



Brussels, 18.8.2022  
C(2022) 6006 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 18.8.2022**

**on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Pacific region for 2022**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),

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 in favour of the Pacific region for 2022, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme. 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 entitled 'EU-Kiribati Partnership for Resilience Building', 'Tuvalu Coconut Sector Rehabilitation Programme' and 'Climate Resilience Financing Mechanism in the Solomon Islands (LoCAL)' 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 Pacific Multi-Country Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for the period 2021-2027<sup>4</sup>, which sets out the following priorities: to provide a response to global warming in term of mitigation, adaptation and resilience and to support integrated approaches to ecosystem management and circular economy; to create opportunities for income, jobs and growth, while at the same time contributing to climate and environmental goals as well as economic diversification; to

<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 countries in the Pacific for the period 2021-2027, C(2021) 9052 final of 14.12.2021.

advance universal values and promote gender equality, tackling the widespread problem of violence against women and children and to create an enabling environment for civil society.

- (5) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme ‘Asia and the Pacific’ are to accelerate sustainable development to increase the resilience of Kiribati, to stimulate agricultural production and economic growth in Tuvalu, to foster climate resilience of local communities in the Solomon Islands, and to strengthen electoral processes in the Solomon Islands.
- (6) The action entitled ‘EU-Kiribati Partnership for Resilience Building’ contributes towards making Kiribati more resilient by maintaining a strong EU-Kiribati partnership and working through the policy dialogue on the strengthening of the Public Finance Management systems and frameworks, and more generally, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals as defined in the ‘Kiribati Vision 2016-2036’ for inclusive development and poverty reduction countrywide.
- (7) The action entitled ‘Tuvalu Coconut Sector Rehabilitation Programme’ aims to increase sustainable agricultural productivity and economic growth in Tuvalu by reviving the coconut industry and livelihood. Its ambition is to implement a coconut rehabilitation plan, which requires a combination of agricultural replanting and an agroforestry approach for coconut palms.
- (8) The action entitled ‘Climate Resilience Financing Mechanism in the Solomon Islands (LoCAL)’ aims at increasing climate resilience of local communities in targeted provincial governments in the Solomon Islands. By increasing Provincial Governments’ access to climate finance and contextually improving sectorial national systems, climate change adaptation investments will be promoted.
- (9) The action entitled ‘Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands (SECSIP) Phase III’ intends to foster a functioning pluralistic, participatory and representative democracy in the Solomon Islands. More specifically, the proposed action will work towards expanding social inclusion, particularly of disadvantaged segments of the population, by enhancing accountability and effectiveness of electoral institutions and processes.
- (10) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the two actions in the Solomon Islands.
- (11) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regard 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.
- (12) 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.

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<sup>5</sup> Except for the cases referred to in Article 154(6) of the Financial Regulation, where the Commission may decide, not to require an ex-ante assessment.

- (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.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*  
*The action plan*

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual work programme for the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of the Pacific region for 2022, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) ‘EU-Kiribati Partnership for Resilience Building’ set out in Annex I;
- (b) ‘Tuvalu Coconut Sector Rehabilitation Programme’ set out in Annex II;
- (c) ‘Climate Resilience Financing Mechanism in the Solomon Islands (LoCAL)’ set out in Annex III;
- (d) ‘Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands (SECSIP) Phase III’ set out in Annex IV.

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2022 is set at EUR 21 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union:

- budget line BGUE-B2022-14.020132-C1-INTPA: EUR 21 000 000.

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 4.3.1 of the Annex III and point 4.3.1 of the Annex IV.

*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 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

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

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.

Done at Brussels, 18.8.2022

*For the Commission*  
*Margrethe VESTAGER*  
*Executive Vice-President*