COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 11.8.2015

on the Annual Action Programme 2015
for Environment and Climate Change under the Global Public Goods and Challenges Thematic 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 action, and in particular Article 2 thereof,


Whereas:

(1) Regulation (EU) N° 233/2014 provides for Union assistance to be implemented through geographic programmes, thematic programmes and a Pan-African programme. Multiannual indicative programmes should provide a coherent framework for cooperation between the Union and the partner counties concerned.

(2) The Commission has adopted the multiannual indicative programme (MIP) for the thematic programme “Global Public Goods and Challenges” for the period 2014-2020 on behalf of the European Union. This sets out the following four priorities for environment and climate change: i) climate change adaptation and mitigation and support to the transition to climate resilient, low-carbon societies; ii) valuation, protection, enhancement and sustainable management of ecosystems; iii) transformation towards an inclusive green economy and mainstreaming of environmental sustainability, climate change and disaster risk reduction; and iv) international environmental and climate governance in respect of the above priority areas.

(3) The present annual action programme 2015 to be financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument addresses all four priorities of the MIP and proposes 25 actions supporting these priorities as indicated under Article 1 below.

(4) Support measures are foreseen under this Decision to cover expenditure associated with the preparation, follow up, monitoring, audit and evaluation activities directly necessary for the implementation of the programme and the achievement of its objectives.

1 OJ L 77 of 15 March 2014, p. 95
3 Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation, OJ L 77 of 15 March 2014, p. 44
objectives, including administrative support expenditure in EU delegations required to manage operations financed under this programme.

(5) 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.

(6) 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 the Annex 1, 2, 6, 7, 12, 16, 17, 19, 21.

(7) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities specified 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, the authorising officer responsible needs to ensure that these entities guarantee a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union equivalent to that required when the Commission manages Union funds. UNDP, UNEP and UNCDF are 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 entities’ positive assessment under Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 and on the long-standing and problem-free cooperation with them, budget-implementation tasks can be entrusted to these entities. The Commission should be allowed to entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the partner country identified in this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a financing agreement. The scope of the budget-implementation tasks entrusted, as well as the Commission’s ex ante and ex post controls, are laid down in the annexes of this Decision.

(8) 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. 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.

(9) It is necessary to define the term “non-substantial change” in the sense of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer by delegation, or under his or her responsibility, by sub-delegation (hereinafter referred to as the “responsible authorising officer”).

(10) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Development Cooperation Instrument Committee set up by Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 233/2014.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the programme

The Annual Action Programme 2015 for environment and climate change under the Global Public Goods and Challenges Thematic Programme, set out in the Annexes, is approved. The programme shall include the following actions:
– Annex 1: GCCA+ in Guinea Bissau: building resilience to climate change through enhanced institutional and mitigation capacities
– Annex 2: AMCC+ Madagascar : Renforcement des conditions et capacités d'adaptation durable au changement climatique
– Annex 3: GCCA+ in Bangladesh: Support for enhancing communities' resilience to climate change and related disasters
– Annex 4: Supporting Climate Change Adaptation for the Samoan Water Sector
– Annex 5: Global Climate Change Alliance - Suriname
– Annex 6: Global Partnership on Disaster Risk Financing Analytics (DRFA)
– Annex 7: Making cities sustainable and resilient: implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 at the local level
– Annex 9: Support to Climate Technology Transfer Services and Partnerships
– Annex 10: Support to Developing Countries on Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) on Climate Change
– Annex 11: Support to Developing Countries for innovative Climate Finance
– Annex 12: Improving global forest management through improved global forest information
– Annex 13: Non-State Actors Participation in Forest Governance, FLEGT and REDD+
– Annex 14: Contributing to preserving marine and coastal biodiversity in the Caribbean Sea basin
– Annex 15: Law Enforcement and Demand management of wildlife in Asia
– Annex 16: Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Area Management in ASEAN
– Annex 17: Support à la réforme du RAPAC
– Annex 18: Contribution to the Trust Fund "Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA)"
– Annex 19: The Nexus Dialogues (Phase I)
– Annex 20: NEPAD African Network of Centres of Excellence on Water Sciences and Technology (Phase II)
– Annex 21: Creating enabling policy conditions for the transformation towards an inclusive green economy
– Annex 22: Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
– Annex 23: Support to International Environmental Governance for Sustainable Development
– Annex 24: Climate Governance/Sub-delegated funds to DG CLIMA
Annex 25: Support measures

Article 2
Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the European Union authorised by this Decision for the implementation of the programme referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 171,241,720 and shall be financed from budget line 21 02 07 01 of the general budget of the European Union for 2015.

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 the attached Annexes, 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 responsible authorising officer 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 use of contingencies shall be taken into account in the ceiling set by this Article.

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

Done at Brussels, 11.8.2015

For the Commission
Neven MIMICA
Member of the Commission