



Brussels, 13.11.2015
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 13.11.2015

**on the Annual Action Programme 2015 for the Pan-African Programme to be financed
from the general budget of the European Union**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

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 action¹, and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

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 1605/2002², and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Pan-African Programme for the period 2014-2017³, which provides for the following priorities:
 1. Peace and Security;
 2. Democracy, Good Governance and Human Rights;
 3. Human Development;
 4. Sustainable and inclusive development and growth and continental integration;
 5. Global and cross-cutting issues.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme to be financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument⁴ with regard to the African continent are to:
- (3) (i) contribute to the mitigation of the impact of transnational organised crime on governance, development, security and the rule of law in Africa; (ii) contribute to ensure a transparent, democratic and accountable environment in the respect of human rights and rule of law in Africa; (iii) improve the contribution of civil society organisations (CSOs) to continental decision and policy making processes in Africa, in particular in the areas of democracy and governance, human rights, peace and security and gender; (iv) contribute to the abandonment of female genital mutilation (FGM), a violation of girls and women rights; (v) increase the availability of high-level professional manpower in Africa by supporting the intra-African mobility of students

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ Decision C(2014) 5375 final.

⁴ Regulation (EU) No 233/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020 (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 44).

and staff and improving the quality of higher education; (vi) improve the governance and sustainable use of African mineral resources and related infrastructure; (vii) improve flight safety in Africa; (viii) promote a more sustainable management of natural resources by improving decision making process through the use of earth observation data and derived information; (ix) support the institutional and administrative capacity of the African Union Commission (AUC) to deliver on its own strategies contributing to the Joint Africa-EU Strategy Roadmap implementation and (x) support the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy.

- (4) Action entitled "Enhancing African capacity to respond more effectively to transnational organised crime (TOC)" has the overall objective of contributing to the mitigation of the impact of transnational organised crime on governance, development, security and the rule of law in Africa. It will improve the evidence-based knowledge and analysis of transnational organised crime in Africa and strengthen the awareness, technical and strategic capacity of relevant African stakeholders. This action may be implemented in direct management through the award of a direct grant to the Institute for Security Studies.
- (5) Action entitled "Strengthening the African Human Rights System" has the overall objective to contribute to ensure a transparent, democratic and accountable environment in respect of human rights and the rule of law in Africa. Specifically, its objective is to strengthen the African Human Rights System in the framework of the African Governance Architecture. This action may be implemented in direct management through direct award grants to the African Union Human Rights Organs supported by technical assistance via a procurement of services.
- (6) Action entitled "Enhancing civil society's role in pan-African issues" has the objective to increase CSOs' ability to contribute to a more effective implementation and monitoring of continental legal instruments and to a stronger awareness of the citizens of their rights, and support CSOs' increased participation and contribution in continental decision and policy making and standard-setting. This action may be implemented in direct management through a call for proposals.
- (7) Action entitled "Contribution to the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) – Phase 2" has the overall objective of supporting efforts to contribute to the complete abandonment of FGM. This action may be implemented in indirect management through a delegation agreement with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
- (8) Action entitled "Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme" has the objective to increase the availability of high-level professional manpower in Africa, by facilitating the intra-African mobility of students and staff and improving the quality of higher education through the promotion of internationalisation. This action may be implemented in direct management by the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission, in accordance with Decision (2013/776/EU), through a call for proposals and procurement of services.
- (9) Action entitled "Pan-African Support to the EuroGeoSurveys and the Organisation of the African Geological Surveys (EGS-OAGS) Partnership (PanAfGeo)" has the objective to strengthen the knowledge and skills in Africa's mining sector and specifically of African Geological Surveys through a twinning between the European and African geological surveys. This action may be implemented in direct management through the award of a direct grant to the 'Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières (BRGM)'.

- (10) Action entitled "European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS) in Africa Support Programme" has the objective to accompany the development of Air Transportation in Africa through the modernisation of air navigation systems. This action may be implemented in direct management through the award of a grant to the 'Agence pour la Sécurité de la Navigation Aérienne en Afrique et à Madagascar (ASECNA)' and the procurement of services.
- (11) Action entitled "Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) and Africa Support Programme" has the objective to improve African policy-makers and planners' capacities to design, implement, and monitor national, regional and continental policies and to promote sustainable management of natural resources through the use of Earth Observation data and derived information. This action may be implemented in direct management through procurement of services and an administrative arrangement with the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, and in indirect management with the African Union Commission.
- (12) Action entitled "African Union Support Programme III" has the objective to support the institutional and administrative capacity within the African Union organs and to support the effective implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy Road map by the African Union Commission. This action may be implemented in direct management through a direct award of a grant to the AUC.
- (13) Action entitled "Support Measures – Annual Action Plan 2" has the objective to support the implementation of the JAES. This action may be implemented in direct management through procurement of services.
- (14) It is necessary to adopt a financing decision the detailed rules on which are set out in Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.⁵
- (15) It is necessary to adopt a work programme for grants the detailed rules on 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. The work programme is constituted by Annexes 1 (section 5.4.1), 2 (section 5.4.1), 3 (section 5.4.1), 5 (section 5.4.1), 6 (section 5.4.1), 7 (section 5.4.1), and 9 (section 5.4.1).
- (16) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities identified in 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, as regards UNFPA, the authorising officer responsible has ensured that this entity guarantees a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union equivalent to that required when the Commission manages Union funds. The African Union Commission is currently undergoing the assessment under Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. In anticipation of the results of this review, the authorising officer responsible deems that, based on the African Union Commission assessment under Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002, and on the long-standing cooperation with it, budget-implementation tasks can be entrusted to this entity.
- (17) 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.

⁵ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation 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).

- (18) 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.
- (19) Pursuant to Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, the Commission should define changes to this Decision which are not substantial in order to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer responsible.
- (20) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the committee set up in Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 233/2014.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The Annual Action Programme 2015 for the Pan-African Programme to be financed from the general budget of the European Union, as set out in the Annexes is approved.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- Annex 1: Enhancing African capacity to respond more effectively to transnational organised crime (TOC)
- Annex 2: Strengthening the African Human Rights System
- Annex 3: Enhancing civil society's role in Pan-African issues
- Annex 4: Contribution to the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) – Phase 2
- Annex 5: Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme
- Annex 6: Pan-African Support to the EuroGeoSurveys and the Organisation of the African Geological Surveys (EGS-OAGS) Partnership (PanAfGeo)
- Annex 7: European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS) in Africa Support Programme
- Annex 8: Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) and Africa Support Programme
- Annex 9: African Union Support Programme III
- Annex 10: Support Measures – Annual Action Plan 2

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the programme referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 146 350 000 and shall be financed for an amount of EUR 91 781 328 from budget line 21 02 09 of the general budget of the European Union for 2015 and for an amount of EUR 54 568 672 from budget line 21 02 09 of the general budget of the European Union for 2016 subject to the approval of the Budget 2016 by the Budget authority.

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

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget for 2016 after the adoption of the budget for that financial year or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

Article 3

Implementation modalities

Budget-implementation tasks under indirect management may be entrusted to the entities identified in the attached Annexes 4, 7 and 8, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreements.

The section “Implementation” of the Annexes to this Decision sets out the elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

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 10 000 000 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, 13.11.2015

For the Commission
Neven MIMICA
Member of the Commission