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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 31.7.2024

**on the financing of the multi-annual action plan for Global Challenges (Partnerships)
for 2024 -2026**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012¹, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009² (hereafter referred to as ‘Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe’ or as ‘Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of 9 June 2021’), and in particular Article 23(1) and (2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) To ensure the implementation of the 2024-2026 multi-annual action plan for the thematic programme on Global Challenges (Partnerships), it is necessary to adopt a financing decision, which constitutes the multi-annual work programme for 2024-2026. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance should comply with the conditions and procedures set out in the restrictive measures adopted under Article 215 TFEU³.
- (3) The Commission has adopted the thematic programme for Global Challenges⁴. Under the partnerships strand, the programme aims to promote inclusive and rules-based multilateralism and global governance with the UN at its core. This includes broadening multilateral networks, partnerships, and actions to partners across the globe and continuing to support capacity building for these partners to encourage high engagement and strong ambitions for sustainable development. It will also support the implementation of key international frameworks that are aligned with EU priorities or to which the EU is a party.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p.1.

³ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy, the OJ prevails.

⁴ Decision C(2021)9157.

- (4) The objectives pursued by the multi-annual action plan to be financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe thematic programme 'Global Challenges' are to make the EU a stronger and more influential actor in the world's response to global challenges through support to: 1) enhanced global and multilateral partnerships; 2) stronger economic governance and inclusive societies; and 3) strengthened local authorities at global level.
- (5) The action entitled 'Increasing Transparency on Financing for Development through Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD)' will promote the TOSSD statistical framework as the internationally recognised standard for measuring support for sustainable development: It builds on the achievements of the previous action on TOSSD, which was part of the 2021 AAP.
- (6) The action entitled 'EU's Voluntary Contribution to the UN Resident Coordinator System' is meant to confirm the EU support to promote and advocate for the fundamental values and principles of the UN Charter, namely through the implementation of the UNDS reform in a view to increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the multilateral/UNDS/UN System, in accordance with the Joint Communication on Multilateralism. The action aims to contribute to strengthening the performance and leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator System and its leadership at country level for the coordinated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and of the principle of leaving no one behind, to advance the achievement of the SDGs for all.
- (7) The action entitled 'Institutional capacity building through TAIEX' aims to promote European standards, norms and policy models and strengthen partnerships, dialogue and share experience with partner country administrations at an operational level.
- (8) The action entitled 'Sustainable Finance Advisory Hub' represents phase 2 of EU support to the sustainable finance advisory hub. It aims to support partner countries in building a conducive environment for sustainable finance, building on EU and international practices as to contribute to global interoperability and help redirect international capital flows to where they are the most needed for partner countries' green transition and sustainable development. This action will help partner countries to access greater capital from private investors for – among others - sustainable high quality (infrastructure) investments and sustainable MSME sectors, supporting them in their transition to a green, circular, resilient and fair economy, leaving no one behind.
- (9) The action entitled 'Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs)' will follow-up to the previous contributions to the INFF Facility, to which the EU contributes since 2019. The INFF facility aims to support the implementation of INFFs worldwide in order to mobilize and align financing with sustainable development priorities to achieve the SDGs and promote a green and inclusive transition. INFF helps governments to map the financing resources at their disposal to finance the SDGs, from a public or private, domestic and/or international sources. It aims to support the elaboration of national strategies for financing SDGs.
- (10) The action entitled 'Strengthened Local Authorities and their associations' is the continuation of EU's support the empowerment of local authorities (LAs) and their associations (ALAs) and the continuation of EU's engagement with the Association of Local Authorities (ALAs) within the Framework Partnership Agreements. The support contributes to strengthening the effectiveness of LAs and ALAs work as development actors in their own rights, to empower them in their role in regional and global dialogues related to international development agenda/commitments aligned with the EU's human- centric approach.

- (11) The Commission should acknowledge and accept contributions from other donors in line with Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, conditional on the conclusion of the relevant agreement. Where such contributions are not denominated in euro, a reasonable conversion estimate should be made.
- (12) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (13) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of 9 June 2021 indirect management is to be used to implement the multi-annual action plan.
- (14) The Commission should ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union for entities and persons entrusted with implementing Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 154(3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046. To this end, such entities and persons should undergo an assessment of their systems and procedures in line with Article 154(4) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046⁵ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in line with Article 154(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (15) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment based on Article 116(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (16) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation the multi-annual action plan, it is appropriate to determine the changes that should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (17) The multi-annual action plan provided for in this Decision is in line with the opinion of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument Committee established under Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of 9 June 2021,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The multi-annual action plan

The multi-annual financing decision, constituting the multi-annual action plan to implement the financing of the multi-annual action plan for Global Challenges (Partnerships) for 2024-2026, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The multi-annual action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) Increasing Transparency on Financing for Development through Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) set out in Annex 1;
- (b) EU's Voluntary Contribution to the UN Resident Coordinator System set out in Annex 2;
- (c) Institutional capacity building through TAIEX as set out in Annex 3;
- (d) Sustainable Finance Advisory Hub phase 2 set out in Annex 4;
- (e) Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs) set out in Annex 5;
- (f) Strengthened Local Authorities and their associations' set out in Annex 6.

⁵ Except for the cases of Article 154(6) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, where the Commission may decide not to require an ex ante assessment.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution to implement the 2024-2026 multi-annual action plan is set at EUR 52 900 000, and it shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line 14 02 02 43 — Partnerships — Global Challenges: EUR 51 300 000 (including EUR 30 855 995 for 2024, EUR 10 444 005 for 2025 and EUR 10 000 000 for 2026);
- (b) budget line 14.020120 - West Africa: EUR 560 000 for 2024;
- (c) budget line 14.020121 – East And Central Africa: EUR 560 000 for 2024;
- (d) budget line 14.020122 – Southern Africa and Indian Ocean: EUR 480 000 for 2024.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2025 and 2026 following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority.

Article 3
Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in the Annexes, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in line with the criteria laid down in section 4 of Annexes 1 (point 4.4.1) , 2 (point 4.3.1), 4 (point 4.3.3), and 5 (point 4.3.1).

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 000 000 and not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, considering each financial year separately, or cumulated changes⁶ to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20% of that contribution, as well as extensions of the implementation period shall not be considered substantial under Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 if these changes do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

⁶ These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.

Article 5

Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annexes. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred to in the Annexes selected in accordance with point 4.3.1 of the Annexes 4 and 6.

Done at Brussels, 31.7.2024

For the Commission

Jutta URPIAINEN

Member of the Commission