



Brussels, 17.5.2022
C(2022) 3299 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 17.5.2022

**on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of the Republic of Sierra
Leone for 2022-2024**

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 17.5.2022

on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of the Republic of Sierra Leone for 2022-2024

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 in favour of the Republic of Sierra Leone for 2022-2024, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme, for 2022-2024. 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 TFEU³.
- (3) The actions provided for in this Decision contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming in line with the European Green Deal and the inter-institutional agreement.
- (4) The Commission has adopted the National Multiannual Indicative Programme⁴ for the period 2021-2027, which sets out the following priorities; Green Economy (Priority area 1), Human development (Priority area 2) and Governance (Priority area 3).
- (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 support

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 Commission Implementing Decision adopting a multiannual indicative programme for the Republic of Sierra Leone for the period 2021-2027, C(2021)9054 final of 14.12.2021.

a stable and prosperous democracy and economic diversification, addressing as a start key upcoming processes (elections) and economic transformation (via electrification).

- (6) The action entitled ‘Transformational Energy Access for Sierra Leone’ aims to contribute to increased generation and access to modern, sustainable, affordable and reliable energy for jobs and growth.
- (7) The action entitled ‘EU Support to democracy, peace and social cohesion in Sierra Leone’ aims to strengthen democratic institutions, voice and accountability, and checks and balances in order to deepen the democracy, peace and social cohesion in the country.
- (8) The action entitled ‘Cooperation Facility for Sierra Leone’ aims to promote a sustainable socio-economic development in the country and to enhance the EU’s interests and positions in Sierra Leone.
- (9) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, direct and indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the actions.
- (10) 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 Regulation⁵ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.

- (11) 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.
- (12) 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.
- (13) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe 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 favour of the Republic of Sierra Leone for 2022-2024, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) ‘Transformational Energy Access for Sierra Leone’ set out in Annex 1;
- (b) ‘EU Support to democracy, peace and social cohesion in Sierra Leone’ set out in Annex 2;

⁵ Except for the cases referred to in Article 154(6) of the Financial Regulation, where the Commission may decide, not to require an ex-ante assessment

- (c) ‘Cooperation facility in Sierra Leone’ set out in Annex 3.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2022-2024 is set at EUR 60 000 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union :

- BGUE-B20XX-14.020120-C1-INTPA: EUR 60 000 000 (EUR 55 800 000 for budget year 2022, EUR 2 700 000 for budget year 2023; EUR 1 500 000 for budget year 2024).

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 2023 and 2024, following the adoption of that budget by the budgetary 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, 2 and 3.

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 changes⁶ 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.

Done at Brussels, 17.5.2022

For the Commission
Jutta URPILAINEN
Member of the Commission

⁶