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Decision of the Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of 24 March 2020, no. Min-BuZa.2020.5080-12, amending the decision of the Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of 29 March 2019, Min-BuZa.2019.3184-25, on setting policy rules and a ceiling for grants awarded under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Grants) Regulations 2006 (Amendment of grant ceilings under the SDG Results Facility Scheme: Access to renewable energy)

The Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation;
Having regard to Articles 6 and 7 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Grants) Decree (*Subsidiebesluit Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken*);
Having regard to Article 5.1 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Grants) Regulations 2006 (*Subsidieregeling Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken 2006*);

Decision:

ARTICLE I

The decision of the Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of 29 March 2019, Min-BuZa.2019.3184-25, on setting policy rules and a ceiling for grants awarded under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Grants) Regulations 2006 (SDG Results Facility Scheme: Access to renewable energy)¹ will be amended as follows:

A

Article 3 will read as follows:

Article 3

1. With regard to grants awarded under the SDG Results Facility Scheme: Access to renewable energy, ceilings of EUR 14,181,889 and EUR 8,318,111 will apply to applications as referred to in Article 2(1) and Article 2(2) respectively during the period from the entry into force of this decision up to and including 31 December 2024.

2. The funds available pursuant to the grant ceiling referred to in Paragraph 1 for applications as referred to in Article 2(1) have been allocated as follows between the following themes:

- a. Access to clean cooking solutions using renewable energy: EUR 10,305,259;
- b. Access to decentralised renewable electricity: EUR 3,876,630.

Any leftover amount of the funds available for applications aimed at either of these two themes will become available for applications relating to the other theme, insofar as these applications comply with the standards laid down in this decision.

3. The allocation of the funds available pursuant to the grant ceiling referred to in Paragraph 1 for applications referred to in Article 2(2) will be specified at the time of the application round referred to in Article 2(2) that will be announced at a later date.

B

In Chapter 7 of the Annex, '**Assessment and allocation of available funds**', the first paragraph of Section 7.3, '**Allocation of available funds**', will read as follows:

¹ Government Gazette 2019, no. 18610

There are two application rounds for grants under this Facility Scheme. The amount available in the first round is EUR 14,181,889, of which EUR 10,305,259 is available for the theme 'access to clean cooking solutions using renewable energy' and EUR 3,876,630 for the theme 'access to decentralised renewable electricity'. The amount available in the second round is EUR 8,318,111. The allocation of the budget between the two themes will be determined and announced at the time of the announcement of the application period for the second round.

ARTICLE II

This decision will enter into force on the day following the publication date of the Government Gazette in which it is published.

This decision and the explanatory notes will be published in the Government Gazette.

*The Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, on whose behalf,
K. van der Heijden, Director-General of International Cooperation*

EXPLANATORY NOTES

On 29 March 2019, the Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation adopted the decision on setting policy rules and a ceiling for grants awarded under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Grants) Regulations 2006 (SDG Results Facility Scheme: Access to renewable energy)². This decision provides for two application rounds in respect of grants awarded under the SDG Results Facility Scheme: Access to renewable energy. A total amount of EUR 11,250,000 has been made available for both application rounds, divided into EUR 5,625,000 in grants for the theme 'access to clean cooking solutions using renewable energy' and EUR 5,625,000 for the theme 'access to decentralised renewable electricity'.

Because of the high quality of the applications submitted during the first application round for the theme 'access to clean cooking solutions using renewable energy' and evolving insights into result-oriented funding and the impact of access to electricity, published during the Global Off-Grid Solar Forum in Nairobi (18-20 February 2020), the Minister has decided to award more result-oriented funding during the first tender round.

In order to facilitate this, the present decision seeks to increase the grant ceiling for the first application round. These funds will be utilised for the award of grants in respect of applications already submitted which are eligible for these grants pursuant to the policy rules for the SDG Results Facility Scheme: Access to renewable energy. The decision does not seek to open a new application round for grants under the SDG Results Facility Scheme: Access to renewable energy. For now, the budget for the additional funds is taken from the budget for the second application round. The latter budget may be topped up pursuant to the decision determining the second application round.

Notes on theme 'access to decentralised renewable electricity'

By now, there is enough experience in the off-grid electricity sector to suggest a wider applicability of result-oriented funding. In addition, the recent summary report entitled 'Why Off-Grid Matters' published by 60 Decibels in February 2020³ shows convincingly that the greatest impact of access to electricity can already be achieved by using 'no-frills models', solar lanterns.

*The Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, on whose behalf,
K. van der Heijden, Director-General of International Cooperation*

² Decision of the Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of 29 March 2019, Min-BuZa.2019.3184-25, on setting policy rules and a ceiling for grants awarded under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Grants) Regulations 2006 (SDG Results Facility Scheme: Access to renewable energy), Government Gazette 2019, no. 18610.

³ <https://60decibels.com/user/pages/energy-report/60%20Decibels%20-%20Why%20Off-Grid%20Energy%20Matters.pdf>