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C(2023) 9140 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 18.12.2023**

**on the financing of the Multiannual Action Plan 2023-2025 in favour of the Republic of  
Sierra Leone**

# COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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**on the financing of the Multiannual Action Plan 2023-2025 in favour of the Republic of Sierra Leone**

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> (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(2),

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the Multiannual Action Plan 2023-2025 in favour of the Republic of Sierra Leone, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme, for 2023-2025. 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 should contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming in line with Commission Communication ‘the European Green Deal’<sup>4</sup> and in the Inter-institutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources<sup>5</sup>.

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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> COM (2019) 640 final of 11 December 2019.

<sup>5</sup> OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28.

- (4) The Commission has adopted the National Multiannual Indicative Programme<sup>6</sup> for the period 2021-2027, which sets out the following priorities; Green Economy (Priority area 1), Human development (Priority area 2) and Governance (Priority area 3).
- (5) The objectives pursued by the multiannual action plan to be financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe - geographic programme 'Sub-Saharan Africa' are to focus on resilience building, enhancing nutrition (notably school feeding), increasing local food production and reducing food import dependency, and supporting education. The multiannual action plan will work at central and local levels, in order to address at the same time the environmental challenges linked to the increasing pressure on natural resources. Actions that support private sector development and fight against violence against women complete this multiannual action plan.
- (6) The action entitled "**Nature Nourishes SRBC in Sierra Leone**" aims to prepare Sierra Leone better for internal and external shocks, making the country more resilient, while safeguarding the environment and improving education for future generations in line with the national development plan.
- (7) The action entitled "**EU - UN Spotlight initiative to fight all violence against women and girls in Sierra Leone**" will bring the Global EU/UN Spotlight Initiative to Sierra Leone. The Spotlight Initiative aims to address the underlying causes and drivers of violence against women and girls.
- (8) The action "**Business Environment and Competitiveness for Salone (BEC4S)**" aims to improve national competitiveness and the business environment, as poor business environment is among the biggest challenges for the economic development of Sierra Leone.
- (9) The action entitled "**Support Measures for Sierra Leone**" aims to promote the objectives of the multi-indicative plan, and support (i) the implementation of the MIP, TEIs and other programmes, (ii) policy dialogues with governments and other key stakeholders and (iii) strategic communication and public diplomacy.
- (10) The Commission should authorise the launch of a call for tender by means of a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision.
- (11) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of 9 June 2021, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action.
- (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>7</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>6</sup> Commission Implementing Decision adopting a multiannual indicative programme for the Republic of Sierra Leone for the period 2021-2027, C(2021)9054 final of 14.12.2021.

<sup>7</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 multiannual financing decision, constituting the multiannual action plan for the implementation of the multiannual action plan 2023-2025 in favour of the Republic of Sierra Leone, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) “Nature Nourishes SRBC in Sierra Leone” set out in Annex 1;
- (b) “EU - UN Spotlight initiative to fight all violence against women and girls in Sierra Leone” set out in Annex 2;
- (c) “Business Environment and Competitiveness for Salone (BEC4S)” set out in Annex 3;
- (d) “Support Measures for Sierra Leone” set out in Annex 4.

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the multiannual action plan for 2023-2025 is set at EUR 127 000 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union :

- (a) budget line BGUE-B2023-14.020120-C1-INTPA – EUR 106 687 595.
- (b) budget line BGUE-B2024-14.020120-C1-INTPA – EUR 18 162 405.
- (c) budget line BGUE-B2025-14.020120-C1-INTPA – EUR 2 150 000.

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 draft general budget of the Union for 2024 and 2025, following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

*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 the Annex 1, 4.4.2. of the Annex 2 and 4.4.3. of the Annex 3.

*Article 4*  
*Flexibility clause*

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 000 000 and not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, considering each financial year separately, or cumulated changes<sup>8</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, where 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*  
*Procurement*

Launching a call for tender under a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision shall be authorised as of the date set out in point 4.4.3 of the Annex 4.

Done at Brussels, 18.12.2023

*For the Commission*  
*Margaritis SCHINAS*  
*Vice-President*

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<sup>8</sup> These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.