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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 26.6.2023**

**on the financing of the multi-annual action plan for Global Challenges (Partnerships)  
for 2023 -2024**

# COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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## on the financing of the multi-annual action plan for Global Challenges (Partnerships) for 2023 -2024

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) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) To ensure the implementation of the 2023-2024 multi-annual action plan for the thematic programme on Global Challenges (Partnerships), it is necessary to adopt a financing decision, which constitutes the multi-annual work programme for 2023-2024. 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 broadening multilateral networks, partnerships, and actions to partners across the globe and continuing to support capacity building for these partners to encourage high 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 multi-annual action plan to be financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe thematic programme ‘Global Challenges’ are to make the EU a stronger and

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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> Decision C(2021)9157.

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 'European Union contribution to the United Nations' Joint Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Fund' is meant to promote digital transformation as a catalytic opportunity to accelerate SDG impact. Through the Fund, the Commission supports impactful and innovative actions on the ground focused on digital, green and inequalities, directly contributing to reaching the SDGs and at the same time empowering local UN coordination.
- (6) The action entitled 'Unlocking the power of data and evidence to deliver better outcomes for children on the move' will strengthen national data systems and capacities to protect migrant and displaced children, promote and establishing collaborative, innovative methods for child-specific data work and improve data visibility, availability, accessibility and usability.
- (7) The action entitled 'Institutional capacity building through TAIEX' aims to promote European standards, norms and policy models and strengthen partnerships, dialogue and share experience with partner country administrations at an operational level.
- (8) The action entitled 'Collect More - Spend Better' aims to encourage fair and effective domestic revenue mobilisation and strengthen tax administration systems and domestic revenue mobilisation efforts globally.
- (9) The action entitled 'Support Measures' aims to provide the necessary support for the sound implementation of the Global Challenges (Partnership) Thematic programme, the achievement of its expected objectives and results, and the measurement analysis and reporting on its impact.
- (10) The Commission should acknowledge and accept contributions from other donors in accordance with Article 21(2) of the Financial Regulation, 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 Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of 9 June 2021 indirect management is to be used to implement the multi-annual 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 the 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) 2018/1046<sup>4</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.

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<sup>4</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.

- (15) To allow for flexibility in the implementation of the multi-annual 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 multi-annual 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) 2021/947 of 9 June 2021,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*  
*The multi-annual action plan*

The multi-annual financing decision, constituting the multi-annual action plan to implement the financing of the multi-annual action plan Global Challenges (Partnerships) for 2023-2024, as set out in the Annexes 1-5, is adopted.

The multi-annual action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) European Union contribution to the United Nations' Joint Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Fund set out in Annex 1;
- (b) Unlocking the power of data and evidence to deliver better outcomes for children on the move set out in Annex 2;
- (c) Institutional capacity building through TAIEX set out in Annex 3;
- (d) Collect More - Spend Better set out in Annex 4;
- (e) Support measures set out in Annex 5.

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the multi-annual action plan for 2023-2024 is set at EUR 72 100 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line 14 02 02 43 — Partnerships — Global Challenges: EUR 72 100 000 (including EUR 62 942 276 for 2023 and EUR 9 157 724 for 2024).

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 general budget of the Union for 2024 following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority.

*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 Annexes 1, 2, 4 and 5.

*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, considering each financial year separately, or cumulated changes<sup>5</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 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 2, 4 and 5.

Done at Brussels, 26.6.2023

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

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<sup>5</sup> These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.