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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 12.9.2022**

**on the financing of the Multi-Annual Action Plan for Global Challenges - Partnerships  
for 2022-2023**

# COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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## on the financing of the Multi-Annual Action Plan for Global Challenges - Partnerships for 2022-2023

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) No 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) No 2021/947 of 9 June 2021’), and in particular Article 23 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the 2022-2023 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 2022-2023. 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) 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 expanding multilateral networks, partnerships and actions with partners across the globe and continuing to support capacity building for these actors to encourage high levels of 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 more influential actor in the world’s response to global challenges through support to

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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.

- 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 *'Looking for Evidence: Results Measurement & Development Impacts mobilizing Local Researchers'* will support the development of national evaluation and research capacities to define and better understand development impacts, while also creating a network of local researchers in partner countries.
  - (6) The action entitled *'Improving Evidence for Development - Investing in research and partnership'* will support the delivery of high-impact, policy-relevant research and knowledge products through the production of fundamental research for evidence-based policy making in international development and contribute to open knowledge via open access to knowledge sharing, partnerships, and capacity building.
  - (7) The action entitled *'Institutional capacity building through TAIEX'* aims to promote European standards, norms and policy models and strengthen partnerships, dialogue and exchange of experience with partner country administrations at an operational level.
  - (8) The action entitled *'Collect More - Spend Better'* aims to foster fair and effective domestic revenue mobilization and strengthen tax administration systems and domestic revenue mobilization efforts globally.
  - (9) The action entitled *'Sustainable Finance Advisory Hub'* aims to provide support to low- and middle-income countries in their efforts to develop sustainable finance ecosystems in line with international good practice and building on EU frameworks and standards.
  - (10) The action entitled *'Integrated National Financing Frameworks'* will help countries strengthen their planning processes and overcome impediments to financing sustainable development at country level by providing global support to financing strategies for recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and building back better.
  - (11) The action entitled *'Strengthen Associations of Local Authorities at national, regional and global levels'* aims to improve the enabling environment for local authorities to increase their transparency, accountability, advocacy capacities and empowerment.
  - (12) The action entitled *'Support to the Local Authorities part of the DEAR programme'* aims to raise public awareness and active engagement of European citizens, especially among young people, in sustainable development and global challenges such as climate change and local and global inequalities.
  - (13) The Commission should acknowledge and accept contributions from other donors in accordance with Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreement. Where such contributions are not denominated in euro, a reasonable estimate of conversion should be made.
  - (14) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
  - (15) Pursuant to NDICI-Global Europe Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) No 2021/947 of 9 June 2021 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action plan.
  - (16) 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) 2018/1046<sup>3</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.

- (17) 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.
- (18) 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.
- (19) The 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) No 2021/947 of 9 June 2021.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### *Article 1* *The action plan*

The multiannual financing decision, constituting the multiannual action plan for the implementation of the financing of the Multi-Annual Action Plan Global Challenges - Partnerships for 2022-2023, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) Looking for Evidence: Results Measurement & Development Impacts mobilizing Local Researchers set out in Annex 1;
- (b) Improving Evidence for Development: Investing in research and partnership 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) Sustainable Finance Advisory Hub set out in Annex 5;
- (f) Integrated National Financing Frameworks set out in Annex 6;
- (g) Strengthen Associations of Local Authorities at national, regional and global levels set out in Annex 7;
- (h) Support to the Local Authorities part of the DEAR programme set out in Annex 8.

#### *Article 2* *Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2022-2023 is set at EUR 71 500 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

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<sup>3</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.

- (a) budget line 14 02 02 43 — Partnerships — Global Challenges: EUR 65 900 000
- (b) budget line 14 02 01 20 West Africa: EUR 2 240 000
- (c) budget line 14 02 01 21 East and Central Africa: EUR 2 184 000
- (d) budget line 14 02 01 22 Southern Africa: EUR 1 176 000

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 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 the Annexes 4, 5 and 6.

### *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>4</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 1, 4 and 8.

Done at Brussels, 12.9.2022

*For the Commission*

*Jutta URPIAINEN*

*Member of the Commission*

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