



Brussels, 30.10.2023
C(2023) 7490 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 30.10.2023

**on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
for 2023**

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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(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for 2023, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2023. 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 actions provided for in this Decision 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.

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 COM (2019) 640 final of 11 December 2019.

⁵ OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28.

- (4) The Commission has adopted the National Multiannual Indicative Programme⁶ for the period the period 2021-2027⁷, which sets out the following priorities: (i) Green Inclusive Growth; (ii) Human Capital; and (iii) Governance, including the Rule of Law and Human Rights.
- (5) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, Regulation (EU) 2021/947, the geographic programme ‘Asia and the Pacific’ are to support the 2022 post floods Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Framework via the following actions, which will in the mid-term contribute in a visible way to promoting green growth and strengthening governance and participation.
- (6) The action entitled “Post-floods resilient recovery and strengthening of the livestock sector in Balochistan” will contribute to the restoration and strengthening of flood disrupted livestock value chains in the whole province of Balochistan with a focus on the most affected communities.
- (7) The action entitled “Post-Flood Rural Economic Recovery of Green Productive Assets in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa” will contribute to reactivating the rural economy in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It will do so by restoring in a climate-resilient way renewable energy and irrigation infrastructures, which were built under previous EU funded programmes and seriously damaged by the 2022 floods, and expanding the same kind of green productive assets to other mountainous areas, based on improved provision of energy and water for irrigation.
- (8) The action entitled “Promotion of Human Rights in Pakistan II” will promote and strengthen the rule of law and the promotion of human rights by supporting an increasingly efficient, competent, inclusive, coordinated, and independent human rights system consistent with international standards.
- (9) The action entitled “Women participation and leadership in governance and democratic processes in Pakistan” will promote women at the centre of decision-making processes and policies that affect their lives, including the floods recovery and reconstruction plans. It will contribute to delivering on Pakistan’s commitments on gender equity and women empowerment.
- (10) The action entitled “Support to Civil Society in Pakistan (SCSP)” will build civil society organisations” capacities for collective advocacy and policy dialogue and improving linkages and coordination with the Government for a more enabling environment.
- (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 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action.
- (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 Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 154(3) of the Financial

⁶ C(2021)8992 final of 14.12.2021

⁷ Commission Decision on the adoption of the National Indicative Programme between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan C(2021)8992 final of 14.12.2021

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 Regulation⁸ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof 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 the Financial Regulation.
- (15) 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.
- (16) 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 annual financing decision, constituting the annual action plan for the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for 2023, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) ‘Post-floods resilient recovery and strengthening of the livestock sector in Balochistan’, set out in Annex I;
- (b) ‘Post-Flood Rural Economic Recovery of Green Productive Assets in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’, set out in Annex II;
- (c) ‘Promotion of Human Rights in Pakistan II’, set out in Annex III;
- (d) ‘Women participation and leadership in governance and democratic processes in Pakistan’, set out in Annex IV;
- (e) ‘Support to Civil Society in Pakistan (SCSP)’, set out in Annex V.

Article 2 *Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2023 is set at EUR 99.986 million, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union: BGUE-B2023-14.020131-C1-INTPA – South and East Asia.

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

⁸ 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.

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 4.4.4 of the Annexes I, III, IV and V.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million and not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes⁹ 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 to in the Annexes I and II selected in accordance with point 4.4.1 of the Annexes.

Done at Brussels, 30.10.2023

For the Commission
Jutta URPILAINEN
Member of the Commission

⁹ These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.