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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 24.4.2023

**on the financing of the annual action plan for the Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding
and Crisis Preparedness part of the thematic programme Peace, Stability and Conflict
Prevention for 2023**

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on the financing of the annual action plan for the Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Crisis Preparedness part of the thematic programme Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention for 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 966/2012¹, 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) and Article 24(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the annual action plan for the Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Crisis Preparedness part of the thematic programme Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention for 2023, it is necessary to adopt an annual 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 TFEU³.
- (3) The Commission has adopted on 14 December 2021 the thematic programme for Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention 2021-2027⁴. The priorities set out under the area of intervention “Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Crisis Preparedness” aim to enhance capabilities relating to analytical tools, methodologies, and mechanisms to better detect early signs of conflict; promote conflict prevention and conflict resolution measures, including by facilitating and building capacity in confidence-building, mediation, dialogue and reconciliation processes; and to support peace processes and transitions of conflict-affected societies / communities, including stabilisation and peacebuilding efforts.

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 C(2021) 8985.

- (4) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan 2023 to be financed under the ‘Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Crisis Preparedness’ part of the thematic programme ‘Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention’, are to support measures building and strengthening the capacity of the Union and its partners to prevent conflict, build peace and address pre- and post-crisis needs in close co-ordination with international, regional and sub-regional organisations, state and civil society actors.
- (5) The Action entitled “The Partnership with Civil Society Organisations” aims at supporting in-country civil society actors in their effort to prevent conflicts, respond to crises, and build peace. Through actions implemented by civil society (local civil society organisations, international non-governmental organisations) in conflict-affected contexts, their institutional, operational and networking capacity will be strengthened in three areas relating to conflict prevention and peacebuilding: i) Trauma healing as a support to transitional justice; ii) Children and Armed conflict (CAAC), including a focus on disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR); iii) Youth in peace and security. The Action will also support to the Civil Society Dialogue Network on Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding for a fifth phase. Support to peacebuilding capacities through strengthening networks of local organisations will be a third priority of the Action.
- (6) The Action entitled “Enhance EU Capabilities for Early Warning and Conflict Analysis” aims to enhance the EU’s ability to preserve peace, prevent conflict and strengthen international security through an enhanced capacity to detect early signs of conflict and to be better equipped to develop options for prevention and response to conflicts. It will further develop the EU crisis preparedness and response, notably through the production of the Global Conflict Risk Index and crisis mapping. Improving access to data, especially from local sources, for situational awareness and early warning and to gain knowledge, more skills and tools to detect, analyse and monitor risks of conflict will also be prioritised.
- (7) The Action entitled “Help Build Capacities of Relevant Actors to Enhance Trust between Local Populations and Security Forces” aims on the one hand at helping (re-)build trust between local populations and security forces, supporting and sustaining inclusive national security sector reform and DDR processes. As a second objective, the Action also intends to contribute to improving national and regional resilience to security risks posed by corruption and poor governance.
- (8) The Action entitled “Addressing Climate-related Security Risks and Natural and Extractive Resources Management in Fragile Contexts” aims at strengthening the management of natural resources in line with international, regional and national standards, regulations and best practices to contribute to peacebuilding and stabilisation in fragile contexts. The Action supports the EU’s leading role within the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme. A second objective is to promote responsible sourcing and trading of minerals through the dissemination, adoption and use of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance. Finally, the action will address persistent conflicts and mitigate potential future conflicts and instability caused by the exploitation and/or management of natural resources in the Latin America and Caribbean region.
- (9) The Action entitled “Promotion of Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding via Dialogue, Advocacy and Innovative Tools” focuses on three distinct priority areas. It includes a contribution to the success of the Paris Peace Forum and an increase of the EU visibility for its work on peace and security. The Action also intends to build the resilience of societies in conflict prone environments to potentially harmful content

through social media, while protecting freedom of expression and enhancing the promotion of peace. A third priority is to improve the conditions for intercultural dialogue and conflict prevention in Central Asia by enhancing the capacity of key stakeholders to safeguard and protect tangible (movable and immovable) and intangible cultural heritage, as well as promote creative industry and respect for cultural diversity

- (10) The Action entitled “Strengthening Peace Mediation Practice for Inclusive Ceasefires and in Crime-affected Contexts” aims at strengthening local, national and international peace mediation actors to prepare, mediate, monitor and implement inclusive ceasefires. It will also focus on strengthening local, national and international actors to design and implement peace mediation interventions in crime affected contexts.
- (11) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (12) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action.
- (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 Regulation⁵ 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 programme, 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 programme provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument Committee established by 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 Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Crisis Preparedness part of the thematic programme Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention for 2023, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action programme shall include the following actions:

- The Partnership with Civil Society Organisations, set out in Annex I;
- Enhance EU Capabilities for Warning and Conflict Analysis, set out in Annex II;

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.

- Help Build Capacities of Relevant Actors to Enhance Trust between Local Populations and Security Forces, set out in Annex III;
- Addressing Climate-related Security Risks and Natural and Extractive Resources Management in Fragile Contexts, set out in Annex IV;
- Promotion of Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding via Dialogue, Advocacy and Innovative Tools, set out in Annex V;
- Strengthening Peace Mediation Practice for Inclusive Ceasefires and in Crime-affected Contexts, set out in Annex VI.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action programme for 2023 is set at EUR 39 429 740 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in budget line 14 02 02 30 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 4.3 of Annexes III, IV and V.

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 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.

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

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 or selected in accordance with point 4.3 of Annexes I, II, IV, V and VI.

Done at Brussels, 24.4.2023

For the Commission
Josep BORRELL FONTELLES
High Representative / Vice-President