



Brussels, 1.9.2023
C(2023) 6052 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 1.9.2023

on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Bangladesh 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 Bangladesh for 2023, it is necessary to adopt an annual³ 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 TFEU⁴.
- (3) The actions provided for in this Decision contribute to climate mainstreaming in line with Commission Communication 'The European Green Deal'⁵ 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 resources⁶.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p.1.

³ Multiannual financing decision shall always constitute a multiannual action plan/measure.

⁴ 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.

⁵ COM (2019) 640 final of 11 December 2019.

⁶ OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28.

- (4) The Commission has adopted the National Multiannual Indicative Programme⁷ for the period 2021-2027, which sets out the following priorities: 1) human capital development, 2) green inclusive development and 3) inclusive governance.
- (5) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme ‘Asia and the Pacific’ are to strengthen investment under the Global Gateway Strategy, as well as to profile it as the European Union’s offer that stands for sustainable and trusted connections that work for people and the planet.
- (6) The action entitled ‘Human Capital Development Programme for Bangladesh 2021 (HCDP 21)’ aims to support the government of Bangladesh in the implementation of its development policies aiming at a better educated, trained and qualified human capital as laid down in its national strategic development plans.
- (7) The action entitled ‘Advancing Decent Work in Bangladesh’ aims to provide more Bangladeshi men and women workers enjoy decent work through improved policies and laws, accountable labour market institutions; and sustainable business practices contributing to competitiveness of industries.
- (8) The action entitled ‘Scaling up Green Construction in Bangladesh’ aims to reduce carbon emissions and environmental impacts and mitigate climate change while promoting better social and health conditions for male and female workers and communities related to the brick sector in Bangladesh and to reduce inequalities amongst vulnerable groups.
- (9) The action entitled ‘Strengthening Prevention and Response to Gender Based Violence (GBV) at the public and workplace in Bangladesh’ aims to strengthen the policy and institutional framework for improved gender-response governance, to improve the access to survivor-centred and equitable essential GBV services for survivors of violence and to contribute to transform harmful social and gender norms and stereotypes that perpetuate gender inequality and GBV.
- (10) The action entitled ‘E-effective Governance: Accelerating e-government and digital public services in Bangladesh’ aims to improve the transparency, responsiveness, integrity and accountability in public service delivery through enhanced use of e-government tools and processes based on a human-centric approach.
- (11) The action entitled ‘Support Measures – Cooperation Facility for Bangladesh – Strategic Communication’ aims at supporting the implementation of strategic communication activities designed to raise awareness, understanding and perception of the European Union and its partnership with the country, in line with the priorities identified in the country MIP as well as relevant global and regional strategies.
- (12) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the actions.
- (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 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

⁷ Decision C(2021)9079

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 Bangladesh for 2023, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) Human Capital Development Programme for Bangladesh 2021 (HCDP 21), set out in Annex I;
- (b) Advancing Decent Work in Bangladesh, set out in Annex II;
- (c) Scaling up Green Construction in Bangladesh, set out in Annex III;
- (d) Strengthening Prevention and Response to Gender Based Violence (GBV) at the public and workplace in Bangladesh, set out in Annex IV;
- (e) E-effective Governance: Accelerating e-government and digital public services in Bangladesh, set out in Annex V;
- (f) Support Measure - Cooperation Facility for Bangladesh - Strategic Communication, set out in Annex VI.

Article 2 *Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2023 is set at EUR 71 000 000, 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.

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

Article 3 *Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons*

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of direct and indirect management, as set out in the Annexes, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in

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.

accordance with the criteria laid down in point 4.4.4 for Annexes I, II, III, IV, V, and in point 4.4.1 for Annex VI.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 000 000 not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, 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 (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, 1.9.2023

For the Commission
Jutta URPILAINEN
Member of the Commission