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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 16.12.2021**

**on the financing of the annual action plan for Global Challenges - Partnerships for 2021**

# COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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## on the financing of the annual action plan for Global Challenges - Partnerships for 2021

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) No 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> (hereafter referred to as ‘Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe’ or as ‘Regulation (EU) No 2021/947 of 9 June 2021’), and in particular Article 23 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the 2021 Annual Action Plan for the thematic programme on Global Challenges (Partnerships), it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2021. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 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.
- (3) The Commission has adopted the thematic programme for Global Challenges<sup>3</sup>. Under the Partnerships pillar, the programme aims to promote inclusive and rules-based multilateralism and global governance with the UN at its core. This includes expanding multilateral networks, partnerships and actions with partners across the globe and continuing to support capacity building for these actors to encourage high levels of 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.
- (4) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global

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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> C(2021)9157

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 ‘*Paris Peace Forum*’ will support and promote rules-based multilateralism (including global peace and security and the fundamental rights, universal values and international law principles), contribute to a reinvigorated multilateral order, display EU policies, projects and initiatives and enhance worldwide its voice and visibility.
- (6) The action entitled ‘*Contribution to monitoring results using innovative technology for selected countries in sub-Saharan Africa*’ aims to upgrade and expand the evidence-base for guiding policy decisions with technological improvements to intervention monitoring worldwide.
- (7) The action entitled ‘*Support to UNCTAD’s Debt Management and Financial Analysis System*’<sup>4</sup> will support debt data recording, reporting and statistics and facilitating debt analysis to help developing countries improve transparency on their public debt.
- (8) The action entitled ‘*Addis Tax Initiative / Network of Tax Organisations & Tax Administration Diagnostic Assessment Tool*’<sup>5</sup> aims to foster fair and effective domestic revenue mobilization and strengthen tax administration systems and domestic revenue mobilization efforts globally.
- (9) The action entitled ‘*Increasing transparency in support to sustainable development through TOSSD*’ aims to enhance global and multilateral partnerships around financing the SDGs and mobilise additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources.
- (10) The action entitled ‘*Strengthen Associations of Local Authorities at national, regional and global levels*’ aims to improve the enabling environment for local authorities to increase their transparency, accountability, advocacy capacities and empowerment. The Commission should acknowledge and accept contributions from other donors in accordance with Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreement. Where such contributions are not denominated in euro, a reasonable estimate of conversion should be made.
- (11) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (12) Pursuant to NDICI-Global Europe Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) No 2021/947 of 9 June 2021 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action plan.
- (13) 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 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.

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 Regulation (EU, Euratom)

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<sup>4</sup> Described in the Action Document entitled “Collect more – spend better”: domestic revenue mobilisation and debt management” (annex 3) jointly with the action mentioned in (8).

<sup>5</sup> Described in the Action Document entitled “Collect more – spend better”: domestic revenue mobilisation and debt management” (annex 3) jointly with the action mentioned in (7).

2018/1046<sup>6</sup> and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 before a contribution agreement can be signed.

- (14) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (15) 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 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (16) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument Committee established under Article 45 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/947 of 9 June 2021.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### *Article 1* *The action plan*

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual action plan for the implementation of the financing of the annual action plan Global Challenges - Partnerships for 2021, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) Paris Peace Forum set out in Annex 1;
- (b) Contribution to monitoring results using innovative technology for selected countries in sub-Saharan Africa set out in Annex 2;
- (c) Collect more — spend better: domestic revenue mobilisation and debt management in Annex 3;
- (d) Increasing transparency in support to sustainable development through TOSSD set out in Annex 4;
- (e) Strengthen Associations of Local Authorities at national, regional and global levels set out in Annex 5.

#### *Article 2* *Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2021 is set at EUR 14 800 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line BGUE-B2021-14 02 02 43 — Partnerships — Global Challenges: EUR 14 800 000;

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

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<sup>6</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.

*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 Annexes 3 and 4.

*Article 4*  
*Flexibility clause*

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes 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 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 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.

*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 1, 2 and 5.

Done at Brussels, 16.12.2021

*For the Commission*  
*Jutta URPILAINEN*  
*Member of the Commission*