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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 30.9.2022**

**on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of  
Sub-Saharan Africa for 2022-2024 Part 1**

# COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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## on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Sub-Saharan Africa for 2022-2024 Part 1

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) In order to ensure the implementation of the multiannual action plan in favour of Sub-Saharan Africa for 2022 Part 1, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision, which constitutes the work programme, for 2022, 2023, and 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 TFEU<sup>3</sup>.
- (3) The actions provided for in this Decision contribute to climate mainstreaming in line with the European Green Deal and the inter-institutional agreement.
- (4) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa for the period 2021-2027<sup>4</sup>, 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.

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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> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://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.

<sup>4</sup> Commission Decision adopting a multiannual indicative programme for Sub-Saharan Africa for the period 2021-2027 C(2021) 9373 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 tackle challenges related to internal mobility through education and skills, migration, terrorism; to scale up climate adaptation finance and resilience action in Sub-Saharan Africa; and to contribute to address some of the most pressing joint priorities of the EU and the targeted regions and to support the implementation of the Regional Multiannual Indicative Programme.
- (6) Action 1 entitled ‘Support to the Implementation of the African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF II)’ is a policy initiative of the African Union (AU), backed by all major integration policies. The objective of the ACQF II as a qualifications framework is to create trust, enhance comparability and transparency of qualifications, to facilitate recognition of skills and diplomas, foster mobility and lifelong learning, support countries’ qualifications systems, and reference with African qualifications frameworks (national and regional) and other regional qualifications worldwide.
- (7) Action 2 entitled ‘Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme V’ aims at further contributing to the enhancement of human capital development by supporting African Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the organization and implementation of mobility of Higher Education students and trainees and of HEI staff (academic and administrative) in another African country, with a focus on climate change. In the medium term, the scheme is expected also to support the harmonization of programmes and curricula between participating institutions and the development of mechanisms for the recognition of credits/degrees and qualifications, thereby contributing to the realization of the ‘African Higher Education and Research Space’.
- (8) Action 3 entitled ‘Harmonisation Quality Assurance and Accreditation in African Higher Education Initiative (HAQAA3)’ intends to enhance regional and continental (Intra-Africa) integration for improved quality of education and skills development; and EU-Africa policy dialogue and cooperation in the fields of education, skills development, youth learning mobility, and teacher governance, leadership, training and professional development.
- (9) Action 4 entitled ‘Young African Leaders Programme II (YALP II)’ intends to contribute to fairer societies by training young African leaders in transnational governance. This will lead to good governance, sustainability and capacity development across the continent. This action aims to develop capacity and provide immediate gap filling, targeting selected mid-career practitioners from Africa, with a potential to be actors of change and already operating in the African policy-making landscape, and to impulse a community of practice of young public and private professionals working at the interface of law, public policy and entrepreneurship, promoting a culture of knowledge sharing and learning across stakeholders in Africa and the wider community, and upholding and strengthening tight links with the EU.
- (10) Action 5 entitled ‘European Support for Transitional Justice in Africa’ aims at contributing to justice, the rule of law and respect for human rights in Africa by supporting the establishment of Transitional Justice mechanisms in post-conflict contexts. The action will support the operationalisation of key elements of the African Union Transitional Justice Policy and its Roadmap, adequately addressing gender-based violence and providing technical assistance to key AU organs, Regional Economic Communities and some AU Member States to design and operate tailored gender sensitive Transitional Justice mechanisms in specific post-conflict contexts. It

shall also support research and knowledge production and management efforts related to Transitional Justice in Africa and contribute to the popularisation of the African Union Transitional Justice Policy and its monitoring by involving civil society actors.

- (11) Action 6 entitled ‘Building West African counter-terrorism capacities (Renforcement des capacités Ouest-Africaines de Lutte contre le Terrorisme)’ aims to strengthen the capacities of West African states to protect their territory and their population against the terrorist threat from a rule of law and human rights perspective. In order to reinforce the capacities of African States in the face of the transnational terrorist threat, the International Academy of Counter-Terrorism is based on three pillars: (I) an inter-ministerial school for managers with responsibilities in counter-terrorism; (II) an operational training centre for special intervention units (both police and military); (III) a strategic research centre. This action will focus on pillars (I) and (III), with the aim of significantly increasing the reception and training capacities of the Academy so that it can have a real impact on the continent, with a sufficient number of trainees educated and trained on this integrated inter-agency approach to combating terrorism.
- (12) Action 7 entitled ‘Countering transnational organised crime and terrorist groups by targeting illicit financial flows in East, Southern, Central Africa and Yemen’ intends to disrupt transnational organised crime organizations and terrorist groups by targeting their financial resources notably through awareness raising, improved investigation and prosecution capacities and enhanced channels for cross-border and multi-agency cooperation in East, Southern and Central Africa and Yemen.
- (13) Action 8 entitled ‘EU Contribution to Phase III of the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)’ aims at enhancing climate adaptation and resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa with an additional support to the Covenant of Mayors (CoM) in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The initiative has clear political prominence, highlighted recently at COP 26 in Glasgow. The action emphasises the role of local governments, which are key enablers of the Covenant of Mayors (CoM) initiative. The Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) is the regional chapter of the Global CoM, which gather local governments voluntarily committed to implementing energy and climate initiatives. The Action will provide additional funding to the ongoing phase III of the CoM SSA, notably to ensure the functioning of the CoM SSA Secretariat beyond 2022 and align the duration of the existing contracts implementing this initiative to the same year (2024).
- (14) Action 9 entitled ‘Better Migration Management (BMM) Programme phase III’ intends to improve the management of safe, orderly and regular migration, in particular to address the trafficking of human beings and smuggling of migrants, within and from the Horn of Africa region and closely aligned with the Khartoum Process and the priorities of the beneficiary countries: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia, and Uganda (Egypt, Libya and Tunisia are included in regional activities). The proposed action will build on the achievements of the previous phases, with a strengthened focus on the protection of vulnerable migrants and on South-South labour migration.
- (15) Action 10 entitled ‘Flexible Mechanism for Migration and Forced Displacement’ aims to maximise EU leverage in migration discussions vis-à-vis Sub-Saharan African counterparts, based on a flexible and incentives-based approach while also respecting policy coherence for development. In line with the New EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, the Mechanism will support the development and reinforcement of strong,

balanced, comprehensive and mutually beneficial partnerships and programs with countries of origin, transit and destination of migrants and forcefully displaced people.

- (16) In accordance with Article 43 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, the action is of a global, trans-regional or regional nature, fostering regional cooperation with countries of Northern Africa (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia) and Yemen. The actions' objective and design 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 ensuring the domestication and implementation of the African Union Transitional Justice Policy (AUTJP) in all African countries; by improving effective inter-regional and international cooperation in the fight against illicit financial flows and money laundering linked to transnational organized crime; and by contributing to the implementation of the African Union's Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) and the process of launching a new initiative when CESA will come to an end in 2025. . Due to the project's nature and the importance to ensure complete regional coverage, the eligibility of the action extends exceptionally to the countries of Northern Africa (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia) and Yemen, as their participation constitutes a substantial element to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of Union financing or to foster regional or trans-regional cooperation.
- (17) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (18) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of 9 June 2021 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of actions set out in the Annexes 1, 6, 8, 9 and 10.
- (19) 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 Regulation<sup>5</sup> and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.

- (20) 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.
- (21) 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.
- (22) The multiannual 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.

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<sup>5</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.

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 2022 Part 1, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) Support to the Implementation of the African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF II) set out in Annex 1;
- (b) Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme V set out in Annex 2;
- (c) Harmonisation Quality Assurance and Accreditation in African Higher Education Initiative (HAQAA3) set out in Annex 3;
- (d) Young African Leaders Programme II (YALP II) set out in Annex 4;
- (e) European Support for Transitional Justice in Africa set out in Annex 5;
- (f) Building West African counter-terrorism capacities (Renforcement des capacités Ouest-Africaines de Lutte contre le Terrorisme ) set out in Annex 6;
- (g) Countering transnational organised crime and terrorist groups by targeting illicit financial flows in East, Southern, Central Africa and Yemen set out in Annex 7;
- (h) EU Contribution to Phase III of the Covenant of the Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa set out in Annex 8;
- (i) Better Migration Management (BMM) Programme phase III set out in Annex 9;
- (j) Flexible Mechanism for Migration and Forced Displacement set out in Annex 10.

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the multiannual action plan for 2022, 2023, 2024 is set at EUR 342 200 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line Western Africa BGUE-B2022-14.020120-C1-INTPA: EUR 145 520 000 (EUR 50 320 000 for exercise N; EUR 31 500 000 for exercise N+1; EUR 63 700 000 for exercise N+2);
- (b) budget line Eastern and Central Africa BGUE-B2022-14.020121-C1-INTPA: EUR 163 770 000 (EUR 80 570 000 for exercise N; EUR 27 000 000 for exercise N+1; and EUR 56 200 000 for exercise N+2);
- (c) budget line Southern Africa BGUE-B2022-14.020122-C1-INTPA: EUR 32 910 000 (EUR 19 310 000 for exercise N; EUR 1 500 000 for exercise N+1; and EUR 12 100 000 for exercise N+2).

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 2023 and 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 of the Annexes 1, 6, 8, 9 and 10.

### *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, or cumulated changes<sup>6</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 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 selected in accordance with point 4 of Annex 4 ‘Young African Leaders Programme II (YALP II)’, Annex 5 ‘European Support for Transitional Justice in Africa’, Annex 7 ‘Countering transnational organised crime and terrorist groups by targeting illicit financial flows in East, Southern, Central Africa and Yemen’ and Annex 10 ‘Flexible Mechanism for Migration and Forced Displacement’.

Done at Brussels, 30.9.2022

*For the Commission*

*Jutta URPILAINEN*

*Member of the Commission*

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<sup>6</sup> These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.