

	education and research			
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020122 Total estimated cost: EUR 6 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 6 000 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.1.			

1.2 Summary of the Action

Zambia counts among the African countries with a stable democratic tradition, with more than 30 years of peaceful multi-party political transitions. The country's democratic systems remain nevertheless weak, with underlying corruption, and lack of key democratic instruments in terms of legislation, oversight and enforcement. The country's default on its debt in 2020 and the arrival, for the first time, of the United Party for National Development of Hakainde Hichilema to power (the so-called "New-Dawn Government") in 2021 has seen, sometimes contrary to the general expectation, a strong tendency in reinforcing the democratic systems, in terms of institutions, processes, policies and legislation. The debt restructuring discussions with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have been critical to consolidate this tendency, with a number of governance-related conditions attached to the terms of negotiations. The action proposed translates the EU's commitment, alongside other cooperating partners, to support these democratic reforms and to ensure that the right ingredients are in place for the continuation of this tradition of democratic elections and peaceful transition of power.

The overall objective of the action is to improve democratic processes in Zambia. It will support both "demand" and "supply" side of democracy by addressing two specific objectives (outcomes): 1) improved access to information, and 2) Increased exercise of democratic mandates by rights holders and duty bearers.

The action will contribute to address Specific objective 1 of the Priority Area 3 of the MIP 2021-2027– "*Promote human rights and improve the democratic space for citizens in Zambia*" aiming at reinforcing democratic processes in Zambia (result 3.1). The action is designed in complementarity with/ building on the ongoing USAID *Democracy delivers* initiative and builds on past/ ongoing EU interventions (EU Election Observation Missions recommendations and projects) as well as and other like-minded efforts to create conducive conditions for all citizens to exercise their rights and to actively participate in societal and political reforms. The action will be complemented by new a media/ civic education programme under Human Rights and Democracy budget line.

The Action will bring support to the 2030 agenda and sustainable development goals 5, 10, 16, the Addis Ababa agenda, the New European Consensus on Development¹, the Gender Action Plan III² and EU Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy for Zambia, developed on the basis of the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024³.

¹https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/document/download/6134a7a4-3fcf-46c2-b43a-664459e08f51_en?filename=european-consensus-on-development-final-20170626_en.pdf

² https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-01/join-2020-17-final_en.pdf

³ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eu_action_plan_on_human_rights_and_democracy_2020-2024.pdf