

	(methodology for marker and tagging under development)			
	Covid-19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BUDGET INFORMATION</b>				
<b>12. Amounts concerned</b>	Budget line(s) (article, item): Budget Line: 14.020140 Total estimated cost: EUR 2 800 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 2 800 000			
<b>MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>				
<b>13. Type of financing</b>	<b>Direct management</b> through: - Grants <b>Indirect management</b> with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), UN Women and other UN agencies (subject to UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNRC) internal decision)			

## 1.2 Summary of the Action

Ecuador is a party to the main human rights conventions and treaties including the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The country also ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on 3 April 2008. Ecuador is working well in terms of reporting to the concerned bodies and following their Concluding Observations even if more efforts are needed more particularly to reinforce the Gender, Human Rights and Disability/ies framework in programming. Other key international human rights and EU conventions and Plans of Action would be instrumental for that purpose.<sup>1</sup>

Human rights and democracy are founding values of the EU. Protecting and promoting human rights and democracy is therefore a key priority of the EU's external action. It is also a precondition for sustainable development and for building more inclusive, open and resilient societies. It is worth highlighting that the EU is committed to the CRPD and its Article 29 related to *Participation in political and public life* which requires to promote persons with disabilities participation in EU development cooperation.

The current action will address two components that are part of the third priority area of the MIP. The first priority area will address the quality of public administration, in order to build a more inclusive and cohesive democratic society, and participatory civil society. The second priority area will continue combatting gender-based violence against women. Both actions build on previous work undertaken by the EU in Ecuador. The EU and its Member States have become in recent years the main supporters of civil society participation through the process called "Road Map", bringing together relevant political leaders from the public and private sectors, universities and civil society. It is important for the EU to recognise that there is an enormous human potential in civil society to positively influence political decision-making processes with the creation of active coordination mechanisms, communication strategies and to insist on the need to establish alliances with other sectors.

### **Component 1: Strengthening of Ecuadorian inclusive democratic participation and electoral governance**

In response to an invitation from the Ecuadorian government, the EU carried out an Electoral Expert Mission in Ecuador in February and April 2021 to the last Presidential elections. The aforementioned mission made a global technical evaluation of the different phases and components of the electoral process, as well as the good practices, and provided 12 recommendations for their improvement. These recommendations include the need for improvement of internal processes inherent to the application of Ecuador's Democratic Law, as well as others related to the National Electoral Council's (CNE) capacity to ensure effective compliance with the law's provisions (e.g.

<sup>1</sup> The UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment/CAT; The EU Istanbul Convention - A powerful tool to end gender-based violence from one part and the 1994 ICPD PoA, the 1995 Beijing Platform of Action, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, The 2030 agenda and related SDGs, the Gender Action Plan III 2020-2025 and the , the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025