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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 16.11.2023

**on the financing of the multiannual action plan for the thematic programme on Global
Challenges (Prosperity) for 2023-2025**

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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(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the multiannual action plan for the thematic programme on Global Challenges (Prosperity) for 2023-2025, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme, for 2023 to 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 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.
- (4) The Commission has adopted the thematic programme for Global Challenges⁶. Under the 'Prosperity' priority, the programmes aim to support the global dimension of the

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.

⁶ C(2021)9157 of 15.12.2021.

efforts needed to create and promote decent, green jobs, especially for women and young people. Furthermore the programmes aim to progress in human development, including training, skill development and re-skilling to accompany the green and digital transitions, and promote climate-neutral, sustainable economic development and resilient economies.

- (5) The objectives pursued by the multiannual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 thematic programme ‘Global Challenges’ are to scale up private and public investments in the spirit of an inclusive, low-emission, climate-resilient green economy; to foster sustainable economic growth by advancing in more equitable digital transformation and quality infrastructure; to support global efforts to promote the transition to inclusive, climate-neutral, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems; and through action in key domains that provide jobs and trade opportunities for many.
- (6) The action entitled ‘EU Contribution to the World Bank Trade Facilitation Support Programme’ aims to facilitate trade flows in developing and least developed countries. The action will support the design and implementation of trade facilitation policies in partner countries, alongside the necessary regulatory reform, fully in line with EU standards, values and where relevant legislation, in particular as regards fundamental rights (including data protection and privacy). The Programme has two main components: Provision of Technical Assistance (TA) and Knowledge, Learning and Measurement.
- (7) The action entitled ‘EU Helpdesk on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CS3D) Accompanying Measures’ will enhance effectiveness of public and private stakeholders in partner countries in utilisation of accompanying measures in human rights (including labour rights and environment protection issues). This includes improved access to information on the available accompanying measures for different stakeholders in partner countries, enhanced capacity of value chain partners to implement Human Rights Environmental Due Diligence, and improved coordination in development of new accompanying measures.
- (8) The action entitled ‘Multi-stakeholder action to improve transparency and traceability for corporate sustainability due diligence in value chains (including critical raw materials and textiles)’ will provide greater access for partner countries to global public goods, especially international standards, promote sustainable trade, decent work, labour standards, responsible and gender-responsive business conduct as well as accompanying measures to help partner countries implement due diligence requirements.’
- (9) The action entitled ‘Technical assistance facilities to support sustainable Critical Raw Materials (CRM) value chains, Global Gateway Business Advisory Group (GG BAG) and private sector engagement and accountability’ will help implement Global Gateway identified investments and support the sustainability of value chains, transparency and accountability. It will implement the Global Gateway Business Advisory Group (GG BAG) and help implement selected priority Global Gateway investment projects; develop sustainable raw materials value chains between the EU and partner countries with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders; and support Commission services and EU delegations’ capacities in relation to private sector, trade, and employment matters.
- (10) The action entitled ‘EU Circular Economy Resource Centre: Supporting the Circular Economy transition in partner countries’ will increase the uptake of sound and

inclusive Circular Economy policies and business models, based on peer-to-peer exchanges and partnerships between EU and third country stakeholders. The action establishes an EU Circular Economy Resource Centre, contributing to the implementation of the external dimension of the Circular Economy Action Plan and its commitment to mobilise EU expertise to support the circular economy transition in partner countries.

- (11) The action entitled ‘Global Partnerships for Human-Centric information and communications technology (ICT) Standardisation – ‘GIST’’ will promote human-centric and green ICT standards for digital technologies and services. This will include to strengthen and build long-term relationships between EU standard-setting bodies and relevant bodies in selected partner countries and a regional body if relevant as well as to jointly develop set of key standards and/or adopt in each target country.
- (12) The action entitled ‘Digital and Green Innovation’ will contribute to the operationalisation of the twin digital and green transition to global fair and inclusive economies and societies. The action will strengthen digital green and circular entrepreneurship and innovation across partner countries and regions.
- (13) The action entitled ‘Sustainable Aquatic and Agricultural Food Systems (SAAFS)’ will accelerate the transition to inclusive, climate-neutral, resilient, and sustainable agri-aquatic food systems. This includes enhancing agrobiodiversity and equitable land governance, increased availability and accessibility of nutritious and safe aquatic foods for vulnerable populations, improved food safety and promoted evidence-based food systems governance.
- (14) The action entitled ‘Support Measures’ will support related activities and practitioners involved in actions funded through the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) with specific analyses, seminars, training courses and cooperation strategies, reinforce auditing and evaluation activities of the MIP Global Challenges programmes and actions, and provide support in the overall monitoring and evaluation of the programmes.
- (15) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.⁷
- (16) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action.
- (17) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regard 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 Regulation⁸ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (18) 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.

⁷Exceptions to calls for proposal apply pursuant to Article 195 of Regulation (EU/Euratom) 2018/1046.

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.

- (19) 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.
- (20) 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 the multiannual action plan for the thematic programme on Global Challenges (Prosperity) for 2023-2025, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) EU Contribution to the World Bank Trade Facilitation Support Programme set out in Annex 1;
- (b) EU Helpdesk on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CS3D) Accompanying Measures set out in Annex 2;
- (c) Multi-stakeholder action to improve transparency and traceability for corporate sustainability due diligence in value chains (including critical raw materials and textiles) set out in Annex 3;
- (d) Technical assistance facilities to support sustainable Critical Raw Materials (CRM) value chains, Global Gateway Business Advisory Group (GG BAG) and private sector engagement and accountability set out in Annex 4;
- (e) EU Circular Economy Resource Centre: Supporting the circular Economy transition in partner countries set out in Annex 5;
- (f) Global Partnerships for Human-Centric information and communications technology (ICT) Standardisation - 'GIST' set out in Annex 6;
- (g) Digital and Green Innovation set out in Annex 7;
- (h) Sustainable Aquatic and Agricultural Food Systems (SAAFS) set out in Annex 8;
- (i) Support Measures set out in Annex 9.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2023 to 2025 is set at EUR 139 194 132.67, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the budget line 14 02 02 42 of the general budget of the Union: EUR 139 194 132.67.

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 budgetary 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 4.3.1 of the Annexes 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 8; and in point 4.3.2 of the Annexes 4 and 6.

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 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

Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annex. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred to in the Annex selected in accordance with point 4.3.3 of the Annex 4; point 4.3.2 of the Annexes 5 and 8; and point 4.3.1 of the Annex 6.

Done at Brussels, 16.11.2023

For the Commission

Jutta URPILAINEN

Member of the Commission