



Brussels, 15.4.2024
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 15.4.2024

**on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Federal Democratic Republic
of Ethiopia for 2024 – Part 1**

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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 the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for 2024 – Part 1, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 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 Commission has adopted the National Multiannual Indicative Programme⁴ for the period 2024-2027 which sets out the following priorities: Green Deal, Human Development, Governance and Peacebuilding.
- (4) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947, geographic programme 'Sub-Saharan Africa', are to promote the sustainable development in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia by contributing to lasting peace and social cohesion as well as by contributing to the current reconstruction efforts in the country.

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 Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for the period 2024-2027 C(2023) 6542 final of 3.10.2023.

- (5) The action entitled “Strengthening democratic institutions, transitional justice, gender equality and social cohesion in Ethiopia” aims to support efforts towards peace, stabilisation and recovery from recent conflicts, including synergies with the national Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) process, through strengthening more inclusive, strong and resilient institutions and civil society, effective reforms and processes that lead to sustainable peace, recovery and development. With the action, the EU will remain an important actor supporting national peace processes and support stabilization efforts nationwide, in line with the EU’s accountability ask. The Commission should acknowledge and accept contribution from other donors in accordance with Article 21(2) of the Financial Regulation, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreement. Where such contribution is not denominated in euro, a reasonable estimate of conversion should be made.
- (6) The action entitled “Post-conflict restoration of basic health services, medical and psycho-social support to gender-based violence survivors and conflict affected communities in Ethiopia”, the EU seeks to continue delivering on its commitments of supporting the country’s war affected rehabilitation process by funding the rehabilitating of the Adwa hospital of Tigray and the Aba’ala hospital of Afar using a ‘build back better’ approach, and building the capacities for specialist medical (gynaecological/surgical) and mental and psychosocial services for gender based violence (GBV) survivors and health workers traumatised by the conflict.
- (7) The action entitled “Support to sustainable and integrated responses to forced displacement and labour migration in Ethiopia”, the EU seeks to enhance its role as one of the main partners in the migration sector by providing support to the advancement of Ethiopia’s policies in the area of anti-trafficking, legal migration, refugees’ integration and IDPs’ inclusion and protection. Particular focus will be placed in enhancing the returns and readmission agreement signed in 2018.
- (8) The Commission should authorise the launch of a call for proposals and tender by means of a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision.
- (9) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 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 interest of the Union with regards to entities and persons entrusted with the implementation of the 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.

⁵ 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.

- (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 for the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for 2024 – Part 1, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) Strengthening democratic institutions, transitional justice, gender equality and social cohesion in Ethiopia, set out in Annex 1;
- (b) Post-conflict restoration of basic health services, medical and psycho-social support to gender-based violence survivors and conflict affected communities in Ethiopia, set out in Annex 2;
- (c) Support to sustainable and integrated responses to forced displacement and labour migration in Ethiopia, set out in Annex 3.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan part 1 for 2024 is set at EUR 118 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the budget line Eastern and Central Africa 14.020121 of the general budget of the Union: EUR 118 000 000.

The amount referred to in the first paragraph includes contributions from other donors to the general budget of the Union as external assigned revenue as provided for in Annex 1 “Strengthening democratic institutions, transitional justice, gender equality and social cohesion in Ethiopia”.

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 points 4.4.3.1 and 4.4.3.2 of the Annex 1; point 4.4.2 of the Annex 2; and; points 4.4.3.1 and 4.4.3.2 of the Annex 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, or cumulated changes⁶ to the allocations of specific

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

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 Procurement

Launching a call for proposals under a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision shall be authorised as of the date set out in point 4.4.1 of the Annex 2.

Launching a call for tender under a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision shall be authorised as of the date set out in point 4.4.2 of the Annex 3.

Done at Brussels, 15.4.2024

For the Commission
Jutta URPILAINEN
Member of the Commission