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**COMMISSION DECISION**

**of 5.8.2015**

**on the Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of Zimbabwe to be financed from the  
11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund**

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### on the Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of Zimbabwe to be financed from the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2015/322 of March 2015 on the implementation of the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 9(1) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2015/323 of 2 March 2015 on the financial regulation applicable to the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Article 26 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the National Indicative Programme (NIP) for Zimbabwe<sup>3</sup> for the period 2014-2020, point 3 of which provides for the following priorities: health, agriculture based economic development, governance and institutional building, measures in support of civil society and support measures.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme to be financed under the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF) are to reduce and eventually eradicate poverty and to support peace and stability by improving health outcomes for the population; enhancing resilience, food security and reducing under-nutrition in children; maintaining macro-economic stability; contributing to the establishment of a migration governance framework; and putting in place measures to support the programming, preparation and implementation of actions under the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF NIP.
- (3) Action entitled "Improving health outcomes for the population of Zimbabwe" aims at: protecting the population against the most important health threats, in particular those at the root of maternal and child mortality; strengthening national health systems at provincial and district level; and promoting equal access to health services by supporting the necessary reforms on health financing and governance.
- (4) Action entitled "Promoting migration governance in Zimbabwe" will contribute to the establishment of a policy, institutional and legislative framework that supports state and non-state actors to manage migration in a migrant-centred, gender-sensitive, rights-based and development-oriented manner.
- (5) Action entitled "Public finance management enhancement programme for Zimbabwe" aims at improving Government of Zimbabwe's budget planning and execution, financial reporting, fiscal transparency and accountability in government finances in Zimbabwe. It will in addition improve the transparency and efficiency of public procurement

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 17.

<sup>3</sup> C(2015)346 of 30.01.2015.

- (6) Action entitled "Resilience building and food and nutrition security programme" aims at enhancing the food and nutrition status and the overall resilience of vulnerable communities to better cope with stresses that repeatedly occur in Zimbabwe; and ensuring that nutrition is adequately addressed in the implementation of relevant national policies and information systems and better integrated in the agriculture development.
- (7) It is necessary to adopt a financing decision the detailed rules of which are set out in Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012<sup>4</sup> applicable by virtue of Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323.
- (8) It is necessary to adopt a work programme for grants the detailed rules on which are set out in Article 128(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and in Article 188(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012. The work programme is constituted by the Annex 3, section 5.3.1.
- (9) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities specified in this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a delegation agreement. In accordance with Article 60(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the authorising officer responsible needs to ensure that these entities guarantee a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union equivalent to that required when the Commission manages Union funds. UNICEF and FAO comply with the conditions of points (a) to (d) of the first subparagraph of Article 60(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and the supervisory and support measures are in place as necessary. UNDP and the World Bank are currently undergoing the assessment under Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. In anticipation of the results of this review, the authorising officer responsible deems that, based on the entities' positive assessment under Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002<sup>5</sup> and on the long-standing and problem-free cooperation with them, budget-implementation tasks can be entrusted to these entities.
- (10) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the partner country specified in this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a financing agreement. In accordance with Article 60(1)(c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 applicable by virtue of Articles 17 and 2(1) of Regulation (EU) 2015/323, the authorising officer responsible needs to ensure that measures are taken to supervise and support the implementation of the entrusted tasks. A description of these measures and the entrusted tasks are laid down in Annex 4 to this Decision.
- (11) The authorising officer responsible should be able to award grants without a call for proposals provided that the conditions for an exception to a call for proposals, in accordance with Article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, applicable by virtue of Article 37(1) of Regulation (EU) 2015/323, are fulfilled.
- (12) It is necessary to allow the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 92 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and Article 111(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 applicable by virtue of Article 29(1) of Regulation (EU) 2015/323.

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<sup>4</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).

<sup>5</sup> Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1).

- (13) Pursuant to Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, the Commission should define changes to this Decision which are not substantial in order to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer responsible.
- (14) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the European Development Fund Committee set up by Article 8 of the Internal Agreement between the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Union, meeting within the Council, on the financing of European Union aid under the multiannual financial framework for the period 2014 to 2020, in accordance with the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, and on the allocation of financial assistance for the OCTs to which Part Four of the Treaty applies.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### *Article 1*

##### **Adoption of the measure**

The Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of Zimbabwe to be financed from the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF, as set out in the Annexes, is approved.

The programme shall include the following actions:

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|---------|--|
| Annex 1 | "Improving health outcomes for the population of Zimbabwe"   |
| Annex 2 | "Public finance management enhancement programme for Zimbabwe"   |
| Annex 3 | "Promoting migration governance in Zimbabwe"   |
| Annex 4 | "Support to National Authorising Office (NAO) and the Technical Cooperation Facility (TCF) - Zimbabwe" |
| Annex 5 | "Resilience building and food and nutrition security programme"  |

#### *Article 2*

##### **Financial contribution**

The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the programme referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 89 000 000 and shall be financed from the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund.

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

#### *Article 3*

##### **Implementation modalities**

Budget-implementation tasks under indirect management may be entrusted to the entities identified in the attached Annexes 1, 2, and 5 subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreements.

The section "Implementation" of the Annexes to this Decision sets out the elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals by the authorising officer responsible in accordance with Article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

*Article 4*

**Non-substantial changes**

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20% of the contribution set by 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 within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

The authorising officer responsible may adopt such non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 5.8.2015

*For the Commission*  
*Neven MIMICA*  
*Member of the Commission*