

DISCLAIMER: *this document provides a preliminary overview of what could be envisaged in the future multiannual indicative programme (MIP) for Global Challenges for 2021-2027, taking into account lessons learnt from ongoing actions, the priorities of the current EU Commission and initial Commission's internal discussions. Its content does not pre-empt the final outcome of the future MIP 2021-2027.*

Overall context

We are living in a **world that is highly interconnected and interdependent and facing numerous global challenges**. Climate change, environmental degradation, pandemics, non-communicable diseases are pressing and disruptive global threats, which require better multilateral coordination and global solutions. New forms of inequalities and new forms of work are emerging, amplified by the processes of globalisation. While accelerated digital transformation and connectivity offer great potential to foster innovation and sustainable growth, they also pose new risks to the equality, security and rights of citizens.

The COVID-19 crisis has not only exacerbated existing social and economic inequalities, but it has revealed the failures of our systems in ensuring resilience and sustainable and equitable access to opportunities as well as even outcomes for all. The pandemic has also confirmed how intertwined global challenges are and clearly demonstrated that poverty and inequality must be tackled in tandem with addressing climate change and preserving biodiversity and natural resources.

At the same time, multilateralism and **our collective capacity to address challenges and pursue global common goods is often undermined**, as we are living in an increasingly fractured world with more unilateralist approaches combined with geopolitical power shifts.

With the context of global disruption and power competition in mind, and in line with the Commission's geopolitical ambition of a "Stronger Europe in the World" and the Joint Communication on strengthening the EU's contribution to rules-based multilateralism¹, the EU is renewing its policies to strengthen its strategic power and prominence. The **EU will be more assertive, by defending its interests and values at global level, whilst building and reinforcing coalitions** with partners on key priorities.

The EU has reaffirmed its **support to the universal agendas that are the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, the Paris Agreement, Rule of Law, Gender Equality and Human Rights**. Pursuing these objectives goes hand in hand with promoting EU strategic interests. The EU has developed ambitious policies - 'A European Green Deal', 'A Europe fit for the digital age' and the vision for 'Europe's Digital Decade', 'An economy that works for people', 'A new push for European democracy', and 'Promoting the European way of life' – which are effectively a roll out of the universal agendas both inside Europe, and in support of partner countries. Each of them is geared towards reinforced global solutions, including support to the multilateral system, so as to uphold and update the rules-based global order.

¹ JOIN(2021) 3 final of 17/02/2021

Progress towards the 2030 Agenda achievement during the Decade of Action depends critically on ensuring a sustainable, resilient, inclusive and green recovery from the pandemic, building back better and working better together worldwide.

The post-COVID-19 recovery provides the EU with a unique **window of opportunity to build back better, project our priorities, interests and values**, promote a green, digital and inclusive recovery and boost our strategic sovereignty and resilience. The EU has presented a vision for this recovery through its Global Recovery Initiative², which incorporates the multi-dimensional reality of the current challenges. It has committed to make this Initiative a reality at the multilateral level, by linking debt relief and investment to the SDGs. More than ever, **EU unity and coherence is crucial** for the success of these ambitious goals.

Capacity to support financially global actions that project EU priorities and values is key. **The Global challenges programme responds to this imperative and complements and strengthens the country, multi-country and regional dimensions of EU's action.** It should enable the EU to have a stronger voice on the global stage, to shape the international agenda, to influence norms and standards internationally and in support of local and regional solutions.

Global challenges need to be tackled individually and through their interlinkages in order to put the world on the path towards sustainable, equitable and inclusive development. **The five Pillars of the 2030 Agenda – People, Planet, Prosperity, Partnership and Peace - provide the basis for such interlinkages.** All SDGs being multidimensional and interlinked, the programme will promote integrated actions that can create co-benefits and meet multiple objectives in a coherent way. The Peace pillar is the focus of a separate thematic programme.

EU strategy

The Global Challenges Programme of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI-Global Europe) sets out the **global and multilateral dimension of implementation of EU's political priorities.** It aims to **strengthen the EU as a global actor in the delivery of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement to help eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and achieve sustainable development.**

NDICI-Global Europe Instrument foresees a **Global Challenges programme for 2021-2027** which will complement and strengthen the country and regional dimensions of EU action to pursue and project EU's interests and values in support of universal global agendas and initiatives, multilateralism and the rules-based global order, and position the EU as a global leader to spearhead collaborative and transformative changes that help building back better. In line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the European Consensus on Development and the geopolitical priorities of the European Commission, the programme Global Challenges will support actions of a global nature, contributing to the objective of 'A Stronger Europe in the World'.

It will therefore be a key instrument to ensure **the external projection of EU's policies**, by helping leverage more effectively externally EU's regulatory power, high environmental and social standards, unique single market, and social market economy model.

Following the geographization and complementarity principles underpinning the 2021-2027 programming, the Global Challenges programme will deploy its resources strategically to **support truly global action**, promoting EU's priorities and values. It thus complements and strengthens country, multi-country and regional actions by financing global and trans-regional actions and initiatives. This will result in activities addressing global challenges, supporting the pursuit of the global goals, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement, protecting global

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_20_963

public goods, supporting multilateralism and the rules based order, and promoting transformative changes.

The structure of the Global Challenges programme reflects the **key intertwined themes of the 2030 Agenda that shape the SDGs: People, Planet, Prosperity and Partnership**³.

Proposed priority areas

Priority Area 1: People <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health• Education• Gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment• Children and Youth• Migration and Forced Displacement• Decent work, equality and inclusion
Priority Area 2: Planet <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction• Environment and Natural Resources (biodiversity, land, forest, water, oceans)• Green transition (sustainable energy)
Priority Area 3: Prosperity <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investment climate, private sector, decent work, employment and trade• Circular economy• Global Action to Eradicate Child Labour Digital transformation• Resilient and sustainable agri-food systems
Priority Area 4: Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic cooperation with global and multilateral organisations• Economic governance and inclusive societies• Local Authorities

³ The fifth 'P', Peace, is tackled by the specific dedicated programme 'Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention'.