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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 4.6.2024

**on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Sub-Saharan Africa for
2024-2025**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),

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(1) and Article 43 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the multiannual action plan in favour of Sub-Saharan Africa for 2024-2025, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme, for 2024 and 2025. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance shall comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU³.
- (3) The actions provided for in this Decision should contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming in line with Commission Communication ‘The European Green Deal’⁴ 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 resources⁵.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1046/oj>.

² OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p.1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/947/oj>.

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 COM (2019) 640 final of 11 December 2019.

⁵ OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28.

- (4) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa for the period 2021-2027⁶, which sets out the following priorities: human development; governance, peace and security, culture; green transition; digital and science, technology and innovation; sustainable growth and decent jobs; migration and forced displacement.
- (5) The objectives pursued by this multiannual action plan, to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme for Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), are to address issues regarding health (Public Health Institutes, sexual reproductive health, pandemic preparedness), support exchange on education, and improve peace and security (through direct support to ECOWAS, maintenance of peaceful borders, security in West and Central Africa). It will also address displacement caused by conflict or promote the potential of diasporas.
- (6) The multiannual action plan promotes cultural cooperation, and it tackles loss and damage against the impact of climate change. It builds resilience and promotes food security, cross-border cooperation in power systems, improving food systems resilience. It aims at empowering farmers' cooperation and sustainable agri-food transition, focusing on Africa's coastal countries and fostering investments in a sustainable blue economy.
- (7) It supports green transition and address environmental challenges, support trade and digitalisation in Africa as well as boost continental economic integration and sustainable aviation. It promotes equity investment and enhances the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Africa.
- (8) The action entitled "Fighting antimicrobial resistance and strengthening the One Health workforce in Africa", aims at strengthening health security in Africa by focusing on improving Antimicrobial Resistance surveillance and enhancing professional groups' skills in applying the One Health approach.
- (9) The action entitled "Support to African Public Health Institutes", aims at reducing inequities in addressing disease and prioritizing integrated health systems. It aims to establish regional and international links, enhance National Public Health Institute (NPHI) capacity development, and support digital health literacy. The action will also improve coordination and mobilization of resources, strengthen NPHIs' core functions, and reduce the digital skills gap.
- (10) The action entitled "Fighting harmful practices, improving access to and deepening accountability for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services in Africa", aims to reduce harmful practices and increase access to quality health services. It will contribute to the EU's human development targets and gender equality.
- (11) The action entitled "Digital Health Solutions for Pandemic Preparedness and Health Systems Strengthening in Sub-Saharan Africa", intends to support preparedness, and response to emergencies, and improve access, quality, and accountability. It aims to support digitalization for achieving health-related Sustainable Development Goals and to harness digital technology for improved health outcomes.
- (12) The action entitled "Africa – Europe Platform to Exchange on Education Reforms (PEERS)", intends to enhance cooperation in education and skills development in Sub-

⁶ Commission Decision adopting a multiannual indicative programme for Sub-Saharan Africa for the period 2021-2027 C(2021) 9373 final of 15.12.2021

Saharan Africa, focusing on quality, gender-responsive, inclusive, green, and digital education policies. The action contributes to the Global Gateway Africa – Europe Investment Package by enhancing education reforms.

- (13) The action entitled “Zones frontalières pacifiques et résilientes III”, intends to prevent and mitigate the impact of local conflicts by improving the resilience and social cohesion of cross-border communities. It concerns the regional upgrade of two (ongoing/closed) projects financed by the Foreign Policy Instrument (Rapid Response Mechanism) focused on local mediation of conflicts related to transhumance on the Central African Republic's frontal spaces.
- (14) The action entitled “EU Support to ECOWAS in Peace, Security and Governance - EPSG”, intends to accelerate progress towards SDG 4 by enhancing regional cooperation on education in Africa and between Europe and Africa. It supports the Regional Economic Community (REC) - ECOWAS - in its coordination role and increasing its Member States' participation in the security agenda.
- (15) The action entitled “Multidimensional Security and Stabilisation Programme in West and Central Africa (SECSTA)”, aims to support stability efforts and combat violent extremism, terrorism, and transnational organised crime in Africa. Implemented at national, regional, and inter-regional levels, it promotes Democratic and Inclusive Governance and gender equality. It targets Western and Central Africa, focusing on transnational organized crime and illicit markets.
- (16) The action entitled “Strengthening African-European museum partnerships”, Strengthening African-European museum partnerships can transform relations by enhancing knowledge exchange, promoting cultural heritage and diversity, and driving socio-economic development. This action fosters interconnected cultural identity, contributes to new Africa-EU narratives, and strengthens links between public and private sectors. 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.
- (17) The action entitled “Creative Africa: Audio-visual”, aims at enhancing the audio-visual industry in Africa, which has significant potential and is worth EUR 5 billion while generating 5 million jobs. With proper investment, it could generate 20 billion in revenue and create 20 million jobs annually. The sector's rapid growth could create economies of scale and mutually beneficial partnerships between Africa and the EU, promoting cultural diversity and strengthening regional ecosystems.
- (18) The action entitled “Regreening Africa Phase II”, aims to strengthen community resilience in the Sahel and Horn of Africa by promoting regreening practices, encouraging smallholder farming, and enhancing decision-making through restoration evidence. It will also focus on enhancing green enterprises and employment opportunities.
- (19) The action entitled “EU contribution to Phase IV of the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa”, aims to enhance climate change adaptation and mitigation in Sub-Saharan Africa through urban-level actions. The action will support the regional chapter of the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) targeting Sub-Saharan Africa (CoMSSA), focusing on capacity building, investments, and network enhancement. This will complement national approaches and strengthen networking among participating cities.

- (20) The action entitled “Regional Responses to Climate Displacements in Sub-Saharan Africa (RE2CLID)”, aims to build resilience and self-reliance in Displacement-Affected Communities (DACs) in areas at risk of disaster or climate change. It focuses on developing disaster forecasts, enhancing natural resource governance, and reinforcing resilience in fragile environments. The action is implemented in two regions, addressing climate change, environmental degradation, conflict, and forced displacement.
- (21) The action entitled “Continental Energy Programme in Africa” aims to promote cross-border cooperation in power system and electricity market operations, particularly in renewable energy and energy efficiency. It aims to link national and regional transmission networks, facilitate comprehensive energy system development with positive impact on access to sustainable and affordable energy, and foster efficient use of electrical and thermal energy across sectors. The action will contribute to the Global Gateway Investment Package and the EU-Africa Green Energy Initiative.
- (22) The action entitled “Projet de renforcement et d’innovation des systèmes d’information en matière de Sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle au Sahel et Afrique de l’Ouest (PRISISAN-AOS)” aims at improving food systems resilience to climate change and multifactorial risks. It intends to strengthen national crisis management prevention systems and improve the quality, transparency, accountability, and efficiency of information systems on food and nutritional security. This action is crucial in addressing rural and urban crises.
- (23) The action entitled “Farmers’ Organisations for Africa (FO4A)-connecting farmers with agribusiness and Agricultural Value Chain support”, aims to empower farmers, farmers' organizations, and cooperatives to promote inclusive, sustainable, and climate-resilient agricultural value chains in Africa. It will enhance linkages with local and international agribusinesses and financial institutions, promoting sustainable agri-food transition and job creation.
- (24) The action entitled “Sustainable Western Indian Ocean Programme (SWIOP)”, aims to support international agreements, foster investments in a sustainable blue economy, and improve ocean and coastal ecosystem resilience. It will also support skills development and explore new blue carbon finance opportunities.
- (25) The action entitled “Programme Océan Durable et Economie Bleue en Afrique centrale (ODEBAC)”, aims to mitigate climate change adaptation, and environmental impacts, and preserve ecosystems in Central Africa's coastal countries, which have the potential for economic prosperity and social development. The regional initiative aims to address these issues, including ocean governance, fisheries sustainability, and marine and coastal biodiversity preservation.
- (26) The action entitled “AfricaConnect 4”, aims to consolidate the results of the previous phase (AfricaConnect3) and to further expand the scope of the activities under the two geographic clusters in order to unlock the potential of research and education in Africa through access to digital infrastructures and technologies and the adoption of open science practices.
- (27) The action entitled “Africa-Europe Digital Innovation Bridge 2.0 (AEDIB 2.0)”, aims to strengthen digital transformation and green transition between Africa and Europe. It focuses on three strategic objectives: enhancing digital entrepreneurship and innovation policies, strengthening digital innovation ecosystems, and improving

access to finance for innovative ventures. The program aims to increase digital entrepreneurship, and robust economies, and enhance EU-Africa digital cooperation.

- (28) The action entitled “Safe Digital Boost for Africa (SDBA)”, aims to support trade and digitalisation in Africa, focusing on eCommerce, ePayments, eGovernance, and cybersecurity. It will support B2B and B2C trade transactions, enhancing security and interconnectivity. The action will address legal and technical gaps, accelerating the development of an African single digital market.
- (29) The action entitled “PanAfGeo+ - Support to Geological Science and Technology”, will contribute to sustainable management of geological resources in Africa, addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation, and promote EU-African partnership in geosciences in particular raw materials. It will strengthen institutional partnerships, improve African geological surveys, and promote economic partnerships, including gender and human rights-sensitive approaches.
- (30) The action entitled “Team Europe Initiative – Technical Assistance Facility (TEI-TAF) to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)”, aims to boost the African continental economic integration process and operationalize the AfCFTA. It will strengthen the capacities of the AfCFTA Secretariat, African Union Commission (AUC), targeted Regional Economic Centres, countries' authorities, and private sector organizations, and facilitate the integration of transversal areas in the African continental economic integration process. 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.
- (31) The action entitled “EU Support to the aviation sector in Africa” aims to promote a safe, sustainable, and integrated aviation market in Africa through the development of a Single Aviation Air Transport Market (SAATM), improve regulatory compliance with international aviation rules, enhance aviation capacity, and strengthen exchanges between EU and African aviation authorities.
- (32) The action entitled “Investing in Young Business in Africa – Invest (IYBA-Invest)”, aims to enhance financial products and technical support for early-stage businesses in Sub-Saharan Africa. It will provide catalytic capital, capacity building, and technical assistance through a European Development Financial Institution, promoting equity investment and enhancing the entrepreneurship ecosystem.
- (33) The action entitled “Valoriser les potentiels des diasporas via la coopération Sud-Sud: Entrepreneuriat et création d’emplois”, aims to enhance the potential of diasporas for socio-economic development in the target countries, including from a gender perspective and a human rights-based approach. This will be done through constant support for South-South institutional cooperation for diaspora engagement and initiatives to support diasporas by specialized public and private structures, particularly in the areas of entrepreneurship and employment. The project will strengthen political dialogues, promote well-managed legal migration, and strengthen regional support for migration and development initiatives.
- (34) The action entitled “Protection, Assistance and Durable Solutions for Populations Displaced by Conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa”, aims to address displacement caused by conflicts in Central African Republic (CAR), Eastern DRC, coastal West African

countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo), and Nigeria by assisting refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host communities.

- (35) The action entitled “Migrant Protection, Return and Reintegration Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa (MPRR) Phase 2” will contribute to the protection of stranded and vulnerable migrants within Sub-Saharan Africa and support assisted voluntary return and sustainable reintegration for returnees in the region along two key components... First, the provision of protection and other essential support for migrants stranded in relevant Sub-Saharan transit countries in the Atlantic/Western and Central Mediterranean routes. Second, the provision of individual reintegration support in countries of origin in Sub-Saharan Africa, with the aim to support psychosocial, social and economic reintegration for returnees whilst ensuring a gender and age sensitive approach.
- (36) In accordance with Article 43 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, the actions set out in Annexes 1, 2, 3, 15, 17, 24, 25, and 27 are of a global, trans-regional or regional nature, fostering regional cooperation with countries of Northern Africa (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia). Due to the projects' nature and the importance to ensure complete regional coverage, the eligibility of the actions 1, 2, 3, 15, 17, 24, 25 and 27 extends exceptionally to countries of Northern Africa (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia), as their participation constitutes a substantial element to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of Union financing or to foster regional or trans-regional cooperation.
- (37) The objective and design of all the actions of the MAP 2024-2025 fulfil the criteria for Official Development Assistance established by the OECD/DAC, as per the requirements of Article 3(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, contributing to the sustainable development of partner countries and the implementation of the 2030 agenda by contributing to the achievements of numerous SDGs, as detailed in the Annexes (1-28). The countries (or their regions) benefiting from the actions which are included in the list of ODA recipients, are identified in the respective action documents.
- (38) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (39) The Commission should authorise the launch of a call for tender by means of a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision.
- (40) 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.
- (41) 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) 2018/1046⁷ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in

⁷ 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.

accordance with Article 154(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 before a contribution agreement can be signed.

- (42) 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.
- (43) 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.
- (44) 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 Sub-Saharan Africa for 2024-2025, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) Fighting antimicrobial resistance and strengthening the One Health workforce in Africa set out in Annex 1;
- (b) Support to African Public Health Institutes set out in Annex 2;
- (c) Fighting harmful practices, improving access to and deepening accountability for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services in Africa set out in Annex 3;
- (d) Digital Health Solutions for Pandemic Preparedness and Health Systems Strengthening in Sub-Saharan Africa set out in Annex 4;
- (e) Africa – Europe Platform to Exchange on Education Reforms (PEERS) set out in Annex 5;
- (f) Zones frontalières pacifiques et résilientes III set out in Annex 6;
- (g) EU Support to ECOWAS in Peace, Security and Governance - EPSG set out in Annex 7;
- (h) Multidimensional Security and Stabilisation Programme in West and Central Africa (SECSTA) set out in Annex 8;
- (i) Strengthening African-European museum partnerships set out in Annex 9;
- (j) Creative Africa: Audio-visual set out in Annex 10;
- (k) Regreening Africa Phase II set out in Annex 11;
- (l) EU contribution to Phase IV of the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa set out in Annex 12;
- (m) Regional Responses to Climate Displacements in Sub-Saharan Africa (RE2CLID) set out in Annex 13;
- (n) Continental Energy Programme in Africa set out in Annex 14;

- (o) Projet de renforcement et d'innovation des systèmes d'information en matière de Sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle au Sahel et Afrique de l'Ouest (PRISISAN-AOS) set out in Annex 15;
- (p) Farmers' Organisations for Africa (FO4A)-connecting farmers with agribusiness and Agricultural Value Chain support set out in Annex 16;
- (q) Sustainable Western Indian Ocean Programme (SWIOP) set out in Annex 17;
- (r) Programme Océan Durable et Economie Bleue en Afrique centrale (ODEBAC) set out in Annex 18;
- (s) AfricaConnect 4 set out in Annex 19;
- (t) Africa-Europe Digital Innovation Bridge 2.0 (AEDIB 2.0) set out in Annex 20;
- (u) Safe Digital Boost for Africa (SDBA) set out in Annex 21;
- (v) PanAfGeo+ - Support to Geological Science and Technology set out in Annex 22;
- (w) Team Europe Initiative – Technical Assistance Facility (TEI-TAF) to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) set out in Annex 23;
- (x) EU Support to the aviation sector in Africa set out in Annex 24;
- (y) Investing in Young Business in Africa – Invest (IYBA-Invest) set out in Annex 25;
- (z) Valoriser les potentiels des diasporas via la coopération Sud-Sud : Entrepreneuriat et création d'emplois set out in Annex 26;
- (?) Protection, Assistance and Durable Solutions for Populations Displaced by Conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa set out in Annex 27;
- (?) Migrant Protection Return and Reintegration Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa (MPRR) Phase 2 set out in Annex 28.

Article 2

Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the multiannual action plan for 2024-2025 is set at EUR 1 000 600 000, and shall be financed the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line Western Africa 14.020120: EUR 341 385 000 (EUR 337 885 000 for exercise 2024; EUR 3 500 000 for exercise 2025);
- (b) budget line Eastern and Central Africa 14.020121: EUR 415 385 000 (EUR 368 885 000 for exercise 2024; EUR 46 500 000 for exercise 2025);
- (c) budget line Southern Africa 14.020122: EUR 243 830 000 (EUR 225 830 000 for exercise 2024; EUR 18 000 000 for exercise 2025).

The amount referred to in the first paragraph includes contributions from other donors to the general budget of the Union as external assigned revenue as provided for in Annex 9 “Strengthening African-European museum partnerships” and Annex 23 “Team Europe Initiative – Technical Assistance Facility (TEI-TAF) to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)”.

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 2025 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 4.4.2 of Annex 1, 4.4.1 of Annex 2, 4.4.1 of Annex 3, 4.4.3 of Annex 4, 4.4.1 of Annex 5, 4.4.1 of Annex 7, 4.4.2 of Annex 8, 4.4.2 of Annex 9, 4.4.1 of Annex 10, 4.4.1. of Annex 11, 4.4.1. of Annex 12, 4.4.2 of Annex 13, 4.4.2 of Annex 14, 4.3.1 of Annex 16, 4.4.3 of Annex 17, 4.4.3 of Annex 18, 4.4.2 of Annex 19, 4.4.3 of Annex 21, 4.4.1 of Annex 23, 4.4.1 of Annex 24, 4.3.1 of Annex 25, 4.4.1 of Annex 26, 4.4.2 of Annex 27; 4.4.1 of Annex 28.

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 change 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 and Procurement

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 4.4.1 of Annex 4, point 4.4.1.1, point 4.4.1.2 of Annex 6, point 4.4.1 of Annex 8, point 4.4.1 of Annex 15, and point 4.4.1 of Annex 20.

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 Annex 6 and point 4.4.1 of Annex 14.

Done at Brussels, 4.6.2024

For the Commission

Jutta URPILAINEN

Member of the Commission