

MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION	
13. Type of financing	Direct management through: - Procurement
14. Type of measure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cooperation facility <input type="checkbox"/> Measures in favour of Civil Society

1.2 Summary of the Action

The action will support the EU's public diplomacy, dialogue and outreach in Kenya in line with the Global Gateway and the Team Europe approach, including in the Green Deal and the Human-Centred Digitalisation Team Europe Initiatives. It will underpin strategic and policy dialogue, communications and actions to enhance the quality of the project portfolio, such as project preparation, monitoring and evaluation missions, with a view to promote policy coherence and visibility. It will contribute to capacity building for Kenyan actors crucial to the objectives of this contribution.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

Kenya is East Africa's economic hub and most stable democracy, and an actor with the potential to play a leading regional and international role, despite continuing domestic governance challenges (e.g. corruption, political volatility, insecurity, social and gender inequalities). Instability and conflict in the Horn of Africa directly affect Kenya, who is a major security provider for the region (host to 570 000 refugees and asylum seekers, and contributing troops to peacekeeping missions). The May 2021 Council Conclusions on the Horn of Africa² have identified Kenya as a key partner with whom to pursue an agenda of shared values and interests, promoting peace and security, prosperity and democratic stability in the region, as well as multilateralism. Kenya hosts the only UN headquarters in the Global South (UN Environment Programme / UNEP and UN Human Settlements Programme / UN-Habitat), and is one of the key partners for the EU's priorities on sustainable development and multilateralism. The EU wants to enhance its mutual economic interests with Kenya in the Horn of Africa and East Africa, including through a stronger engagement on trade and investment, commensurate with the engagement Kenya pursues with other partners.

The proposal to upgrade the Kenya-European Union Strategic Cooperation 2018-2022 to EU-Kenya Strategic Dialogue was agreed by President Kenyatta and PEC Michel, during mutual visits in March and June 2021. In January 2022, HRVP Josep Borrell kicked-off the Strategic Dialogue during his visit to Nairobi. A Senior Officials Meeting held in February 2023 confirmed the strategic priorities of the Dialogue structured along three thematic priorities: 1. Peace, security and stability, 2. Sustainable, inclusive development and SDGs: and 3. Trade and investments.

The large part of the EU Delegation's project portfolio directly supports the implementation of the three clusters. The clusters are also supported by two Team Europe Initiatives, which are jointly owned by the EU and its Member States: 1) A human-centred digitalisation and 2) the Green Deal. The Team Europe Initiatives allow the EU Delegation to take advantage of financial and political synergies with the EU Member States in Kenya. In 2022, the implementation of the Global Gateway has in Kenya focussed around 1) Transports (with the Northern Transport Corridor Inaugurated by President Ruto in November 2022); 2) Digital Connectivity and 3) Sustainable Energy. The EU-Kenya Business Forum in February 2023, inaugurated by President Ruto, showcased the EU's ambitions to strengthen trade, investment and economic ties with Kenya, and also contained separate session on development oriented cooperation, notably the regional Team Europe Initiative "Investing in Young Business in Africa", the European Fund for Sustainable Development, and Green Finance. At the same time, all major areas relevant to the Team Europe Initiatives were debated in panel sessions. In parallel, a senior officials' Strategic Dialogue were held.

² <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-8135-2021-INIT/en/pdf>