalism, media pluralism and fact-

⁴ The re-instatement of the 'extended' Global Gag Rule... to be completed

checking and have largely incited to discrimination, hostility or violence. As a consequence, CSOs are inhibited from operating at full capacity, vilified, administratively harassed, closed down and sometimes expelled.

This phenomenon is often accompanied by an increased repression of human rights defenders, which has taken many forms, ranging from harassment, travel bans and asset freezes, physical threats, arbitrary arrest and detention to extrajudicial execution, among others. Surveillance practices that unduly interfere with privacy and seriously limit the free development and exchange of ideas have been largely adopted and justified by national security concerns. Human rights defenders have been also the target of smear campaigns whereby they are labelled "foreign agents", "subversive elements", or even accused of associating with "terrorists".

The background of persistent poverty, climate change and global warming, political instability and chronic conflicts in many parts of the world has contributed to cause mass atrocities, recurring terrorist attacks against civilians, including minority groups, and forced migration and displacement. By joining the global fight against terrorism, governments have instrumentalized religion and used the threat of terrorism to progressively erode civil liberties, to push through extreme laws, to justify mass surveillance and to practice torture.

Furthermore, the actions of business enterprises, both transnational and domestic, can adversely impact the internationally recognised human rights of their employees and contract workers, workers in their supply chains and end-users of their products or services. These actions have also unduly harmed the environment and community-based natural resources, disrespectful of the existing standards of corporate social responsibility, accountability and access to remedies for victims as per the UN guiding principles on business and human rights⁵.

Gender-based violence, which still affects 35% of women and girls, remains one of the most systematic and widespread human rights violations and persists in varying degrees and forms across all communities in the world. Intolerance has become ever more widespread and discrimination whether based on race, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, disability, socio-economic background is dramatically on the rise.

Children's needs, rights and aspirations are in continual jeopardy across the world. Children living in poverty, in conflict and fragile situations, migrant and refugee children, unaccompanied children and those without family face particular risks and are exposed to unprecedented discrimination, marginalization, institutionalization and exclusion, with the very real risk of becoming a 'lost generation'.

Worrying trends that have been occurring in both new and well established democracies in the past two decades point at the declining quality of democracy globally. Threats to democracy include legal or illegal interruptions of democratic processes, through *inter alia* undermining institutional constraints to the executive power, restricting the independence of judiciary, electoral fraud, marginalization of opposition as well as the erosion of democracy

⁵ To be added

and democratic institutions due to corruption, rising levels of inequalities, or populism, among others.

In this challenging context, the EU remains committed to the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of human rights and democratic values and is determined to contribute to shaping the global agenda and to strengthening the international architecture of global governance.

1.2. EU policy context

The EU is tirelessly acting globally to uphold human rights and democratic values. The EU Global Strategy of June 2016 provides a clear vision for the EU's engagement in the wider world and presents an agenda for EU external action with human rights and democratic principles at its core. It turns shared vision into concrete, common action, addressing the root causes of conflict and poverty, focusing on people's needs, and promoting resilience at all levels. It underlines that resilient states and societies feature democracy, trust in institutions and sustainable development. The recently adopted Joint Communication on Resilience is grounded in a people-centered approach aimed at empowering actors at different levels to anticipate emerging pressures, and to respond to them, while ensuring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Strengthening resilience is not an end but a means to achieve long-term security and development goals.

In July 2015, the EU adopted the second Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (2015-2019), following the April 2015 Joint Communication "Keeping human rights at the heart of the EU agenda". The Action Plan is a unique tool to continue the implementation of the human rights and democracy agenda as set out in the 2012 EU Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy. It aims at ensuring more focused and result-oriented actions, coordinated use of instruments, and enhanced impact of policies and initiatives. Furthermore, in addressing human rights challenges it promotes ownership by local actors, and ensures a comprehensive human rights-based approach to conflicts and crises.

By highlighting achievements in implementing the EU Action Plan since 2015, the 2017 mid-term review of the Action Plan⁶ demonstrated that human rights are a core concern of EU foreign policy. The review was a unique opportunity to recognize both successes and challenges, and to identify how the EU can work better in this area. It called *inter alia* for more effective use of and interplay between policies, tools and financing instruments in order to maximize their impact and better achieve the EU's overall policy objectives.

The Action Plan complements recent policy developments, which include the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of September 2015, the new European Consensus on Development "Our World, our Dignity, our Future", the Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy of November 2015⁷, and the recently adopted joint Communication

⁶ To be added

⁷ Joint Communication "Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy", 18 November 2015 (JOIN(2015)50 final)

for a renewed impetus of the Africa – EU Partnership⁸.

The 2030 Agenda with the set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at its core represents a renewed international framework to eradicate poverty and achieve inclusive and sustainable development. It reflects a human rights-based vision, which is fully consistent with EU values. The 2030 Agenda reaffirms that peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice for all and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions are vital to sustainable development. It strives to ensure that no one is left behind.

Structured around the five core themes of the 2030 Agenda – people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership - the new European Consensus on Development⁹ proposes a new and collective European development policy for the EU Institutions and Member States. It underlines that democracy, rule of law and good governance are essential preconditions to achieve sustainable development and long-term stability. Consistent with the 2014 Council Conclusions on a rights-based approach to development cooperation, encompassing all human rights¹⁰, in the new Consensus the rights-based approach to development cooperation is the principle guiding EU development action. It encompasses all human rights, regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, migration status or other status and it promotes inclusion and participation, non-discrimination, equality and equity, transparency and accountability.

The promotion of gender equality, women and girls' empowerment and their full enjoyment of human rights are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda and the new European Consensus on Development. Gender equality is a fundamental value of the European Union, enshrined in its foundations since the Treaty of Rome and in its political framework. With the 2015 adoption of the EU Action Plan for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development for 2016-2020¹¹, the EU reaffirms its commitment to defend women and girls' rights and empower them across all areas of action.

With the recent adoption of the Council Conclusions on Indigenous Peoples¹², the EU reaffirms its commitment to the international advancement and recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples as set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)¹³ and the Outcome document of the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples¹⁴. In this regard, the EU recognises the important

⁸ Joint Communication " for a renewed impetus of the Africa-EU Partnership", 4 May 2017 (JOIN(2017)17 final)

⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/new-european-consensus-development-our-world-our-dignity-our-future_en

¹⁰ http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/foraff/142682/pdf# - to be completed

¹¹ Staff Working Document "EU Action Plan for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development for 2016-2020" (SWD(2015)182 final)

¹² <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-8814-2017-INIT/en/pdf>; Joint Staff Working Document "Implementing EU External Policy on Indigenous Peoples", 17 October 2016 (SWD(2016)340 final)

¹³ http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf

¹⁴ http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/2

contributions of the UN mechanisms working on indigenous issues and reaffirms its support hereto.

Based on the aforementioned political and policy context, the new EIDHR strategy refers to the Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategies (HRDCS) adopted by EU Heads of Missions (HoMs) and validated by the Council. By providing a country situation analysis over a 4-year period, from 2016 to 2020, the HRDCS are designed to highlight the main Human Rights challenges per country and make EU action more focused, tailored and results-oriented on the ground. Furthermore, Human Rights Dialogues with partner countries are relevant tools to raise human rights concerns, as identified in the HRDCS, and to assess progress regularly.

The positions of both the European Parliament as per resolutions and reports and the Council as per Council Conclusions along with the revised EU human rights guidelines¹⁵ constantly guide the implementation of the EIDHR.

2. ROLE OF THE EIDHR

The EIDHR builds on the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights, which covered the period 2000-2006¹⁶, and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, which ran between 2007-2013¹⁷.

The general objectives of the EIDHR are set out in Article 1 of the aforementioned Regulation as follows:

(1) enhancing respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as proclaimed in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international and regional human rights instruments, and strengthening their protection, promotion, implementation and monitoring, mainly by providing support to relevant civil society organisations, human rights defenders and victims of repression and abuse;

(2) supporting, developing and consolidating democracy in third countries, by enhancing participatory and representative democracy, strengthening the overall democratic cycle, in particular by reinforcing an active role for civil society within this cycle, and the rule of law, and improving the reliability of electoral processes, in particular by means of EU Electoral Observation Missions.

The mid-term evaluation exercise for the period 2014-2017 confirmed that the EIDHR has proved to be politically relevant, fit for purpose, flexible, efficient and complementary to other instrument and support, including by EU Member States.

2.1. Key features

¹⁵ To be completed and listed : 11 guidelines

¹⁶ Link

¹⁷ Link

The EIDHR pillars of democracy and human rights are inextricably linked and mutually reinforcing. The fundamental freedoms are the preconditions for political pluralism and democratic process, whereas democratic control and separation of powers are essential to sustain an independent judiciary and the rule of law. These, in turn, are required for an effective protection of human rights.

The EIDHR has a worldwide coverage. It operates at national, regional or international levels, and can act in any country outside the EU, regardless of their economic growth or democratic status. The EIDHR can therefore act in middle-income or upper-middle-income countries graduating from EU bilateral development cooperation.

The EIDHR is independent from the consent of third country governments and other public authorities. It has a specific role, complementary and additional to existing programmes by virtue of its global nature and its independence of action from the consent of partner countries. In so doing, the EIDHR is the most effective instrument to adequately respond to the most pressing human rights and democracy needs, creating synergies and complementarity where there is no bilateral development cooperation and geographical instruments are unable to act. Although EU election Observation Missions are only deployed to countries where an invitation to observe has been received from the state or its electoral authorities, the assessment of electoral processes made by EOMs is fully impartial and independent.

The EIDHR primarily supports local, national, regional or international civil society organisations active in the protection, promotion and defence of human rights and democracy, based either in or out the targeted country or region, with a focused attention on human rights defenders. A tailor-made approach adapted to each context, with a focus on reaching out to local CSOs, including under-represented groups, disenfranchised or non-registered CSOs and community-based organisations, is systematically integrated into EIDHR actions.

The EIDHR has a specific mandate to support EU election observation missions (EOMs). EOMs are a highly visible demonstration of the EU's commitment to supporting democratisation and promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms across the world. The recommendations issued by EOMs can be instrumental in improving future elections and, more broadly, can be a crucial element for the deepening of democracy.

The EIDHR cannot support directly political parties. However, this does not exclude activities targeting political parties in a multi-party, non-partisan manner.

2.2. Operating principles

The EIDHR is rights-based, encompassing all human rights, whether civil, political, economic, social or cultural. Through the application of the working principles of participation, accountability, non-discrimination and transparency, EIDHR actions aim at strengthening the capacity of both rights-holders and duty-bearers to respectively promote and protect, and respect, protect and fulfil human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The EIDHR is flexible, reactive, adaptable to changing circumstances and tailor-made. While limited in financial scope, its flexible tools, which include *inter alia* direct urgent support to human rights defenders at risk, ad-hoc grants in most difficult situations, sub-granting to smaller organisations, and eligibility for non-registered CSOs and natural persons, are highly effective.

The EIDHR is able to act in a confidential manner. In the most difficult environments, where basic rights and freedoms are at greater risk, and in order to protect the physical safety of activists and others whose lives might be seriously endangered, the details of some projects are not made public. However, the European Commission reports on these projects to relevant EU services including the European Council, the European Parliament and the European External Action Service (EEAS) on a ‘need-to-know’ basis.

The EIDHR is a balanced instrument. A pragmatic combination of targeted projects and calls for proposals, management by both headquarters and Delegations (through the Country-Based Support Schemes) allows for a comprehensive and coherent implementation by local civil society as well as international and regional organisations.

The EIDHR is untied. The worldwide coverage of the EIDHR requires the complete untying of its resources. The EIDHR acts without restrictions based on nationality or origin. Project eligibility is based on the balance between relevance, effectiveness and cost.

The EIDHR entails risks. The targeted difficult environments of EIDHR actions may create physical and political constraints and beneficiaries may confront serious challenges while implementing and monitoring projects on the ground. Such challenges will be properly taken into account when assessing project achievements.

Overall, the EIDHR is a flexible, efficient, responsive country-specific instrument for the development of thriving civil societies in support of human rights and democracy.

2.3. Complementarity to other external financing instruments

The promotion of human rights, democracy, the rule of law and good governance, and of inclusive and sustainable growth are two basic, mutually reinforcing pillars of the EU’s development policy. They are the key principles and policy priorities of the Agenda for Change, which informs the thematic and geographic programming process for the entire period 2014 - 2020.

In promoting human rights and democracy worldwide, the EU uses a wide range of tools, ranging from political dialogues and diplomatic initiatives to financial and technical cooperation and assistance. The EIDHR is a cornerstone of the EU’s human rights and democracy policy.

The EIDHR’s added value lies in its complementarity to geographic and other thematic instruments, including the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), the Instrument for Development Cooperation (DCI), the European Development Fund (EDF), the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II), the Instrument for Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities (CSO&LA) and the Instrument contributing to Peace and Stability (IcPS).

The EIDHR supports civil society as rights-holders to promote and protect human rights and

fundamental freedoms without partner countries' approval, complementary and additional to geographical instruments, which are drawn up in cooperation with partner countries to undertake national structural reforms such as supporting more effective and inclusive institutions, stronger governance frameworks, more efficient public administrations. A genuine engagement empowers civil society to play a key role in the implementation of government policies at all levels.

Furthermore, greater policy coherence and further enhanced operational coordination to promote a conducive environment for civil society organisations (CSOs) and to strengthen their capacity for action as independent and accountable actors in partner countries is ensured between the EIDHR and the Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities (CSO-LA) thematic programme under the DCI or the Civil Society Facility under the ENI. These instruments inform EU roadmaps for engagement with civil society organisations¹⁸ in partner countries, developed locally by EU Delegations.

As far as the IcPS is concerned, the adopted integrated approach, notably with regard to crisis responses as well as fragile and post-conflict actions, targets *inter alia* justice and security sector reform, transitional justice, mediation, election support, women, peace and security, children in conflict, combating trafficking in human beings and protection of minority groups.

Synergies, effective coordination and complementarity are also ensured with EU actions funded under the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) budget, notably Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations, as well as similar actions funded by Member States or by other major donors and multilateral organisations.

The EIDHR is also complementary to humanitarian action led by the Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO). Both programmes adopt an evidence-based approach to monitor, document and report human rights violations and abuses, while fully respecting the different international legal frameworks and their judicial accountability mechanisms.

Synergies, effective coordination and complementarity are consistently ensured throughout the entire project cycle, from the early planning, identification and formulation to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the projects, with a view to maximizing impact, ensuring sustainability and avoiding duplications, overlaps and inconsistencies.

2.4. Intervention logic and indicators

Inputs, outputs, outcomes and impact of EIDHR actions are monitored, measured and assessed according to the intervention logic framework for the period 2018 – 2020 as per Annex 1. Furthermore, performance indicators, including aggregable ones, for monitoring and evaluating the impact of EIDHR actions are part of the results-chain as per Annex 2. The EIDHR indicator framework is fully consistent with the SDGs indicator framework,

¹⁸ The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with civil society in external relations, COM(2012) 492, section 4.5. TO be updated

agreed on 230 individual indicators to monitor the 17 goals and 169 targets of the SDGs.

3. EIDHR OBJECTIVES

In accordance with Article 5 of the EIDHR Regulation, the MIP sets out the priority areas, the specific objectives and the expected results for the period 2018-2020. It also gives the indicative financial allocation, both overall and per priority area, where appropriate as a range.

The MIP also includes the following Annexes: 1) Intervention Logic; 2) Performance indicator framework to be discussed with DEVCO, better for MAAP; 3) Indicative table of priorities, sub-objectives and allocations per EIDHR objective; 4) Indicative table of allocations per region for the EIDHR Country-Based Support Scheme (CBSS).

Over the period 2018-2020, the EIDHR will deliver on the following five specific objectives¹⁹:

OBJECTIVE 1 – SUPPORT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN SITUATIONS WHERE THEY ARE MOST AT RISK

The EIDHR pays particular attention to countries and urgency situations where human rights and fundamental freedoms are most at risk and where disrespect for those rights and freedoms is particularly pronounced and systematic, as set up in the EIDHR Regulation. The concept of "most at risk" broadly refers to countries and situations marked by a serious lack of respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, where there is a pattern of human rights violations and abuses, including gross and systematic ones, where the security of citizens is not guaranteed and there is little room for inclusion, participation, accountability and political pluralism, where civil society operates under difficulty or individual human rights defenders face specific risks and are in extremely vulnerable situations.

The EIDHR action under objective 1 is twofold: i) supporting Human Rights Defenders in situations where they are most at risk, and ii) addressing shrinking democratic, civic and civil society space. In the current context, enhanced support backed-up by increased resource allocation, notably at country level, shall be given to the whole objective.

i. Supporting Human Rights Defenders in situations where they are most at risk

Consistent with the principles contained in the Declaration on the Right and responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognised Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms²⁰, the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders (HRDs)²¹ state that "*Human rights defenders are those individuals, groups and*

¹⁹ See Annex 'Specific objectives and priorities of the EIDHR' in the EIDHR Regulation (OJ L77/85).

²⁰ Adopted by United Nations General Assembly resolution 53/144 of 9 December 1998 – add link

²¹ Adopted in 2004 and updated in 2008, see reference: https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage_en/3958/EU%20Guidelines%20on%20Human%20Rights%20Defenders

organs of society that promote and protect universally recognised human rights and fundamental freedoms. Human rights defenders seek the promotion and protection of civil and political rights as well as the promotion, protection and realisation of economic, social and cultural rights. Human rights defenders also promote and protect the rights of members of groups such as indigenous communities. The definition does not include those individuals or groups who commit or propagate violence".

The term 'human rights defender' is diverse and encompasses a broad range of people who champion and fight for human rights of other people, invaluable contributing to creating a world where human rights are fully respected. There is no one "type" of human rights defenders but they all have in common the determination to challenge injustice, oppression and brutality in every part of the world.

Support to human rights defenders (HRDs) in the situations where they are most at risk has been an EU priority since 2004, systematically backed up by the EIDHR since 2007. It has been one of the major priorities under the Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy and the 2012-2014 Action Plan and continues to be so under the 2015-2019 Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy.

Since 2014, the EU has progressively developed a comprehensive support programme to HRDs, making the EIDHR the world's largest programme for the protection of HRDs.

EIDHR actions shall focus on protecting and assisting individual HRDs and civil society organisations in situations where systematic, widespread, and gross human rights violations take place and fundamental freedoms are most endangered. A focused attention shall be given to the most vulnerable, marginalized, stigmatized and geographically isolated HRDs. Moreover, whistleblowers, victims and witnesses of human rights violations and abuses may be considered as HRDs in exceptional circumstances.

Furthermore, independent National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI), Ombudsmen, Human Rights Commissions, women's rights institutions and State protection mechanisms when relevant, with the mandate to broadly promote, protect, monitor and report on the human rights situation in a given country have also been recognized as HRDs²². Special support shall be given to ensure their independence, effectiveness and accountability to stand up for those in need of protection, to hold governments accountable for their human rights obligations and to contribute to shape laws, policies and attitudes that create stronger, fairer and more resilient societies.

The EIDHR shall therefore provide short-, medium- and long-term support to HRDs as follows:

²² Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Margaret Sekaggya, Human Rights Council Twenty-fifth session, Agenda item 3 Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, 2013

- Short-term support shall include *inter alia* physical and digital protection, medical support and rehabilitation, legal counselling, urgent relocation, assistance to families, urgent monitoring and reporting, urgent demarches and access to digital security tools to react to defamation, smear campaigns and stigmatization;
- Medium-term support shall include *inter alia* follow-up to individual cases, legal representation, prison visits, trial monitoring, training courses including in risk prevention and security, digital security, internal displacement and temporary shelter;
- Long-term support shall include *inter alia* continuous legal support to long judicial proceedings, regular monitoring and early warning, capacity building and empowerment including with regards to facilitating their social reinsertion, fostering their advocacy skills also by arguing in support of legislative proposals, developing strategies to counter offline and online restrictions and sanctions, improving accountability and access to both judicial and non-judicial remedies against impunity, supporting dialogues and mediation activities including in the most difficult situations and access to international and regional human rights mechanisms such as UN special procedures.

ii. Addressing shrinking democratic, civic and civil society space

The EIDHR has proven to be a highly flexible and responsive instrument to address threats to democratic, civic and civil society space in partner countries. However, restrictions in a growing number of countries have created additional challenges requiring the EU action to be further stepped up.

Against the background of increasing legal and administrative hurdles to the delivery of EU assistance, the EU shall apply more country-level flexibility, inventiveness and resourcefulness. Furthermore, country-based strategies and context-sensitive actions with local civil society at the forefront shall be further developed to formulate more coherent and effective prevention mechanisms and risk-response strategies.

By using in-built flexibilities to their fullest potential, EIDHR actions shall ensure the continued existence of civil society, counter all types of restrictions imposed by national authorities and re-enact the space for their active, free and meaningful participation at all levels.

The EIDHR shall support a wide and heterogeneous range of activities, ranging from reinforcing the capacity of civil society organisations including building their resilience and capacity to effectively develop early-warning mechanisms, sharpening ad-hoc counter-strategies to planning and running advocacy and lobbying campaigns.

EIDHR actions under objective 1 aim at achieving the following results:

- Enabling HRDs to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in their own countries despite hindrance, supervision, or undue restriction;
- Strengthening capacities of HRDs, in particular when their safety and security are

- seriously endangered, to timely prevent and quickly react to human rights urgencies;
- Reinforcing both preventive and reactive capacities of civil society organisations, in particular strengthening viability and sustainability of local civil society organisations, to monitor, document, report and denounce human rights violations and abuses, to foster democratic reforms, inclusive participation and to fight against impunity at all levels;
 - Improving coordination and create greater synergies between international and local civil society organisations, including via the EU Human Rights Defenders mechanism;
 - Facilitating networking among international, regional, national and local civil society organisations and promoting the exchange of best practices to counter the shrinking space phenomenon.

OBJECTIVE 2 – SUPPORT TO OTHER EU HUMAN RIGHTS PRIORITIES

Consistent with the set of EU human rights guidelines and in full complementarity with other financial instruments and initiatives, the EIDHR shall continue to address human rights challenges as per the 2015-2019 EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy.

Objective 2 is designed to preserve and protect human dignity, combat discrimination in all its various forms, promote and protect the economic, social and cultural rights, advance on business and human rights and support sustainable trade and investment policies as well as the freedom of religion or belief, according to the principles of universality, indivisibility and inalienability of human rights as well as the pledge to *leave no-one behind*. An anti-trafficking angle shall be systematically included under this objective. Furthermore, it contributes to ending impunity and promoting international humanitarian law, and the responsibility to protect.

EIDHR actions under this objective shall therefore aim at:

*i. **Preserving human dignity***

• *Towards the universal abolition of death penalty*

Consistent with the EU Guidelines on the Death Penalty²³, EIDHR action aims to achieve the universal abolition of the death penalty, with the immediate establishment of a moratorium on the use of the death penalty (i.e. the suspension of executions), and the progressive restriction of the use of the death penalty where it still exists. Where the death penalty is still maintained, the EIDHR promotes full respect for international standards guaranteeing the protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty.

While promoting the signature, ratification and effective implementation of the Second Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other relevant international and regional instruments, the EIDHR shall support civil society actions

²³ http://eeas.europa.eu/human_rights/guidelines/death_penalty/docs/guidelines_death_penalty_st08416_en.pdf

contributing to criminal codes' reforms including ensuring legal counselling to death row inmates awaiting execution, the right to a fair trial and the highest standard of proof in death penalty cases, monitoring and promoting the respect for, and the application of the international minimum standards and fostering an environment conducive to abolition. Such actions shall also be conducted to counter attempts to reintroduce the death penalty in countries that have abolished the death penalty per jure or de facto.

The EU is the first regional body to have adopted rules prohibiting the trade in goods used for capital punishment, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as well as the supply of technical assistance related to such goods. Within this regulatory framework, the EU recently played a pivotal role in setting up the "Global Alliance to end trade in goods used for capital punishment and torture"²⁴ as a global effort by countries from all over the world to put an end to this trade. The EIDHR shall therefore foster the adoption of similar rules and support actions preventing the trade in goods and services that may contribute to violating human dignity in partner countries. Given its worldwide coverage, the EIDHR shall support actions also in newly industrialized and other high-income countries, which have not abolished the death penalty.

Furthermore, together with the Belgian government the EU will co-host the 7th World Congress against the Death Penalty that will take place in 2019 in Brussels. As in the past, via the EIDHR the EU remains committed to contribute to the organisation ensuring high-level participation among others. The World Congress has proven to be a key international forum to advance the debate and raise global awareness of why the death penalty should be abolished and why we have to resist any attempts to reintroduce capital punishment.

- ***Fighting against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment***

In line with the Guidelines to EU policy towards countries on torture, and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment²⁵, EIDHR actions shall adopt an integrated approach to the fight against torture and other forms of ill-treatment within the broader context of the fight against impunity and access to justice and the rule of law. The EIDHR shall also address the links between the death penalty, torture, extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrest and detention.

While promoting the signature, ratification and effective implementation of the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol²⁶, the EIDHR shall continue to invest both in prevention and in response. On prevention, EIDHR actions shall aim to support training and education on legal and medical aspects for all including professionals, awareness raising, evidence collection and documentation. With regards to response, the EIDHR shall support actions for medical, social, vocational and psychological rehabilitation as well as legal redress and compensation for victims, including ensuring accountability for perpetrators.

The above-mentioned actions may in particular be addressed in places of detention, including during the early stages of detention, in the context of law enforcement, migration,

²⁴ Members of the alliance

²⁵ http://eeas.europa.eu/human_rights/guidelines/torture/docs/20120626_guidelines_en.pdf.

²⁶ To be added

counter-terrorism and against all forms of organised crime.

ii. Combating discrimination in all its various forms

• Protecting and defending women's rights

Gender mainstreaming has proven to be an effective strategy for making progress towards gender equality. The EIDHR fully integrates a gender perspective into the preparation, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of actions under objective 2, but also as a cross-cutting element central to all objectives of the instrument.

In line with the EU Guidelines on violence against women and girls and combating all forms of discrimination against them²⁷, the EU Gender Action Plan II for the period 2016-2020²⁸ as well as the EU Comprehensive Approach on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security²⁹, the EIDHR shall promote and protect the rights of women, who are not only victims of human rights violations and abuses, but also energetic and vibrant contributors to political and social life, and to the making and the implementation of the international human rights law. In complementarity with the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative articulated around targeted, large-scale actions addressing all forms of violence against women and girls worldwide, EIDHR actions shall include building and strengthening women's capacities to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence, including traditional harmful practices, promote their economic, social and cultural rights and increase their meaningful and active participation in the private and public sphere.

While promoting the signature, ratification and the effective implementation of the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)³⁰ as well as of the United Nations Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security³¹, the EIDHR shall support *inter alia* actions to combat violence against women including in conflict-affected contexts, to ensure women's equal participation and inclusion in decision-making processes as well as full access to on-line and off-line information, to promote women's economic independence and to achieve equal participation and full involvement in all efforts to maintain and promote peace, stability and security, including transitional justice and post-conflict reconstruction.

• Protecting and defending children's rights

Consistent with the revised EU Guidelines on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child³², EIDHR action shall adopt a systems-strengthening approach, by identifying all the necessary measures, structures and actors to protect all the rights of all children, especially those in the most vulnerable and marginalised situations. It shall also ensure the

²⁷ To be added

²⁸

²⁹ To be added

³⁰ To be added

³¹ To be added

³² EU Guidelines on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child, 6846/17, 6 March 2017

strengthening of child protection systems³³.

While promoting the signature, the ratification and the effective implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child³⁴ and its Optional Protocols³⁵ as well as the relevant International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conventions on the abolition of child labour³⁶, the EIDHR shall support civil society actions aimed at preventing and responding to violence, notably traditional harmful practices, against children, including those deprived of their liberty, addressing the root causes and putting an end to child labour and addressing the specific needs of children in migration, including those unaccompanied or separated from their families, victims of violence as well as victims of trafficking in human beings.

Furthermore, the EIDHR shall continue to support the implementation of the EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict³⁷, focusing on the prevention of child recruitment through community-based services including those for orphaned or abandoned children, the active role of both children and youth in transitional justice processes, and psychological rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration of children affected by armed conflicts, including those who have been victims of sexual abuse and exploitation.

- ***Protecting and defending the rights of indigenous peoples***

In line with the EU Council Conclusions on indigenous peoples³⁸, the EIDHR consistently contributes to the international advancement and recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples.

In promoting the effective implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples³⁹ as well as the Outcome document of the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples⁴⁰, EIDHR actions shall address the threats to and violence against indigenous peoples and individuals, including Human Rights defenders, notably in the context of the protection of the environment, including land and natural resources, biodiversity and the climate. The EIDHR shall also support actions to reinforce the capacity, of their representative institutions and organizations to promote and protect the enjoyment of civil and political rights as well as the economic, social and cultural rights at different levels.. This includes enabling active and meaningful participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making in matters which affect their rights including through the application of the principle of free, prior and informed consent, and reinforcing dialogues and promoting consultation mechanisms with governments and other decision makers at local, national and international levels, fostering empowerment and enabling participation in sustainable development efforts and raising awareness on the rights of indigenous peoples..

³³ A Guidance Note is in preparation on this specific issue Check

³⁴ UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, resolution 44/27 of 20 November 1998

³⁵ There are 3 Optional Protocols to the Convention; the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict and the Optional Protocol on a Communication Procedure.

³⁶ ILO Convention 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment (1973) and ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999).

³⁷ EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict, 16457/07, 12 December 2007.

³⁸ <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-8814-2017-INIT/en/pdf>

³⁹ http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf

⁴⁰ http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/2

- ***Protecting and defending the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons***

Consistent with the EU Guidelines to promote and protect the enjoyment of all Human Rights by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI)⁴¹ and as foreseen in the second EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (2015-2019), EIDHR action aims to eliminate all forms of discrimination and to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all.

In alignment with existing international legal standards including those set by the United Nations and the Council of Europe as well as with the Toolkit to Promote and Protect the Enjoyment of all Human Rights by LGBT people⁴², the EIDHR shall continue to invest both in prevention and in response. On prevention, EIDHR actions shall contribute to eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and building or strengthening legislative frameworks protecting LGBTI persons from discrimination and hate crimes. As regards response, the EIDHR shall support actions for medical, social, vocational and psychological rehabilitation, for social re-insertion including access to jobs, health care or education as well as legal redress and compensation for victims, including ensuring accountability for perpetrators.

Overall, the EIDHR shall support education, training and awareness-raising activities on any form of LGBTI-phobic violence at international, regional, national and local level.

- ***Protecting and defending the rights of migrants, refugees, internally displaced and stateless persons***

In compliance with the relevant international conventions and standards, notably the UN Convention on Refugees, UN Protocols respectively on trafficking in human beings and on the smuggling of migrants and the UN Convention on stateless and consistent with commitments taken in the context of Global Compact on Migration and Global Compact on Refugees, the EIDHR shall contribute to the improvement of policies or laws to protect migrants, refugees, internally displaced and stateless persons.

Actions shall aim to improve the effective protection, promotion and fulfilment of human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, paying particular attention to addressing the specific needs of migrants in vulnerable situations, including women at risk, children, including those who are unaccompanied or separated from their families, persons with disabilities, persons who are discriminated against on any basis, victims of violence, victims of trafficking in human beings. The abovementioned actions shall be also addressed in places of detention, including by promoting the use of alternatives to administrative detention.

Furthermore, the EIDHR shall support activities promoting tolerance through appropriate awareness-raising and communication strategies.

⁴¹ To be added

⁴² To be added 2010

- ***Protecting and defending the rights of other discriminated groups and persons belonging to minorities***

Consistent with the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination⁴³, the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination⁴⁴, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability to which the EU is a party, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities⁴⁵, EIDHR action aims to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all.

While promoting the signature, the ratification and the effective implementation of the relevant international and regional human rights instruments, the EIDHR shall support actions aimed at both preventing and responding to violence and abuse against persons belonging to discriminated groups, including persons with disabilities and persons affected by caste-based discrimination. These actions shall contribute to creating equal opportunities for all, eradicating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, fostering social inclusion and empowerment, supporting the capacity building of organisations representing the discrimination affected persons, ensuring access to psychosocial, medical, legal, mediation and reintegration assistance programmes and services, enabling active and meaningful participation in the civil and political life at different levels, reinforcing inter-community, inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogues and raising awareness among governments, media, educators and the general public.

- iii. Promoting and protecting the freedom of religion or belief***

Consistent with the EU Guidelines on freedom and religion of belief⁴⁶, the EIDHR shall continue to contribute to the promotion, protection and enjoyment of the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief by all.

EIDHR actions shall aim to prevent and respond to religiously motivated discrimination, harassment and violence, including demanding accountability for perpetrators. These actions also include supporting pertinent initiatives to promote an atmosphere of respect and tolerance between all persons regardless of their religion or belief, and to defuse emerging tensions.

The EIDHR shall primarily target countries that penalise or discriminate individuals for their religious beliefs or for changing their religion or beliefs or for adopting or abandoning a religion or belief through free choice as guaranteed by international human rights norms or for inducing others to change a religion or belief, especially when cases of apostasy, heterodoxy, or conversion are punishable by death.

- iv. Promoting and protecting the economic, social and cultural rights***

⁴³ http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/Durban_text_en.pdf

⁴⁴ <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/cerd.pdf>

⁴⁵ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N93/076/55/IMG/N9307655.pdf?OpenElement>

⁴⁶ To be added

The EU consistently promotes and protects economic, social and cultural rights, as all rights are equal, indivisible, interrelated, and interdependent. By using a rights-based approach encompassing all human rights, the EIDHR action shall thus contribute to advance the protection, promotion and fulfilment of economic, social and cultural rights.

While promoting the signature, ratification and the effective implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights⁴⁷ as well as the 1998 International Labour Organisation (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work⁴⁸ with the eight ILO Core Conventions⁴⁹, EIDHR actions shall create an enabling environment to fully realise economic, social and cultural rights. Actions in this field shall include, *inter alia*, empowering civil society to advise governments on the development and implementation of economic policies to ensure that the economic, social and cultural rights of people are not discriminatory or adversely affected, facilitating public awareness of government policies relating to economic, social and cultural rights, encouraging the involvement of various sectors of society in the formulation, implementation and review of relevant policies.

v. **Advancing on Business and Human Rights and supporting sustainable trade and investment policies**

Consistent with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union⁵⁰ and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights⁵¹, the EIDHR shall promote corporate social responsibility to respect human rights, including the setting up of human rights due diligence process to identify, prevent, mitigate and account for how companies address their impacts on human rights. The EIDHR shall also promote the State duty to protect human rights, including by supporting the adoption and implementation of national action plans. Access to effective remedies for victims of business- related human rights abuses shall be ensured.

EIDHR shall also support capacity building and developing knowledge on the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and contribute to raise awareness on the UNGPs. This includes supporting multi-stakeholders dialogues between, *inter alia*, business, civil society, National Human rights Institutions

In line with the special incentive arrangement for sustainable development and good governance under the EU GSP trade scheme (GSP+), the EIDHR shall support the involvement of civil society and social partners in the monitoring of commitments made by GSP+ countries with respect to international human rights, labour rights, environmental protection, and good governance conventions covered by the GSP+ scheme, including the efficient implementation of core international conventions in these fields.

⁴⁷ To be added

⁴⁸ To be added

⁴⁹ To be added

⁵⁰ To be added

⁵¹ To be added

vi. Fighting against impunity and promoting accountability

The EU has a long-standing commitment to ending impunity, strengthening the rule of law, promoting accountability and transparency and supporting transitional justice. This includes in particular promoting the universality of the Rome Statute with continuous support to the International Criminal Court and its complementarity to national jurisdictions.

While promoting the signature, the ratification and the effective implementation of the Rome Statute, EIDHR actions shall contribute to strengthening the rule of law, improving access to justice, delivering equal justice for all and ensuring the functioning of effective, accountable and transparent institutions at national level, including through monitoring, documenting and reporting of human rights violations and the fight against corruption and collusion. The EIDHR shall also provide psychological, medical and legal support to victims and witnesses of crimes in trials, including in post-conflict peace-building processes.

Furthermore, the EIDHR shall support transitional justice mechanisms as the set of judicial and non-judicial measures⁵² for the recognition of the dignity of individuals, the redress and acknowledgment of human rights abuses and violations, including atrocity crimes such as genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing, with the final aim to prevent them from happening again.

vii. Promoting international humanitarian law, and the responsibility to protect (R2P)

In alignment with the EU Guidelines on promoting compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL)⁵³, the EIDHR shall promote compliance with and the implementation of the provisions of the four Geneva Conventions⁵⁴, their Additional Protocols⁵⁵ and other international humanitarian law treaties such as the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, and customary international humanitarian law.

The EIDHR shall therefore support civil society actions contributing to ensuring adherence to the abovementioned conventions, translating their provisions into national legislation and ensuring consistent implementation. These actions shall target both state and non-state actors.

As per EU commitment to the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) principle agreed by the international community at the World Summit in 2005⁵⁶, the EIDHR shall also contribute to preventing, monitoring and holding accountable with regard to atrocity crimes. Precisely on prevention, EIDHR actions shall include early warning, operationalization of atrocity prevention in national and regional contexts, collaboration and exchange of best practices at national and regional levels, facilitation of civil society participation in international meetings on RtoP, capacity building of local civil society in prevention and monitoring of

⁵² Such as truth commissions, reparations programmes and guarantees of non-recurrence

⁵³ To be added

⁵⁴

⁵⁵ To be added

⁵⁶ To be added

response to mass atrocity crimes, and civil society advocacy and outreach.

EIDHR actions under objective 2 aim at achieving the following results:

- Contributing to the effective implementation of the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (2015-2019), consistent with the EU human rights guidelines and EU Human Rights and Democracy Country priorities;
- Improving compliance with international human rights law at all levels;
- Reinforcing capacity of civil society organisations, primarily local civil society organisations, to prevent, monitor and respond to human rights violations and abuses;
- Reaching out to the most vulnerable groups in geographically isolated areas;
- Improving visibility of EU human rights campaigns.

OBJECTIVE 3 – SUPPORT TO DEMOCRACY

The EU's commitment to democracy as a principle underpinning its external action is consistently reflected in key EU policy documents, including the 2009 Council Conclusions on "Democracy Support in EU external relations"⁵⁷. The EU stands ready to support citizens in partner countries in their aspirations for democracy and human rights, and it is committed to the principle of local ownership of democratic reforms.

The EIDHR is one of the main EU instruments funding civil society organisations as key actors of democratic governance. Interventions shall be driven by the analysis of *de facto* power structures, rather than *de jure* institutions and processes, identifying and exploiting windows of opportunity to foster democracy. The EIDHR shall comprehensively cover all aspects of democratic governance, including promoting and defending civil and political rights, with a focused attention on the freedom of expression and opinion – both online and offline – as well as the freedom of assembly and association. Furthermore, the impact of new technologies on democracy and civil and political rights will be addressed.

The EIDHR action under objective 3 is threefold: i) developing the scrutiny role of citizens, civil society and media, ii) strengthening pluralism and iii) fostering participation.

i. Developing the scrutiny role of citizens, civil society and media

In order to develop and strengthen accountability of state institutions towards citizens, EIDHR actions shall contribute to fostering transparent policy-making, the fight against corruption, oversight functions of the legislatures and communication to citizens on government policies. Relevant national stakeholders such as independent media, parliaments, parliamentarians, other oversight institutions and citizens shall be supported to have access to public information and government data and develop the ability to scrutinise and influence policy making on the use of public resources.

Accountability shall also be reinforced by supporting media in exercising their role of '*fourth power*' in democracy. The EIDHR shall support unrestricted and equal internet access as well as independent, pluralistic and quality media, including the use of new technologies to reinforce their role as fact checkers and information providers, and improve

⁵⁷ To be added

their resilience to suppression online and offline. This support shall include ad-hoc measures to protect journalists and bloggers and to expand civil and political space (i.a. through networks), to provide a larger number of citizens voice and representation, in synergy with see Objective 1.

Support for credible and transparent elections through the strengthening of the role and capacities of domestic election observers' organisations, integrating election missions' recommendations when relevant, shall continue to be a key feature of the EIDHR under Objective 3.

ii. Strengthening pluralism

EIDHR actions shall strengthen representative democracy by reinforcing democratic pluralism, i.e. by focusing on the co-existence of pluralistic political parties representing different views in the society as well as on the linkages between parliaments/elected representatives and citizens. This shall also cover activities promoting the application of constitutional rules related to separation and alternation of power.

The EIDHR shall fund activities targeting political parties in a multi-party, non-partisan manner (e.g. addressing legal environment, reinforcing accountability of parties to citizens, fostering women and youth participation, facilitating inter-party dialogues, etc.). Support to democratic pluralism shall also encompass support to fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, association and assembly.

iii. Fostering participation

Participatory democracy shall be improved by increased participation of citizens in decision-making processes and by developing pro-democracy advocacy, facilitation of democratic debates, civic education programmes and promotion of democratic participation of women such as via women's caucuses, youth and minorities. New technologies and forms of civic activism shall also be explored to drive participation and representation.

The EIDHR shall foster the active participation of citizens in exercising their economic, social and cultural rights as well as tackle issues such as growing economic and social inequality. It shall also promote public participation in the development, management and control of different sectors of state policies (health, agriculture, education, business, etc.). Particular attention shall be paid, when relevant, to social dialogue with active participation of independent social partners as well as entrepreneurs' organisations.

This shall encompass actions to facilitate the representation and influence of marginalised groups within political parties, national and local legislatures and other formal bodies, as well as through informal networks and organisations. Focused attention shall also be paid to emerging socio-economic factors which may threaten social cohesion and inclusiveness, and undermine political participation.

EIDHR actions under objective 3 aim at achieving the following results:

1. Contributing to shaping domestic accountability, the rule of law and effective oversight;
2. Ensuring more pluralistic and inclusive representative democracy and increased participation of citizens in governance with special focus on democratic participation of youth, women and minorities;

3. Increasing transparency and improving access to information and independent use of information by pluralistic media (offline and online).

OBJECTIVE 4 – EU ELECTION OBSERVATION

EU election observation is a major flagship of EU external relations. EIDHR actions under objective 4 shall ensure that election observation plays a full part in the wider support for the democratic processes as described under Objective 3.

The EU Election Observation Missions (EOMs) shall follow the objectives, principles and methodology of electoral observation developed by the EU over two decades of experience. EOMs shall continue to strengthen transparency in the management of electoral processes, mitigate the risks of fraud and irregularities and increase the overall confidence in the electoral process. Though elections alone do not make a democracy, they represent a critical step in the democratic process, testing the level of protection of civil and political rights, the resilience of the electoral framework, the neutrality and functioning of public institutions such as the election management body, the law enforcement agencies and the judiciary, media pluralism, space for civil society and the wider resilience and depth of the democratic culture.

EIDHR actions under this Objective shall take into account the fact that the observation methodology is constantly evolving, taking into consideration lessons learnt and responding to new challenges identified. Particular attention shall be given to observation of voter registration, online election related content, new election technologies, campaign and political parties financing, electoral violence among others. Women, youth, minority groups and persons with disabilities and their participation in the electoral processes, both as candidates and voters, shall remain a priority.

EU EOMs shall continue to focus on a limited number of countries which meet the criteria of usefulness, advisability and feasibility. A number of Election Expert Missions (EEMs) and Election Follow-up Missions (EFMs) shall also continue to be funded. Priorities shall be decided based on the elections timetable, political developments and resources available.

In line with the election observation approach covering the entire democratic cycle, follow-up to recommendations by previous EU and OSCE/ODIHR EOMs and EEMs remains essential. To ensure the long-term impact of election observation, follow-up activities shall be further developed and systematised. These shall entail support to legislative reform by civil society, political parties and other stakeholders in the follow-up process funded for example by geographical cooperation programmes. Complementing other existing instruments, the EIDHR shall also support the follow-up process, notably through the deployment of Election Follow-up Missions and ensuring the financing of the necessary expertise to engage with key stakeholders in the aftermath of an electoral mission.

Political dialogues and democracy support tools will continue to be used to promote the effective implementation of EU and OSCE/ODIHR election observation missions' recommendations. Final reports of EOMs, EEMs and EFMs will be used so that issues of

concern are raised appropriately during political dialogues and that relevant assistance is made available as required from EU geographical programmes or other donors.

Furthermore, the EOMs' findings will continue to be shared and discussed with partner countries' institutions and civil society organisations and – whenever appropriate – within the framework of multi-stakeholder dialogues. The follow-up process, starting immediately after the election, will seize all potential opportunities for dialogue with the new legislature, taking into account the country-specific approach and the political will of domestic actors. The EEAS, the Commission services, the European Parliament, Member States, Regional Organisations and CSOs (in particular those that observe elections), as well as other relevant partners, will continue to be involved in the follow-up activities.

Through the EIDHR, the EU shall keep on working to support the UN Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation. It shall continue its cooperation with other bodies engaged in electoral observation, such as the OSCE, in order to promote international electoral observation standards. The EIDHR shall also contribute to capacity-building through further support for training and networking at regional level.

EIDHR actions under objective 4 aim at achieving the following results:

1. Increasing transparency and building confidence of domestic and international stakeholders in the electoral process;
2. Formulating recommendations to improve electoral frameworks and future electoral processes in countries where EU electoral missions are deployed;
3. Increasing follow-up to EU electoral missions and promoting the effective implementation of their recommendations.

OBJECTIVE 5 — SUPPORT TO TARGETED KEY ACTORS AND PROCESSES, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS

EIDHR actions under objective 5 aim to strengthen international and regional frameworks for the protection and promotion of human rights, justice and the rule of law and democratic governance, in accordance with the Common Implementing Regulation⁵⁸ and the abovementioned EU policy priorities, as follows:

i. Strengthening international human rights mechanisms through continuous support the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). As part of the EU's commitment to effective multilateralism, the EIDHR action shall contribute to preserving the independence and effectiveness of the OHCHR, including the human rights treaty bodies and Special Procedures, in monitoring the implementation of the core international human rights treaties and calling upon Member States to fulfil their human rights obligations and to ensure greater accountability;

ii. Supporting the international criminal justice mechanisms, notably supporting the International Criminal Court (ICC) and promoting the universality of the Rome Statute. EIDHR actions shall contribute to *inter alia* building capacity and expertise, strengthening

⁵⁸ OJ L 77/11, 15.3.2014, Article 6(1)(c), p.7.

resources and supporting outreach activity by civil society with States for ratification. The EIDHR shall also support ad-hoc international criminal courts and tribunals established at country level, including cooperation between international courts and domestic courts;

iii. Strengthening regional human rights mechanisms. While the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) extensively supports the Council of Europe and the Pan-African programme under the Development Cooperation Instrument supports the African Human Rights System as part of the African Governance Architecture, the EIDHR shall continue to assist the Inter-American System for the protection of human rights and the human rights mechanisms in the Asia-Pacific Region;

iv. Supporting regional networks on human rights education and training through the Global Campus of Human Rights, coordinated by the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC). The Global Campus, a network of approximately 100 universities delivering seven Master's Programmes on human rights and democracy in all regions of the world, contributes to advancing human rights and democracy through regional and global cooperation in education and research.

v. Supporting regional and international networks of independent National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs). The EIDHR shall support regional and international networks of NHRIs, as true bridge-builders between civil society, national authorities and regional or international human rights bodies in the implementation of their broad mandates to promote and protect human rights.

vi. Supporting Human Rights Dialogues as key bilateral and regional fora to advance the human rights agenda. The EIDHR shall continue to support civil society involvement in the preparation of human rights dialogues and their follow-up through, for example, mobilising experts and organising civil society seminars in the margins at local and regional level.

EIDHR actions under objective 5 aim at achieving the following results:

1. Increasing engagement with and strengthening support to international and regional human rights bodies and mechanisms;
2. Intensifying promotion and stepping up support to the international criminal justice mechanisms, notably the International Criminal Court;
3. Maximising impact and strengthening capacity of national human rights institutions and bodies to promote and protect human rights at national, regional and global levels;
4. Reinforcing knowledge, skills and expertise in post-graduate students in the area of human rights and democratization.
5. Ensuring meaningful participation and valuable contribution of civil society to EU human rights dialogues

SUPPORT MEASURES

The support measures reinforce efficiency, performance and impact of EIDHR implementation. They allow preparation, follow-up, monitoring, audit and evaluation activities, as well as other relevant activities directly linked to the achievement of EIDHR

objectives, such as studies, meetings and consultations, exchanges of best practices, training, information sessions, and communication and publication activities. The support measures also facilitate the implementation of the rights-based approach to development cooperation including gender- mainstreaming at all levels. Training courses to EU staff and EIDHR beneficiaries on business and human rights are also encouraged in that respect.

These measures are for the benefit of beneficiaries and partners of the EIDHR and consequently for the common benefit of the beneficiaries and the EU.

4. FINANCIAL ALLOCATION 2018-2020 AND IMPLEMENTATION

The financial envelope for the implementation of the EIDHR is EUR 1,332,752,000 for the period 2014-2020. The financial envelope for the implementation of the EIDHR for the period 2018 – 2020 is EUR 556,709,000. Annual appropriations will be authorized by the budgetary authority within the limits of the 2014-20 financial framework.

The table below sets out the indicative allocation for the different programme priorities:

Objectives	Total for 2018-2020
Objective 1: Support to human rights and human rights defenders in situations where they are most at risk (26 %)	142,125,000
Objective 2: Support to other EU human rights priorities (23 %)	126,250,000
Objective 3: Support to democracy (19 %)	106,988,000
Objective 4: EU election observation (up to 25 %)	141,971,000
Objective 5: Support to targeted key actors and processes, including international and regional human rights instruments and mechanisms (6.5 %)	36,375,000
Support measures (0.5%)	3,000,000
GRAND TOTAL	556,709,000

Implementation, including aid modalities will be in line with the EIDHR Regulation, the Financial Regulation⁵⁹ as well as the Common Implementing Regulation. Election observation missions will be put in place in line with the 2010 Council decision establishing the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service⁶⁰.

⁵⁹ Regulation(EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of The European Parliament and of The Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002; OJ L298, 26.10.2012.

⁶⁰ In line with the Article 9(6) of the Council Decision of 26 July 2010 establishing the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service (2010/427/EU), (OJ L 201/30, 3.8.2010), implementation of the EOMs is the responsibility of the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy as Vice-

Part of the EIDHR funding will be channelled through the Country-Based Support Schemes (CBSS) and implemented by EU Delegations. The CBSS will respond to country-based challenges, as identified in the Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategies. An indicative CBSS allocation per region is provided in Annex III.

President of the Commission and the department in charge of the implementation of foreign policy instruments.

ANNEX 1 – INTERVENTION LOGIC



ANNEX 2 – INDICATORS

The use of human rights and democracy indicators is part of a broader process of systematic work to implement, monitor and evaluate the impact of EU action. The exercise of identifying and using qualitative and quantitative indicators has been conducted in full consistency with the SDGs indicator framework. All indicators, where appropriate, shall be disaggregated by sex and age.

<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Performance indicators</i>
<p><u>Objective 1</u>: <i>Support to human rights and human rights defenders (HRDs) in situations where they are most at risk</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Effectiveness and relevance of draft legislation/policy proposed by HRDs to promote evidence- and rights-based policies and legislations in compliance with International and Regional Conventions and Treaties and related optional Protocols; ❖ Reported joint activities by international, regional, national and local civil society organisations in the field of human rights; ❖ Proportion of actions to upgrade skills and enhance preventive and reactive capacities of HRDs; ❖ Number of human rights defenders at risk receiving effective support, including greater visibility in both traditional and social media outlets; ❖ Number of independent National Human Rights Institutions accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles and relevance of activities to promote and protect human rights.
<p><u>Objective 2</u>: <i>Support to other EU human rights priorities</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Effectiveness and relevance of draft legislation/policy proposed by CSOs to promote evidence- and rights-based policies and legislations in compliance with International and Regional Conventions and Treaties and related optional Protocols; ❖ Proportion of actions to upgrade skills and enhance preventive and reactive capacities of CSOs, primarily local CSOs, including those in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas; ❖ Reported activities contributing to implement EU Human Rights Guidelines; ❖ Reported activities supporting victims of human rights violations and abuses; ❖ Effectiveness and relevance of EU human rights campaigning and advocacy.
<p><u>Objective 3</u>: <i>Support to democracy</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Number of actions focusing on improving the access to public information and government data and/or on strengthening accountability of state institutions towards citizens, including actions promoting an

	<p>independent and pluralistic media;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Number of Domestic Observers trained with EIDHR funding for domestic electoral observation; ❖ Number of actions targeting better functioning of national parliaments and political parties and/or enhancing the representation and participation of citizens in democratic processes; ❖ Number of Human Rights defenders at risk (including journalists and bloggers) receiving effective support; ❖ Level of participation of women including women standing as candidates, youth and minorities in electoral and political processes, including the proportion of women, youth and minorities in leadership positions in the government, state institutions, local assemblies and decision-making bodies according to national databases.
<p><i>Objective 4: EU Election Observation</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Consistent use of EOMs, EEMs and EATs for the support of electoral processes and wider democratization efforts (number of missions deployed, complementarity with other instruments, and use in line with the criteria of deployment of EOMs); ❖ Increased number and more systematic use of EFMs deployed in countries and/or other tools to assess the implementation of EOM/EEMs recommendations.
<p><i>Objective 5: Support to targeted key actors and processes</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Effectiveness and relevance of activities carried out by international and regional human rights bodies and mechanisms to promote and protect human rights; ❖ Effectiveness and relevance of activities undertaken by the international criminal justice mechanisms, notably the International Criminal Court to promote and protect human rights; ❖ Reported activities facilitating the creation of regional and international networks of independent National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles; ❖ Number of educational programs funded by the EU/EIDHR and number of students graduated in human rights and democracy in this context; ❖ Number of research activities on human rights and democracy funded by the EU.

ANNEX 3 – EIDHR INDICATIVE ALLOCATIONS PER OBJECTIVE AND SUB-OBJECTIVE

Objectives	Indicative amount	Indicative percentage
Objective 1 - Support to human rights and human rights defenders in situations where they are most at risk	142,125,000	26%
Global support to HRDs and addressing shrinking democratic/ civic/civil society space	115,750,000	
Human rights and HRDs most at risk	24,500,000	
National Human Rights Institutions	1,875,000	
Objective 2 - Support to other EU human rights priorities	126,250,000	23%
Human dignity	20,375,000	
Discrimination	40,750,000	
Freedom of religion and belief	13,500,000	
Economic, social and cultural rights	32,750,000	
Impunity and accountability	18,875,000	
Objective 3 - Support to democracy	106,988,000	19%
Democratic accountability (civil society, media)	41,995,000	
Democratic pluralism	23,122,000	
Participation	41,871,000	
Objective 4 – EU Election Observation	141,971,000	25%
Objective 5 - Support to targeted key actors and processes	36,375,000	6.5%
International human rights mechanisms	13,500,000	
International criminal justice	3,000,000	
Regional human rights mechanisms	2,500,000	
Human rights education networks	14,500,000	
National Human Rights Institutions	1,875,000	
Human Rights Dialogues	1,000,000	
Support measures	3,000,000	0.5%
Total	556,709,000	100%

ANNEX 4 – EIDHR COUNTRY BASED SUPPORT SCHEME (CBSS) INDICATIVE ALLOCATIONS PER REGION

The financial envelope for CBBS allocation is EUR 270,000,000, corresponding to 48.5% of the financial envelope for the implementation of the EIDHR for the period 2018 –2020, which is EUR 556,709,000.

Region	Indicative amount in EUR	Indicative percentage
Western Balkans & Turkey	22,200,000	8%
Neighbourhood countries & Russia	55,200,000	20.4%
Central & Latin America	38,325,000	14.2%
Sub-Saharan Africa	83,648,000	31%
The Caribbean	10,215,000	3.8%
Central Asia	8,100,000	3%
Asia & Pacific	48,600,000	18%
Middle East (Iraq, Yemen)	4,500,000	1.6%
TOTAL	270,788,000	100%