



Brussels, 11.12.2024
C(2024) 8894 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 11.12.2024

on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Republic of Zambia for 2024

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 11.12.2024

on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Republic of Zambia for 2024

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union¹, 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(1) and (2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of the Republic of Zambia for 2024, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2024, in accordance with Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 ('the Financial Regulation').
- (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 should 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 National Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period 2021-2027⁶, as amended following the mid-term review⁷, which sets out the

¹ OJ L 239, 26.9.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>.

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 Commission Implementing Decision adopting a multiannual indicative programme for the Republic of Zambia for the period 2021-2027 C(2021)9057 final of 14.12.2021.

⁷ Commission Implementing Decision amending country, multi-country and regional Multiannual Indicative Programmes 2021-2027 for Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Americas and the Caribbean and the Multiannual Indicative Programmes on Civil Society Organisations, Global Challenges and Human Rights and Democracy, C(2024)7502 final of 31.10.2024.

following priorities: i) Green partnerships for sustainable recovery, growth and jobs; ii) Supporting the people of Zambia to reach their potential and build resilience; and iii) Fair, inclusive and peaceful society.

- (5) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme Sub-Saharan Africa are to (1) to support the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) in developing key value chains by enabling investments (2) the deployment of the EU-Zambia Critical Raw Materials - Memorandum of Understanding (CRM-MoU) and its Roadmap and (3) to improve democratic processes in Zambia.
- (6) The action entitled “ENTERPRISE Zambia 2.0 – Boost Agriculture Market Access Programme in Zambia - Inclusive and sustainable legume and horticulture agriculture value chains” aims to catalyze a transformative shift in Zambia's agricultural sector, leading to increased productivity, market equal access for smallholder farmers, and the widespread adoption of sustainable and inclusive production practices. More specifically it intends to (i) support the transition to green, climate-smart, integrated circular and more sustainable and inclusive agri-food systems; (ii) increase smallholder farmers (including women, people with disabilities and youth) participation in market-integrated value chains, and (iii) support and equal access to sustainable finance for investments that increase producer incomes. The project will promote and prioritise investment in sustainable, inclusive, climate resilient and deforestation free legumes and horticulture agricultural value chains development in Zambia, with a geographic focus on the economic corridors that link to the Lobito corridor.
- (7) The action entitled “Sustainable Critical Raw Materials Value Chains in Zambia (CRM)” has an overall objective to enhance the sustainability of the Critical Raw Materials (CRM) Value Chains in Zambia, guided by the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the EU and Zambia. The specific objectives are to improve governance, transparency and environmental sustainability of the mining sector and related value chains and to increase decent employability along the mineral value chain, with a focus on women and youth.
- (8) The action entitled “Support to Governance Processes” has an overall objective to improve democratic processes in Zambia, enhance the sustainability of the Critical Raw Materials (CRM) Value Chains in Zambia, guided by the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the EU and Zambia, to improve public service delivery. Specific objectives include to increase use of access to information mechanisms by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and citizens with special focus on women and persons with disabilities and to increase exercise of democratic mandates by rights holders and duty bearers.
- (9) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action.
- (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 157(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 157(4) of the Financial

Regulation⁸ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 157(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 determine the 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 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 in favour of the Republic of Zambia for 2024, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) ENTERPRISE Zambia 2.0 – Boost Agriculture Market Access Programme in Zambia - Inclusive and sustainable legume and horticulture agriculture value chains set out in Annex 1;
- (b) Sustainable Critical Raw Materials Value Chains in Zambia (CRM) set out in Annex 2;
- (c) Support to Governance Processes set out in Annex 3.

Article 2 *Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2024 is set at EUR 48 900 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in budget line 14.020122 of the general budget of the Union.

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 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 4.4.1 of Annex 1, points 4.4.1, 4.4.2 and 4.4.3 of Annex 2 and point 4.4.1 of Annex 3.

⁸ Except for the cases referred to in Article 157(7) of the Financial Regulation, where the Commission may decide, not to require an ex-ante assessment.

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, or cumulated changes⁹ 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.

Done at Brussels, 11.12.2024

For the Commission
Jozef SÍKELA
Member of the Commission

⁹ These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.