

partnering with the textile industry in Tamil Nadu with key EU brands to address gender based violence and harassment in the production clusters. It responds to the urgent issue of addressing women's declining labour force participation while at the same time focussing on sectors that are strategic to India and have high growth (clean energy, digital) and export (textile) potentials.

Second, the action intends to **foster a dialogue with institutional stakeholders** both at central and local levels with a view to supporting gender responsive policies and decision-making processes including through **strengthened statistical capacity** (filling SDG5-related data gaps and improving their utilisation), a necessary dimension to guide long-term domestic stakeholders' strategies and to bring about sustainable changes.

Third, the action intends to **foster a more collective agenda-setting approach with partners** (government stakeholders, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), private sector, EU Financial Institutions and Member States) to facilitate information sharing, **build synergies and alliances for gender action and support efforts to shift gender norms in areas relevant to the broader EU-India strategic partnership agenda** (e.g. all **Global Gateway clusters**: clean energy and climate, sustainable urbanisation, digitalisation, research and innovation). A **Team Europe approach** will be embedded in the action's governance mechanisms to bring together a variety of relevant and complementary EU players especially in policy dialogue, monitoring and review as well as strategic communication and public diplomacy.

This **gender transformative action** builds on a previously implemented regional programme, and is in line with the Specific Objective 3 of the Regional multi-annual indicative programme (MIP) 2021-2027, namely "Promote good governance and reduce inequalities", as well as with the **EU-India Roadmap 2025⁵**, and the **Country Level Implementation Plan (CLIP) of the EU Gender Action Plan⁶**. It also builds on and feeds into **Global Gateway priority areas** where **private sector** engagement is critical in **leveraging investments for a transformational impact**. The focus of the project on women's access to decent and safe employment including in supply chains is in line with the EU 2022 Decent Work Communication⁷ and complements the proposed Directive by the European Commission on corporate sustainability due diligence⁸. The Directive emphasises the need for companies to ensure sustainable and responsible corporate behaviour across supply chains including considering the impact of global activities on human rights and gender.

This action aims at strengthening the EU's Global Gateway Strategy⁹ and initiatives in India in terms of gender equality as it will be implemented in **close coordination and complementarity with other EU-funded or Global Gateway initiatives and investments in India in a Team Europe approach**, such as Sustainable Finance, Renewable Energy, Sustainable Urbanisation, Digital, as well as trade and civil society projects¹⁰. The action contributes to the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly on Gender Equality (Goal 5), Decent Work and Economic Growth (Goal 8), Reduced Inequalities (Goal 10), and Partnerships for the Goals (Goal 17). The proposed project is also aligned with a series of international legal and policy frameworks, such as Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

⁵ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/45026/eu-india-roadmap-2025.pdf>

⁶ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-01/join-2020-17-final_en.pdf

⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=25260&langId=en>

⁸ https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/doing-business-eu/corporate-sustainability-due-diligence_en

⁹ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/india/global-gateway-and-eu-india-connectivity-partnership_en?s=167

¹⁰ The action will have strong synergy with the Green Transformation action (AAP 2023) for what concerns access to finance for women entrepreneurs as well as certain areas of cooperation under the AAP 2022 and EU's funded intervention with civil society organisations (CSOs). It will also feed in/support/complement numerous sector policy dialogues (e.g. clean energy and climate, digitalisation, human rights dialogue).