



Brussels, 1.8.2023
C(2023) 5375 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 1.8.2023

**on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of the Republic of South Sudan
for 2023-2024**

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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 966/2012¹, 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 480/2009², and in particular Article 23(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of multiannual action plan in favour of the Republic of South Sudan for 2023-2024, it is necessary to adopt an multiannual financing decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme, for 2023-2024. 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 TFEU³.
- (3) The action provided for in this Decision contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming in line with the European Green Deal and the inter-institutional agreement.
- (4) The Commission has adopted the National Multiannual Indicative Programme⁴ for the period 2021-2027, which sets out the following priorities: Governance and Peacebuilding, Inclusive and Green Economic Growth, and Resilience Building and Social Inclusion.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p.1.

³ 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.

⁴ Commission Implementing Decision adopting a multiannual indicative programme for South Sudan for the period 2021-2027, C(2021)9381 final of 15.12.2021.

- (5) The objectives pursued by the multiannual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme ‘Sub-Saharan Africa’ are to promote sustainable development and stability in the Republic of South Sudan.
- (6) The action entitled ‘Strengthening the health system and service delivery support in South Sudan, particularly for women and children’ aims to improve the state of health of the population of South Sudan with a special focus on pregnant women and children under five.
- (7) The action entitled ‘Promoting a Green and Resilient Economy in South Sudan’ aims to contribute to green, sustainable, and climate-resilient economic development; and to contribute to increased food and nutrition security, resilience to shocks, and job creation in South Sudan.
- (8) The action entitled ‘Cooperation Facility 2023-2024’ aims to contribute to the strategic visibility of the EU in South Sudan, to ensure a sufficient level of monitoring of EU supported projects and technical assistance in the development of new projects for EU to support.
- (9) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action.
- (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) 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 Regulation⁵ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (12) 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.
- (13) 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.
- (14) 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 in favour of the Republic of South Sudan for 2023-2024, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

⁵ 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.

- (a) Strengthening the health system and service delivery support in South Sudan, particularly for women and children set out in Annex 1;
- (b) Promoting a Green and Resilient Economy in South Sudan set out in Annex 2;
- (c) Cooperation Facility 2023-2024 set out in Annex 3.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2023-2024 is set at EUR 108 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line BGUE-B2023-14.020121-C1-INTPA: EUR 63 600 000;
- (b) budget line BGUE-B2024-14.020121-C1-INTPA: EUR 44 400 000.

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 as provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2024 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 4.4.1 of the Annex 1 and 4.3.3 of the Annex 2.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 000 000 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 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.

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 selected in accordance with points 4.4.2. of the Annex 1 and 4.3.1.1 and 4.3.1.2 of the Annex 2.

Done at Brussels, 1.8.2023

For the Commission
Jutta URPIAINEN
Member of the Commission