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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 13.4.2023**

**on the financing of the annual action plan 2023 in favour of the Republic of Liberia**

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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 966/2012<sup>1</sup>, 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 480/2009<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Article 23(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the annual action plan 2023 in favour of the Republic of Liberia, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2023. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation') establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU<sup>3</sup>.
- (3) The actions provided for in this Decision contribute to climate mainstreaming in line with the European Green Deal and the inter-institutional agreement.
- (4) The Commission has adopted the National Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period 2021-2027<sup>4</sup>, which sets out the following priorities: Enhancing and preserving natural resources for sustainable growth (priority area 1), Promoting decent jobs and inclusive growth (priority area 2) and Improving financial and democratic governance (priority area 3).
- (5) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme 'Sub-Saharan Africa' are to boost safe and sustainable food systems, strengthen the sustainable use and conservation of natural

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p.1.

<sup>3</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://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.

<sup>4</sup> Commission Implementing Decision adopting a multiannual indicative programme for the Republic of Liberia for the period 2021-2027, C(2021)9061 final of 14.12.2021.

resources, enhance youth skills, employability and entrepreneurship potential and promote a more inclusive and transparent democracy in Liberia.

- (6) The action entitled ‘From productivity to product, linking peers to peers (P2P)’ aims at boosting safe and sustainable food systems growth for enhanced food and nutrition security.
- (7) The action entitled ‘Protecting a green future: Forestry and Conservation for a sustainable economic development in Liberia’ aims at strengthening the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources in Liberia, enhancing actions against climate change and focusing on meaningful job creation and income generation in the forestry sector.
- (8) The action entitled ‘Youth Rising: EU Support to Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for Young People in Liberia (phase II)’ aims at enhancing youth skills and increasing their employability and entrepreneurship potential through a nationwide TVET programme.
- (9) The action entitled ‘Strengthening inclusive and accountable democracy in Liberia’ aims at promoting a more inclusive and transparent democracy in view of Legislative and Presidential Elections in 2023 and the post-electoral period.
- (10) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (11) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the actions.
- (12) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regards to entities and persons entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 154(3) of the Financial Regulation.

To this end, such entities and persons are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of the Financial Regulation<sup>5</sup> and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (13) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (14) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the action plan, it is appropriate to allow changes, which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (15) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established under Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947.

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<sup>5</sup> 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.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*  
*The action plan*

The annual financing decision for the implementation of the annual action plan 2023 in favour of the Republic of Liberia, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) From productivity to product, linking peers to peers (P2P) set out in Annex 1;
- (b) Protecting a green future: Forestry and Conservation for a sustainable economic development in Liberia set out in Annex 2;
- (c) Youth Rising: EU Support to Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for Young People in Liberia (phase II) set out in Annex 3;
- (d) Strengthening inclusive and accountable democracy in Liberia set out in Annex 4.

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2023 is set at EUR 80 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) Budget line 14.020120 – Western Africa: EUR 80 000 000.

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

*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 accordance with the criteria laid down in point 4.4.3 of Annexes 1 and 2, and point 4.4.2 of Annexes 3 and 4.

*Article 4*  
*Flexibility clause*

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million and not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes<sup>6</sup> 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 for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation (provided that 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.

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<sup>6</sup> 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 points 4.4.1 and 4.4.4 of Annexes 1, and 2, and point 4.4.1 of Annexes 3 and 4.

Done at Brussels, 13.4.2023

*For the Commission*

*Jutta URPILAINEN*

*Member of the Commission*