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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 25.7.2018

**on the annual action programme 2018 for the Instrument contributing to Stability and
Peace - Conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness component to be
financed from the general budget of the European Union**

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on the annual action programme 2018 for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace - Conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness component to be financed from the general budget of the European Union

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002¹, and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action², and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 230/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace³, and in particular Article 3a thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the Strategy Paper 2014-2020 for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace⁴, identifying five priorities for actions in the areas of conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness, as provided for in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 230/2014: promoting early warning and conflict-sensitive risk analysis in the policy making and the implementation of policy; facilitating and building capacity in confidence-building, mediation, dialogue and reconciliation, with particular regard to emerging inter-community tensions; strengthening capacities for participation and deployment in civilian stabilisation missions; improving post-conflict recovery as well as post-disaster recovery with relevance to the political and security situation; curbing the use of natural resources to finance conflicts and supporting compliance by stakeholders with initiatives such as the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, especially as regards the implementation of efficient domestic controls over the production of, and trade in, natural resources.
- (2) As provided for in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 230/2014, the Commission has adopted the multi annual indicative programme MIP for the period 2018-2020.

¹ OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

² OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

³ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 1.

⁴ Commission Implementing Decision C(2014)5607 final of 11 August 2014 adopting the Thematic Strategy Paper 2014-2020 and accompanying Multiannual indicative Programme 2014-2017 of the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace.

- (3) The objectives pursued by the annual action programme to be financed under Regulation (EU) No 230/2014, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2306/2017⁵ 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 organizations, state and civil society actors.
- (4) The action entitled "Support to in-country civil society actors in conflict prevention, peace-building, crisis preparedness" aims to support in-country civil society actors globally in their endeavours to prevent conflicts and build peace, via locally managed calls for proposals for civil society-led actions focused on four thematic priorities relating to both long-term and short-term conflict prevention and peacebuilding activity: Preventing Violent Extremism; Strengthening the engagement of civil society organisations in the security sector; land related conflicts; mediation, dialogue and confidence building measures. The action should be implemented through direct management via grant agreements and procurement of services.
- (5) The action entitled "EU support to strengthen global, national and local mediation and conflict prevention capacities" aims to maximise the respective and collective potential of mediation actors to prevent conflict and build peace in the different countries and regions of engagement and globally. The action is to enhance the capacity of the United Nations (UN) to deploy rapidly thematic mediation experts to support mediation efforts led by the UN, the EU and other international, regional and sub-regional organisations, Member States and other partners; to build, strengthen and consolidate national capacities for conflict prevention in conflict-affected, fragile countries, as well as countries undergoing political instability or difficult transitions; to strengthen local and national capacities for conflict transformation by leveraging insider mediation capacities and processes within existing or potential national peace infrastructures. The action should be implemented through direct and indirect management.
- (6) The action entitled "European Union Police and Civilian Services Training Programme" (EUPCST) building on the previous European Union Police Services Training I and II (EUPST I and II) aims to provide advanced training opportunities for police and civilian personnel that are to be deployed to EU civilian missions in the framework of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), EU stabilisation actions or other international stabilisation missions as well as to increase civilian crisis management training capacity of CSDP contributing nations, CSDP host nations and third countries in cooperation with local entities or partners. The training priority areas are directly linked to the civilian crisis management priorities, which were identified in the May and November 2017 Council conclusions⁶, as well as to current and future security challenges. The action should be implemented through direct management via grant agreements.
- (7) The action entitled "Support to the responsible sourcing and trade of diamonds and other minerals in Sub-Saharan countries" aims to contribute to peace-building and stabilisation efforts in mineral-rich fragile areas through the promotion of responsible sourcing and trading of diamonds and other minerals. The action is composed of two

⁵ Regulation (EU) 2017/2306 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2017 amending Regulation (EU) No 230/2014 establishing an instrument contributing to stability and peace (OJ L 335, 15.12.2017, p. 6).

⁶ Council conclusions 13 November 2017, 14190/17 and Council conclusions 18 May 2017, 9178/17

components: the first one to provide the main stakeholders with the relevant information, knowledge and updated recommendations to better understand the processes and operate in alignment with principles of responsible sourcing and trade of diamonds and other minerals, in particular supporting and empowering civil society to actively participate in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and other due diligence initiatives. The second component to support the implementation of the Kimberley Process in the Mano River Union at the regional and national level, and enhance the development and livelihood aspects relevant to artisanal mining. The action should be implemented through direct and indirect management.

- (8) The action entitled "Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Crisis Preparedness support measures" will contribute to the identification, formulation, evaluation and implementation of actions under Article 4 "Assistance for conflict prevention, peacebuilding and crisis preparedness" of the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP). The action should be implemented through direct management.
- (9) The action entitled "Capacity Building for Security and for Development: training to military forces to provide services to the populations in context of fragility" aims to support military actors to sustain peace and development under exceptional circumstances: when there is a threat to State institutions or human rights and State institutions cannot cope with that threat, and a consensus exists between the EU and the partner country that military actors are key for preserving the conditions required for sustainable development. In particular, it aims to strengthen the capacities of the military forces in Africa and Middle East in the fields of health, demining and civil protection using existing regional military training institutions. The action should be implemented through direct management via a grant agreement.
- (10) It is necessary to adopt a financing decision the detailed rules of which are set out in Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012⁷.
- (11) In the case where the action concerns a country or countries for which EU restrictive measures apply, the envisaged assistance is deemed to strictly follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures concerning the said country or countries.
- (12) It is necessary to adopt a work programme for grants the detailed rules of which are set out in Article 128(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and in Article 188(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.
- (13) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the United Nations Organisation and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) (as specified in the Annexes II and IV to this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a delegation agreement. In accordance with Article 60(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the authorising officer responsible needs to ensure that those entities guarantee a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union equivalent to that required when the Commission manages Union funds. Those entities should comply with the conditions of points (a) to (d) of the first subparagraph of Article 60(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and the supervisory and support measures should be in place as necessary.

⁷ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).

- (14) The authorising officer responsible should be able to award grants without a call for proposals provided that the conditions for an exception to a call for proposals in accordance with Article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 are fulfilled.
- (15) It is necessary to allow the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 92 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and Article 111(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.
- (16) Pursuant to Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, any substantial change to a financing decision that has already been adopted should follow the same procedure as the initial decision. It is therefore appropriate that the Commission defines the changes to this Decision that are considered non substantial in order to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer responsible.
- (17) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Stability and Peace Instrument Committee set up by Article 11 of Regulation (EU) No 230/2014,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the programme

The annual action programme 2018 for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace - Conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness component, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following actions:

support to in-country civil society actors in conflict prevention, peace-building, crisis preparedness as set out in Annex I;

EU support to strengthen global, national and local mediation and conflict prevention capacities as set out in Annex II;

A "European Union Police and Civilian Services Training Programme" as set out in Annex III;

support to the responsible sourcing and trade of diamonds and other minerals in Sub-Saharan countries as set out in Annex IV;

conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Crisis Preparedness support measures, as set out in Annex V;

capacity building for security and development: training to military forces to provide services to the populations in context of fragility as set out in Annex VI.

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the Union for the implementation of the programme referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 33 677 000 and shall be financed from budget line 19 02 02 of the general budget of the European Union for 2018.

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

Article 3

Implementation modalities

Budget-implementation tasks under indirect management may be entrusted to the entities identified in Annexes II and IV, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreements.

The elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 are set out in the Annexes to this Decision.

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals by the authorising officer responsible in accordance with Article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20 % of the contribution set by 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 within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

The authorising officer responsible may adopt such non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 25.7.2018

For the Commission
Federica MOGHERINI
Vice-President