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Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments

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Preface

Each year since 1996, the University of Toronto G7 and G8 Research Group has produced annual compliance reports on the progress made by G7/8 members in meeting the priority commitments reached at their annual G8 summit. Since 2002, the G7 and G8 Research Group has also published an interim compliance report, timed to assess progress at the transition point between countries in the hosting rotation. Building on the interim compliance report, a final compliance report is issued just prior to the annual summit. These reports monitor and assess each member's compliance on a carefully chosen selection of priority commitments. Since 2008, the G20 Research Group has been issuing similar interim and final compliance reports for the G20 summits. Since 2009 the BRICS Research Group has been doing so for the annual BRICS summits too.

In addition, compliance reports are produced for issue-specific commitments for a selected period. These include a retroactive assessment of G7/8 compliance with climate change since 1975, as well as on Africa, finance, development, health and on conflict prevention in selected years. In addition, the G20 Research Group analyzed compliance with G20 development and employment commitments made at the Seoul Summit in November 2010. Other compliance projects include assessing commitments with the commitments made by CARICOM's Port of Spain Summit on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in 2007 and the United Nations High Level Meeting on NCDs in 2011.

The reports are offered to the general public, policy makers, scholars, researchers, civil society, the media, interested citizens and other stakeholders around the world in an effort to make the work of the G7, G8, G20, BRICS and other globally relevant international institutions more transparent and accessible. They are also conducted to provide systemic data to enable meaningful social science analysis of informal summit-level institutions. Reports are available on the G7 Information Centre website at www.g7.utoronto.ca, G20 Information Centre website at www.g20.utoronto.ca and the BRICS Information Centre at www.brics.utoronto.ca and the Global Health Diplomacy Program website at www.ghdp.utoronto.ca.

These websites also contain the world's most comprehensive and authoritative online collection of information and analyses on the G7/8, G20, BRICS and related institutions. The research groups assemble, verify and post documents from the meetings, leading up to and at each summit. They present official documentation of all past summits and ministerial meetings (in several languages), scholarly writings and policy analyses, research studies, data sets, fact sheets, scholarship, information and links to related websites.

The sponsoring research groups are global networks of scholars, students and professionals in the academic, research, media, business, government and nongovernmental communities, which follow the work of the G7/8, G20, BRICS and related institutions. Founded in 1987, 2008 and 2012 respectively, the research groups are coordinated from the University of Toronto through the International Relations Program and the John Graham Library based at the Munk School of Global Affairs in Trinity College. The G20 and BRICS Research Groups have partnerships with institutions in Moscow and Shanghai, and affiliates in major capitals and cities. The BRICS Research Group is jointly led with the National Research University Higher School of Economics in Russia.

For their contribution to the continuing compilation of this this coding manual, the authors thank Madeline Koch, Sarah Burton, Brittany Warren, Julia Kulik, Laura Sunderland and all those over the years who have completed compliance assessments.

John Kirton, Ella Kokotsis, Jenilee Guebert and Caroline Bracht
Toronto, March 2016

Chapter 1: Assessing Compliance

Every year since the G7 Lyon Summit in 1996, the University of Toronto's G7 and G8 Research Group has conducted compliance studies as an important part of the analysis it produces. The G20 Research Group and the BRICS Research Group have both continued this work. Why do we embark on this task every year? What is it we and the world derive from our efforts?

Each summit annually produces a series of written, public communiqués or declarations used at the summit that bind the leaders in many cases to hard commitments. Can the impact of these commitments be measured once the summit is over, the media have dispersed and the leaders have returned home? Are there limits to how much or how often the G7/8, G20 or BRICS can comply with their summit commitments, particularly given that they are autonomous, sovereign states whose leaders are driven by differing domestic and international demands?

It makes little sense for summit leaders to invest their time and resources, while potentially risking their political and personal reputations, to generate these agreements if they have no intention of complying with them once the summit is done. These compliance reports therefore allow for an assessment of how much credibility the leaders bring to the summit table, and whether the products of the summit (communiqués and declarations) deserve to be treated with any attention or seriousness at all.

The empirical findings on compliance therefore offer explanations to three important questions:

1. To what extent and under what conditions do members live up to the commitments, those are the collective decisions that the leaders reach or authorize at the summit?
2. How does the pattern of summit compliance vary over time by issue area, and by member?
3. What causes high and low compliance?

Determining how much compliance has happened, when, where and by which country, allows one to draw some important conclusions about the overall effectiveness of the summit process. But before patterns of summit compliance can be determined, it is necessary to define what is meant by a commitment, since commitments form the basis of the compliance assessments.

Chapter 2: Commitments

Identifying Commitments from the Summit Communiqué

Commitments are defined as a discrete, specific, politically binding publicly expressed, collectively agreed to statements of intent; a “promise” or “undertaking” by summit members that they will undertake future action to move toward, meet or adjust to meet an identified welfare target (Kokotsis 1999, see also Von Furstenberg and Daniels 1991, 1992a, 1992b). There are five key criteria contained in this definition: discreteness, specificity, politically binding, future orientation and wellness.

Discreteness

A commitment consists of a target (outcome, goal) or instrument (tool) or both.

Targets. First, commitments must be discrete, in that each specified target (or aim, goal, welfare outcome) represents a separate commitment, even if a single set of actions supports these multiple targets. A sequence of specified measures through which these targets are to be achieved, however, do not usually represent separate commitments. A single commitment is defined by the given target. For example, many statements in the summit’s documents specify both a policy instrument and a corresponding welfare target. For example, the following statement consists of two separate policy instruments and one welfare target.

“We pledge to reduce our dependence on imported energy (welfare target) through conservation (policy instrument #1) and the development of alternative energy sources (policy instrument #2).”

Target or Instrument. Some commitments do not have both a welfare target and corresponding policy instrument. Many welfare targets do not specify a policy instrument, and many policy instruments do not specify a welfare target. Quite often they are simply implied or inferred. For instance:

“We pledge not to increase our greenhouse gas emissions this year.”

For this target only commitment one can infer that the reason for making this commitment is to reduce or not increase global warming or improve the environment in some way without the instrument(s) being specified.

What is a welfare target in one instance may be an instrument in another and vice versa. For example, the G7/8 might commit to reducing greenhouse emissions (instrument) to tackle climate change (target). For example, in 1990, the following commitment was made: “Climate change is of key importance. We are committed to undertake common efforts to limit emissions of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide.” In another instance the G7/8 might commit to setting targets (instrument) to reduce greenhouse gases (target). For example, in 1998, the G8 made the following commitment: “we will each undertake domestically the steps necessary to reduce significantly greenhouse gas emissions.”

Instruments. In some cases, if more than one instrument is specified, even in regard to a single target, this may produce multiple commitments. The question the coder must ask him/herself when determining if two instruments references should be classified as one or two commitments is: “Would I use different criteria to determine compliance for the two instruments?” If the answer is yes, then they represent two separate commitments. If the answer is no, then they represent a single commitment. The statement below, for example, is split into three parts (e.g., “New Efforts in World Trade,” “New Efforts in Monetary Matters,” “New Efforts in Exploiting Raw Materials”), and therefore assessed as three commitments.

“We also concentrated on the need for new efforts in the areas of world trade, monetary matters and raw materials, including energy.”

Another example is the earlier one:

“We pledge to reduce our dependence on imported energy (welfare target) through conservation (policy instrument #1) and the development of alternative energy sources (policy instrument #2).”

This statement classifies two discrete commitments because it contains two measureable instruments, even though there is one shared welfare target.

Allowing separate commitments to emerge from multiple, distinct instruments reduces the difficulty of dealing with “compound statements” in the interpretive guidelines and scoring metric for compliance assessments (see below).

Note that if a compound target or instrument is presented with an “or” rather than an “and” is not a separate commitment, as only one or the other would qualify.

Specificity

Second, commitments must be sufficiently specific or precise in their instrument and/or outcome to be both identifiable and measurable. Outcomes such as “peace” or “prosperity” or “wellbeing” are usually too general to meet this standard. “Growth,” which is conventionally measured by gross domestic product, does.

Politically Binding

Third, a commitment must be politically binding on members. Actions need to include verbs that connote politically binding obligations to change members’ behaviour, even if this is merely a promise to continue past behaviour (which then constrains its ability to change). General statements of aspiration are excluded, while statements with specified parameters are included.

When assessing the summit’s communiqués and declarations, the following points are helpful in determining how to identify measurable politically binding commitments, although the context can be important in determining if a word or phrase constitutes a commitment or not:

<p><i>Commitment =</i> commit agree pledge promise seek reaffirm commitment remain determined are determined to continue to create will ought to/should insist on must renew look to intend to affirm our intention shall ourselves object</p>	<p><i>Sometimes =</i> encourage promote support endorse stand ready to</p>	<p><i>No Commitment =</i> welcome urge call on reflected upon discussed are aware look forward to emphasize recognize the importance we gave particular emphasis to united in determination should stand ready to need to address express confidence in</p>
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A statement that uses the term “pledge” or “commit” must be measurable, to satisfy the “measurability rule” above. It is not always necessary for a commitment to be numerically or quantitatively measurable (although quantitiveness is generally sufficient to ensure the “measurability test” under specificity or precision is satisfied). Non-quantitative statements such as the following should be classified as a commitment:

Many statements in the communiqué use the verb “should.”

“Our capacity to deal with short-term oil market problems *should* be improved, particularly through the holding of adequate levels of stocks.”

In real life, “should” does not always imply intent. When coding summit documents, however, it is generally safe to assume that should does imply a commitment to do what is specified, although perhaps not if it is presented in the passive tense. Hence, “should” statements are classified as commitments if they meet the other appropriate criteria.

One must take the context of the summit and the statement into consideration. For example,

“We recall our strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Libya” (G8 Deauville Summit 2011)

is a commitment because at the time of the 2011 Deauville Summit the leaders were elsewhere reaffirming their support for this initiative (G8 Deauville 2011). However, “recall” will not usually indicate a new commitment. It can be used to highlight a past, as opposed to future, actions and therefore does not fit into the commitment criteria.

Future Orientation

Fourth, commitments must be future-oriented, rather than represent endorsements of previous action. However, reaffirmations or pledges to continue an action are included, because they indicate a bound pattern for future action. They rest on an assumption that in the absence of summit reaffirmation or rearticulation each year, they would normally expire (or be taken less seriously and dwindle).¹ Excluded are actions or decisions that the summit members “welcome.”

While action by summit members is assumed to be required in the future, this does not need to be specified. Future action can be assumed by the tense used. Verbal instructions to international institutions, issued at the time of the summit could be included if there is an assumption that summit members will take action to move toward this result. There is also a specified actor target and welfare target. For example, a statement such as “The World Trade Organization should pay more attention to the environment” could be included if summit members have a predominant influence at the WTO, and because specified actor and welfare targets are indicated.

Excluded are statements that identify the agenda or priority of issues (“sustainable development is a critical concern,” “this conference is a landmark one”), or even descriptions that contain logical language or that set parameters (“debt relief helps promote democracy”). Such material is part of the direction-setting, not decision-making domain.

We-ness

Fifth, a commitment binds the institutions members themselves to act, rather than only someone else. It includes the international institutions the members control. It is expressed through such terms as “we will,” “we agree to,” or “the G7.”

¹ Multi-year commitments also require more time to monitor than the annual summit-to-summit timelines. However, they are not considered “new commitments” at each summit unless they are renewed or referenced by the leaders.

Summit communiqués often state that other international institutions or groups other than themselves should take a particular course of action. If it is understood to mean that the members will try to pressure for a course of action from within an institution they are part of, then this entails a commitment. If they are simply giving a suggestion to another country or institution which they do not control or have sufficient influence over, then it should not be coded as a commitment. For example, if the G7 states “NATO should,” the statement qualifies as a commitment because G7 members have predominant influence in determining what NATO does. Included too are the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, International Energy Agency and Financial Stability Board. However, because BRICS members do not have such influence given that none is a member, if it states that “NATO should,” it is a direction to an external uncontrolled institution (and is thus considered under a separate dimension of summit performance).

Who is “we”? (code as a commitment)	Who is not “we”? (do not code as a commitment)
<i>We should...</i>	<i>They should...</i>
The OECD should... (G7/G8/G20)	Other members of the OECD should...
NATO should... (G7/G8)	Africa should...
The World Bank/IMF should... (G7/G8/G20)	Developing Countries should...
The United Nations should... (variable)	All states should...

Example: This is a commitment:

“We strongly encourage closer cooperation between the IMF and World Bank.”

Example: This is not a commitment:

Trade plays a key role in development. We encourage the developing countries, especially the newly industrializing economies, to undertake increased commitments and obligations and a greater role in the GATT, commensurate with their importance in international trade and in the international adjustment process, as well as with their respective stages of development.

Note: If the communiqué specifies a carrot and/or stick controlled by the members (e.g., structural adjustment as a condition of debt-restructuring) with which they will influence other countries, then this is typically sufficient to justify a commitment. For example, “the industrialized economies will open up their markets as part of structural adjustment. Debt-relief will be provided on the basis of them doing so.”

Two or more consecutive sentences can be combined to assemble all four elements — discreteness, specificity, future orientation and obligation — required for a commitment if those sentences are tightly interlinked. For example in the G7 Leaders Statement on Ukraine on April 25, 2014, a commitment came from the following passage: “We underscore that the door remains upon to a diplomatic resolution of this crisis, on the basis of the Geneva Accord. We urge Russia to join us in committing to this path.”

Identifying Subset or Country-Specific Commitments

While summit commitments are collective, that can be so explicitly in varying degrees, in that some commitments explicitly apply to only some of the members.

4. *Specified Subsets.* These subsets can have the criteria and thus the identity specified, such as the “advanced countries” excluding Japan bound by the Toronto terms on deficits at debt at the G20 summit in Toronto in June 2010. At other times they are less specified, such as “some of us.” In between lies “those of use” who use of favour nuclear power.

5. *Single-Member Commitments.* Some commitments are specific to an individual member, usually when, as part of a large collective framework, each member's individual commitments listed by name to do a particular thing to contribute to the common goals (through "singing in harmony, not unison").
6. *Member Communiqué Inclusion Counts.* The number of times a member's name is included can be counted in the text of all of the commitments a summit makes.
7. *Member Initiative Commitments.* Which commitments resulted directly from and reflected the initiative a member took, or provided key support to at an early stage, or tried to veto but failed.

Categorizing Commitments

Commitments can be assessed in several ways, for each summit and the institution, to assess its decisional performance overall:

- Number of commitments
- Breadth of commitments (by domain of economics, social, security, and issue area)
- Ambition-significance
- Money mandated
- Iteration-innovation

Commitments can thus be categorized in ways other than by the number of the members and others to which they apply. The most useful ways are as follows:

1. *Breadth by Issue Area,* using the definitions employed for the communiqué conclusions, including a focus/diffusion score
2. *Money Mobilized,* as summits are also seen as great global fundraisers, when the leaders collectively and competitively pledge new or newly re-authorized money for specific purposes abroad or at home. The definition of money mobilized appears below under compliance catalysts.
3. *International Legalization.* Some commitments explicitly bind the member to:
 - a) adhere to;
 - b) revise; or
 - c) create international law.Here the commitment must explicitly refer to a precise international law that exists or is envisaged. This is different than subsequent action regarding international law that counts as compliance with a commitment that does not bind members to this particular instrument of implementation. All such commitments contain an international law compliance catalysts, but such a catalysts can also come from a general, rather than specific reference to international law.
4. *Domestic Legalization.* Some commitments explicitly bind the member to:
 - a) adhere to;
 - b) revise; or
 - c) create domestic law, in all or some of the member states or those outside.Here the commitment must explicitly refer to a precise domestic law that exists or is envisaged. There may be grounds for adding a compliance catalyst dealing specifically with domestic law.

See commitment catalysts below.

Ambition and Significance

There can be numerous commitments, often hundreds, in the communiqués released in the leaders' names at each summit. Because of this, it is useful to assess each according to ambition and significance, although doing so systematically can be very time consuming. The following considerations provide a framework:

1. *Ambition:* How far-reaching is the commitment as a change from the current status quo?

2. *Timeliness*: Does the commitment address key current issues, especially those that require a rapid response?
3. *Clarity*: Is the commitment easily identifiable and measurable, especially with high levels of precision, especially a target and timetable, expressed quantitatively, with a large target and short timetable. For example, the 2015 G7 Elmau Summit commitment to decolonize by century's end had a very big target but a very long timetable as well (Abbott et al. 2000)?
4. *Obligation*: The degree of binding or obligatory nature of the commitment in a political rather than a legal sense (Abbott et al. 2000).

While the sheer number of commitments can give a useful indication of how productive a Summit was on reaching agreement (creating co-operation), it is important to know how ambitious these commitments were, both individually and overall. Work thus far on commitments tends not to deal with the degree of ambition of the commitments, treating instead each individual commitment as being of equal importance (Kokotsis 1999, Kokotsis and Daniels 1999, Juricevic 2000). To make the analytic advance to assessing the ambition of each commitment, it is important to develop a scale of level of ambition by which each individual commitment can be scored. The following are some proposed criteria that might be incorporated into such a scale.

1. No backsliding versus new forward movement
2. Targets as well as instruments are included
3. Includes both a target and a timetable i.e. most ambitious
4. Using existing international institutions versus creating new ones
5. Relating to a new agenda or principle rather than an old agenda or principle.
6. An emphasis on outcomes, rather than instruments, as measure by their initial order and numbers in the commitment text.

Instrument/Outcome Balance

A simple, easy way to assess the ambition of the commitment is through the instrument/outcome balance. A commitment is judged to be increasingly ambitious if it contains:

1. An **instrument only**, defined as a measure under the member government's direct control, i.e., the first order compliance of Kokotsis 1999 and Von Furstenberg and Daniels before, e.g., new budget, program, personnel assigned). In this case a government is bound to do something under its direct control but not bound to do (enough of it or other things) to reach a specified goal.
2. An **outcome only**, identifying the (welfare) outcome sought that lies beyond the member government's direct control (e.g., reducing inflation, raising growth by 2% above trend), i.e., the welfare outcome of Von Furstenberg and Daniels. Such commitments tell the government the goal but not how to reach it, giving it the freedom to do so as it pleases and allowing each member to do it differently, according the national circumstances. Reaching the goal will depend on the behaviour of outside actors, who may be inspired by the collective commitment itself or the members' behaviour, even though they are not controlled by it.
3. An **instrument and outcome**, obliging the member to use a specified instrument to reach a specified outcome. The member is thus double bound.

Commitments may take the form of an extended causal chain, saying we will do this, in order to do that, in order to do or get something else etc. This does not automatically mean that both instrument and outcome is included. For example, if they commit to raising growth 2% above trend in order to create more jobs and bring democracy and peace, the causal chain consists entirely of outcome i.e., things not under the member government direct control. The key test of the difference between instrument and outcome is the direct control of the committing government. If G20 members commit to increasing contributions to the FSB so that it can engage in accountability reviews, because the FSB as an international organization is directly controlled by G20 members, it is still an instrument.

A more complex calculation is the added total or ratio of specified instrument (by number) to specified outcomes (by number). However the trend in recent years toward disaggregating commitments into discrete, one-only instrument/outcome may make this an unreliable measure.

Iteration/Innovation

One dimension of a commitment is its iteration, referring to how often and how long it has been repeated in the past or will be in the future. The second and opposite category is “innovation” defined as a commitment that is new and appears for the first time. Each summit’s commitments can be coded for the balance between iterated and innovative one. It can be seen if the iterated or the innovative ones are complied with more.

Several scholars, notably Nicholas Bayne, suggest that the summit succeeds, including on compliance, through iteration, because leaders stick with commitments on difficult problems that will take longer than one year to solve and implement.

Iteration can be either:

- a) *Issue/Subject Specific*: Is a commitment’s subject (e.g., forests) repeated in similar or identical fashion in a commitment [or principle or conclusion] from a previous or subsequent year, or
- b) *General*: Is the broader issue area in which a commitment’s subject resides (e.g., climate change”) repeated in a similar or identical commitment [or principle or conclusion] in a previous or subsequent year)?

Iteration, which can be used as a cause of compliance, can be measured at both the specific and general level as follows:

- Was there a commitment on the same subject/issue area the previous year?
- How many such commitments were there the previous year
- How many previous years, continuously or since the summit’s start, were there such commitments?
- How many of the previous five years had such a commitment?
- What is the total number of such commitments from the time period used.

Assessing Compliance Catalysts

For analytical purposes, it is also useful to assess each commitment for the number and type of compliance catalysts they contain. Compliance catalysts are words, phrases or factors that are embedded in and guide a commitment. They provide instruction on how to implement, proceed or comply with the commitment. As of February 28, 2011, more than 20 such “compliance catalysts” have been identified. There are a number of different compliance catalysts that can appear within a commitment, and at times, more than one catalyst will appear (Kirton 2006, Kirton et al. 2007).

Definitions of Catalysts

Total Catalysts: The total number of compliance catalysts in the said commitment.

- Inclusions
- Exclusions
- Example(s)

Priority Placement: A commitment is highlighted in the preamble or is stated in the chair’s summary is given a priority placement. Leaders may issue several collective documents only one of which might be an overall summary or statement of purpose; this document becomes the equivalent of the preamble in a single document.

- Inclusions
- Exclusions
- Example(s)

Past Reference to Summit: This refers to commitments that mention past summits of the same PSI. They are considered iterations.

- Inclusions
- Exclusions: Muskoka Initiative
- Example(s): ...just like at the G8 Evian Summit, we stress... (from a more recent summit)

Past Reference to Ministerial: This refers to commitments that mention past ministerial meetings. See above catalyst.

- Inclusions
- Exclusions
- Example(s)

Targets: A commitment refers to a set goal, percentage or numerical allocation is considered a target. It does not include time targets, which are considered time tables. It does include statements to fully implement a defined initiative because “fully” can be translated as 100%.

- Inclusions: a commitment to “full implementation” of a specific initiative
- Exclusions: It does not include time targets, such as 2020 or “next year,” which are considered “timetables.” Also it does not include a target to achieve something generally, “we will develop more efficient and lower-emitting vehicles.” “All human rights” as that number is unknown.
- Example(s): “we will reduce,” “we will cut in half” or “we will increase by 75%.” “We are committed to fully implementing the HIPC initiative” (the HIPC Initiative can be translated into a quantitative expression of what is required, as in the dollar amount of debt to be relieved).

Time Tables — One Year or Less: When a commitment refers to a time target, it is considered to include a time table. This can be short term (one year or less) or long term (more than one year). Some may include both short- and long-term break downs.

- Inclusions: phrases such as “within a year,” “by the next summit,” “by 2015” and specific dates. It also includes references to words and phrases such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which include well-known time targets.
- Exclusions
- Example(s)

Time Tables — Multi-year: When a commitment refers to a time target, it is considered to include a time table. A long-term timetable is more than one year. Some may include “by the next summit,” “by 2015” and specific dates. It also includes references to words and phrases such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which include well-known time targets.

- Inclusions
- Exclusions
- Example(s)

Self-monitoring: These refer to commitments where the institution in question pledges to monitor their actions on the said commitment. They could pledge to “monitor,” or provide a report, to follow up on said promises.

- Inclusions: self-accountability mechanisms

- Exclusions: surveillance, collection of data on a specific issue
- Example(s)

Remit Mandates: These include commitments that refer to future assessment by leaders of progress made on a commitment, most often at a future summit.

- Inclusions
- Exclusions
- Example(s): “We will review progress on our action plan at our next summit.”

Money Mobilized: When a commitment refers to funds or a set dollar value it is considered money mobilized. This definition has been consistently followed since the start in the *Open Economies Review* article in 2006 as checked and confirmed by John Kirton, Caroline Bracht and Julia Kulik on October 18, 2013. It is also money mobilized when there is a commitment for the G7/G20 to “increase financial support” to a specific issue.

- Inclusions: commitments to replenish funds and provide monetary aid.
- Exclusions: references to debt relief and debt cancellation unless they specify a dollar amount to be provided to meet a shortfall as in G8 commitment 2002-90: a G7/8 direction to another international institution to devote more of its money to a specific cause e.g. 2007-229 the Global Fund to HIV/AIDS.
- Example(s)

Specified Agents: A commitment that refers to a specific agent through which it will work or work with is considered to involve an agent. Even if the agent is not capitalized but the text describes a known particular body, it is included as a specific agent. Also if the commitment generally refers to an agent to implement a specific action, such as G8 2000-65: “We are also committed to strengthen international cooperation to: Examine, by means of an international conference hosted by the UK, the global economy of illegal drugs.” Another example of an agent through which progress will be made is an initiative, for example the HIPC Initiative.

- Inclusions: Muskoka Initiative
- Exclusions: general references to agencies, such as the private sector, civil society or international institutions: “Convention” is an international law catalyst e.g. G8 1998-52
- Example(s): with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis or Malaria or with the International Fund for Agriculture and Development, HIPC Initiative: G8 2007-29 Global Fund is specialized agent, 1996-72 Beijing Conference.

Institutional Body: a commitment that refers to an institution that was created by the summit level body to deal with the particular issue area.

- Inclusions: bodies that are referred to in commitments that are created at the summit in question.
- Exclusions
- Example(s): the G8-created Gleneagles dialogue on climate change or the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria would be two examples of G8 institutional bodies.

Core International Organization: when a commitment refers to a separate international organization (as an organization) that has a particular focus on the issue in the commitment at hand. When the organization is mentioned by name in relation to implementing an initiative under their control.

- Inclusions
- Exclusions: references to an international organization when they are NOT institutional references. For example, a reference to WTO inconsistent measures is not a reference to an IO. It is a

reference to international law. References to regional or other international organizations are not core international organizations. They are considered other international organizations or regional organizations. See below. Excluded are references to a conference mounted by an international organization, especially when the institution that mounted the conference is not noted by name as in Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development as in G8 2002-10. Thus excluded is a reference in G8 2011-52 to the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference in 2009 as a reference to a core IO for a climate commitment, as the reference is only to the conference and not to the Core IO itself (JK 150827).

- Example(s): in the area of health, this would include the World Health Organization (WHO); in development, it would include the World Bank; in trade it would refer to the World Trade Organization.

Other International Organization: when a commitment refers to a separate international organization (as an organization) that is *not* the core international organization for the issue in the commitment at hand.

- Inclusions
- Exclusions: general references to institutions such as financial institutions
- Example(s): if the commitment is in the area of health, an “other international organization” would include the references to the World Bank, International Monetary Fund or Financial Stability Board.

Regional Organization: When a commitment refers to a regional organization.

- Inclusions
- Exclusions: It does not include regional organizations in the general sense, e.g., G8 2002-51, Supporting regional organizations in developing tools to facilitate peer-review processes.
- Example(s): such as the African Union, NEPAD or the European Union.

International Law: International law includes both general references to international law and references to specific legal instruments (Kyoto, for example). Codified law, and customary law, are included.

- Inclusions: calls for the implementation or development of specific international legal instruments, e.g. Conventions per G8 1998-52
- Exclusions
- Example(s): charters, conventions, treaties, protocols, declarations, agreements, frameworks, guidelines, internationally recognized principles or standards.

Ministers: Commitment refers to a group of ministers.

- Inclusions
- Exclusions
- Example(s): “we ask our energy ministers to”

International Organization Accountability Request: Refers to commitments that ask international organizations to monitor the groups’ compliance with the commitment.

- Inclusions
- Exclusions: international organizational surveillance
- Example(s): “we ask the WTO to monitor our compliance with this commitment.”

Civil Society: Commitments that make general reference to working with civil society.

- Inclusions: nongovernmental organizations and academia
- Exclusions: private sector
- Example(s)

Private Sector: Commitments that make general reference to working with the private sector, public-private partnerships, business (including the pharmaceutical industry) or other for profit actors.

- Inclusions
- Exclusions: references to markets
- Example(s)

Country or Regional Specification: Commitments that make references to working with or in a particular country or region, such as Africa.

- Inclusions: supporting regional, or country-specific initiatives, e.g., African Peer Review Mechanism
- Exclusions: broad references to developed or developing countries, references to classes of countries example, countries in conflict or heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC)
- Example(s)

Surveillance: The commitment requests for the action or issue to be monitored in order to collect data

- Inclusions
- Exclusions: self-monitoring
- Example(s)

International Organization Surveillance: the commitment requests a specific international organization to monitor the issue, not the implementation of the commitment but to provide data collection in a specific area

- Inclusions: Monitor the issue
- Exclusions: International Organization Accountability Ask, principles, actions
- Example(s)

Measuring Compliance

Compliance catalysts are coded as either a 0 or a 1. They are either present or they are not. If they are in the commitment repeated times, there are still coded as 1 (i.e., present), not multiple times.

Catalysts should be coded with the broader context of the commitment in mind; therefore, the coder needs to read the commitment in its broader context, which may include the surrounding sentences, paragraphs or documents. A catalyst that applies to a particular commitment may lay outside of the specific commitment text.

Chapter 3: Priority Commitments for Compliance Assessments

Priority commitments are commitments that are determined a priority in the sense that they together best capture what the summit as a whole did on the decision-making dimension of its global governance. They are therefore measured for compliance during the subsequent year. Due to the vast number of commitments that appear in a communiqué, it is impossible to measure every commitment for compliance. Therefore, it is important to be able to choose commitments that best capture the essence of the summit communiqué and do so in a reasonably representative way. The G7 and 8 Research Group, G20 Research Group and BRICS Research Group determine how many commitments it will be able to measure for the upcoming year (based on the number individuals available as compliance assessors, access to reliable information and other available resources). Once this number has been determined, a number of interested parties, including the appropriate research group's executive, student executive and compliance chairs and their colleagues at partner institutions, select and rank commitments which they believe are a priority from the standpoint of their particular purposes for the year's summit overall. Other parties such as nongovernmental organizations might be invited to participate.

The following provides guidelines for how to choose priority commitments on a primary, secondary and tertiary basis. Other considerations may also be applied, especially in relation to civil society and government groups who may tend to choose commitments that reflect their own interests. These guidelines cover both the composite set of priority commitments selected and the individual commitments that make them up.

Choosing Priority Commitments

Primary Selection Criteria

Priority commitments should be chosen in terms of their importance in the summit, the G7/G8/G20/BRICS and the world at large. At least two commitments should be chosen from each of the priority themes of the summit being assessed. Priority commitments should, collectively, be comprehensive. They should come from the economic, global and political-security domains. At least one should come from each part of the traditional, built-in agenda (i.e., finance, macroeconomics, microeconomics, trade, development, environment/climate change, energy, crime and drugs, terrorism, arms control and proliferation, regional security, international institutional reform). There should be balance amongst the priority commitments. Priority commitments should be selected from each of the separate documents issued at the summit (that contain commitments). The number of priority commitments selected from each document should roughly reflect the percentage of overall commitments from that document at the summit as a whole. For example, if 20% of the commitments come from the growth and development document, then approximately 20% of the priority commitments should come from that same document. Priority commitments should include those that reflect current crises as well as preventive measures and long-term change. Priority commitments should include commitments that affect the members, non-members and the world as a whole. For the G7/8 at least one priority commitment should reflect domestic intrusiveness within distant countries such as Kosovo, Sudan, Zimbabwe or Iran. There should be a range of levels reflected amongst the priority commitments of analysis from individual country action to the structure of global governance as a whole. They should take into account the preparatory process of the summit. They should take into account past commitments, so that comparisons and extended compliance can be monitored (see Appendix J). They should also consider the priority themes for next year's summit, when they have already been announced by the host for that year. They should take into consideration current scientific research, such as compliance catalysts mentioned in the previous section.

Secondary Selection Criteria

Secondary selection criteria are to be taken into consideration only after primary selection criteria have been applied.

G20 commitments should be chosen that apply to various subsets of countries within the group. For example, commitments that apply to advanced, emerging and surplus economies should all be considered, so that compliance comparisons can be made and studied.

Individual as well as collective compliance should be considered. The ability to commit fully to the commitment within a year can and should be considered to simplify the compliance analysis. Availability of reliable information can be considered as it assists in the accuracy of the compliance report. Commitments should be selected for which interpretive guidelines already exist or can be constructed easily.

Tertiary Selection Criteria

Once primary and secondary selection criteria have been applied for primary commitment selection, tertiary selection criteria may also be applied. These include:

- significance as identified by scientific teams in the host country,
- significance as identified by experts in the host country, and
- significance as identified by relevant ministries and research group team members in the host country.

Chapter 4: Summit Compliance with Commitments

Given the definition of a commitment, what constitutes summit compliance?

The Concept of Compliance (Implementation, Inferred Causality)

First-Order Compliance

First order compliance is national government action geared towards the domestic implementation of the necessary formal legislative and administrative regulations designed to execute summit commitments. National governments alter their own behaviour and that of their societies and outsiders, in order to reach summit-specified welfare targets. If the compliant action is not taken at the Federal level but at the state or provincial level it still counts towards compliance. This is based on the rationale that federal governments should not make commitments unless they have the support from their states/provinces.

Compliance requires conscious new or altered effort by national governments in the post-summit period. Summit members must actively and consciously endeavour to implement the provisions contained in communiqués. Should a government arrive at fulfilling one of its summit commitments by chance, this does not constitute compliance.

Compliance is measured according to governmental actions designed to modify existing instruments within the executive branch to accommodate the commitments reached. Compliance therefore requires new or altered efforts by national governments where leaders very actively and consciously plan to implement their summit commitments. These actions need to be deliberate. A commitment can be said to have been fully complied with if a member succeeds in achieving the specific goal set out in the commitment. However, there can still be varying degrees of compliance in the absence of a complete fulfillment of the commitment. Compliance is therefore assessed according to the following criteria.

Official Reaffirmation

Reaffirmation of a summit commitment is made by individuals working in an official capacity. This may occur either at the national or international context. The government demonstrates its intention to fulfill a commitment by stating its plans to include the commitment in the national agenda. By publicly referring to a commitment, through internal policy debates, speeches or press releases, a leader legitimizes the commitment. Such evidence of remembrance indicates that officials are still mindful of the commitment. A reaffirmation of a commitment represents moral suasion to inside and outside officials as well as the public.

Internal Bureaucratic Review and Representation

The earlier remembrance and reaffirmation of the commitment are then backed by review — a systematic monitoring mechanism that includes processes such as public consultation. A national government internally reviews the commitment through a formal policy review or the formation of a task force or working group. Personnel are assigned to these tasks and are given new negotiating mandates. These persons are charged with studying and implementing the commitment. Any new diplomatic initiatives required to reach the welfare target are launched.

Budgetary and Resource Allocations Made or Changed

A national government allocates, or diverts from another use, a notable sum of its own money for the purpose of achieving the commitment. Further alterations are made with regard to the distribution of money and other resources to international organizations from the national government.

New or Altered Programs, Legislation and Regulations

Broader changes are made in fiscal and monetary policy, to the extent that governments control the latter. International negotiating positions are changed. Programs, necessary for the implementation of the commitment are introduced or altered. Recommendations are made for increased research and development projects.

Over-implementation

Over-implementation occurs when a member surpasses the established welfare target. This may be desirable if over-implementation compensates for the failures of other members (for example, one country decreasing its carbon dioxide emissions by 10% instead of 5% as outlined in the communiqué will benefit others). However, over-implementation is not always advantageous as it can produce a runaway syndrome.

Lack of Evidence

There are instances when due to a lack of information the compliance analyst cannot conclude whether the member was in full, partial or negative compliance with the commitment. A lack of evidence happens when all options for research have been exhausted and no relevant information to support or reject compliance has been found. In this case, in place of the country specific analysis the research analyst should report all of the sources where they searched for information. This conveys to the reader that all sources were exhausted and still no evidence was found. In this case, the lack of evidence results in a score of negative compliance (-1).

Although most communiqués contain several commitments across a wide range of issues, in order to make the compliance studies more manageable, the reports are limited to one (or, at the most, two) “core” commitments for each of the selected issue areas. Core commitments are determined according to three criteria:

1. ambition — how far-reaching is the commitment?
2. timeliness — does the commitment address current or “hot” issues?
3. clarity — is the commitment easily identifiable and measurable?

Other Order Compliance

In addition to first order compliance, which consists of actions that members take to comply with their commitments, there are several other orders of compliance.

- Second-order compliance is spontaneous compliant behaviour that comes from non-governmental actors in response to a commitment that G7/G8/G20/BRICS leaders have made.
- Third-order compliance is the way the compliant behaviour by both helps or harms the intendand of the results or the outcomes that leaders intend and value.
- Fourth-order compliance is the way in which compliant behaviour with one commitment synergistically supports, rather than contradicts, compromises or cancels, compliance with commitments in closely related or other fields. For example, does compliance with all 22 development commitments made at the G20 Seoul Summit help or harm intended and desired outcomes on employment and synergistically help or harm compliance with the commitments directly related to employment in the communiqué (Kirton, Bracht and Rasmussen 2012).

Chapter 5: Compliance Measurement

How do we measure compliance? The compliance studies build on the methodology first developed by George von Furstenberg and Joseph Daniels in *The Meaning and Reliability of Economic Summit Undertakings, 1975–1989* and essentially follow a three-level measurement process:

1. Full or nearly full compliance with a commitment is assigned a score of +1.
2. A score of -1 indicates complete or nearly complete failure to implement a commitment.
3. An “inability to commit” or a “work in progress” is given a score of 0.

An “inability to commit” refers to factors outside of the executive branch that impede implementation. A “work in progress” refers to an initiative that has been launched by a government but has not yet been completed by the time of the next summit, and whose results therefore cannot be judged.

Time Frame

Commitments are assessed from the conclusion of one summit to the beginning of the next — this timeframe usually amounts to approximately one year. Why? Because commitments in the leaders’ documents are made on an annual basis, so the span of approximately one full year is used to assess whether compliance has in fact occurred. Some commitments may be reiterated — which means they were made at previous Summits but have not yet been completed because one year did not allow enough time for their implementation. If the leaders reiterate their commitments, they are still counted as distinct commitments and hence measured.

G20 commitments are assessed from the conclusion of one summit to the beginning of the next. In the second and third years of the G20 summit, the leaders met twice a year. Since 2011, they have met once a year, sometimes more than 12 months apart. The frequency summits has varied due to the global financial crisis and the increased necessity of cooperation.

G20 communiqués outline specific as well as general timeframes for implementation. Generally speaking, the assessment is based on a summit to summit timeframe. To reiterate, if there is no specific reference made to a past/future date, it should be interpreted as to mean since the last/at the next summit. In certain instance the G20 has identified specific timeframes of short term, medium term and long term. Each is defined as follows: short term is measured from summit to summit; medium term is from the summit cycle until five years; and long term is any commitment with a delivery date of over five years. As with the G8, some commitments may be reiterated. If the leaders reiterate their commitments, those commitments are still counted as distinct and hence measured.

Currency

When reporting currency, if it is not outlined in the guidelines it should be in constant US dollars for the most recent year.

Scoring

Compliance is measured on a three-point scale, where each member is awarded a -1, 0 or +1 for each commitment. Thus when average scores for each commitment and member are being calculated, they can range between -1 and +1.²

The following is an example of how compliance should be reported for an individual commitment:

	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Canada			+1

² Scores should be reported in decimal form. They are sometimes converted to percentages for public release.

France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy	-1		
Japan			+1
Russia		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.67	

Scores as Percentages

Because the -1 to +1 scale is not familiar to many, it can be helpful to translate this scale into a percentage. This can be done by adding +1 to any score, dividing it by 2 and multiplying it by 100.

Example 1: The score of +0.67 equals 83.5%
 $0.67 + 1.00 = 1.67 \div 2.00 = 0.835 \times 100 = 83.5\%$

Score	Percentage
-1.00	0%
-0.50	25%
0	50%
+0.50	75%
+1.00	100%

Example 2: The score of -0.33 equals 33.5%
 $-0.33 + 1.00 = 0.67 \div 2.00 = 0.335 \times 100 = 33.5\%$

General Interpretive Guidelines for Measuring Compliance

Interpretive guidelines help individuals score commitments for compliance. While commitments change on a year-to-year basis, there are several general categories that commitments tend to fit within that can help determine how to score commitments. Other times, common concerns and questions arise in regards to the commitments, and these should also fit within the interpretive guidelines and categories. Such categories include the ones described below.

Instruments-Outcomes: A commitment may contain an instrument, an intended outcome/goal/target or both (recognizing that in recent years, commitments have been disaggregated to reduce the number of instruments and outcomes contained in a single commitment).

Order: For those commitments containing both an instrument and outcome, greater weight should be placed on which comes first (e.g., we will do X to get A versus we will get B by doing Y, Z).

Linkage: When a commitment contains several instruments and/or commitments it is important how they are linguistically linked. If it is by an “and” each component is in general equally weighted. If it is by “including” generally give greater weight to the specified inclusions although allow some for the general category if it is measureable. Try to equally weight the specified conclusions. It may not be necessary that each be fully achieved by a member to get a +1 score, but specify how much of how many qualify and justify your choice.

Specificity: The more specific and element, the greater weight it should be given, especially when an outcome contains a target and/or timetable especially in quantitative form.

Multiyear Financial Commitments

Multiyear financial commitments are commitments that declare they are going to give a set amount of money over a set number of years. There have been a number of these commitments that have been measured for compliance in the past. In 2006, a commitment on the Global Partnership and Non-proliferation serves as one example: “We remain committed to our pledges in Kananaskis to raise up to \$20 billion through 2012 for the Global Partnership, initially in Russia, to support projects to address priority areas identified in Kananaskis and to continue to turn these pledges into concrete actions.” Another example comes from the 2005 priority commitments: “Supporting the Polio Eradication Initiative for the post eradication period in 2006-8 through continuing or increasing our own contributions toward the \$829 million target and mobilizing the support of others.”

In these instances, formulas should be established based on initial commitments that measure how much money should be given by each actor. These should first and foremost be based on what it actually says in the commitment. If different countries commit different amounts of money, or if the commitment states that funds will be based on country GDP, this is what should be measured. However, this formula should not be applied if it is not explicitly stated in the text of the commitment. In particular, assessments of funding should take into account a government’s previous pledges with regards to the specific topic. This is important when various funding formulas are possible, such as lump-sum funding versus annual disbursements. The author of the Interpretive Guidelines should ascertain which funding structures have been declared permissible by the recipients/brokers of the funds in question.

A simple linear model should not be used to evaluate multi-year financial commitments. First, such a model is contrary to the geometric progression of many budget allocations (i.e. many governments plan on year-on-year percentage increases rather than set increases in the absolute value of their disbursements). Secondly, linear models understate the nominal commitments made by governments. In inflationary environments, governments will have to provide increasingly large nominal disbursements in order to ensure that the same quantity of resources is targeted at a specific issue or problem. As such, it is preferable to have a geometric progression of the increases in resources committed to a specific issue area. This geometric progression should take into account inflationary trends if these are problematic (e.g., inflation of 5% or more per year). For example, if G8 countries promise to double official development assistance (ODA) over six years, the ideal progression of increases should not be assumed to be 18% of the initial year for each of the six years. Rather, the ideal progression should be assumed to be 12.5% year on year in the ODA budget, controlling for inflation. In other words, the current year’s ODA budget should be deflated to last year’s price level and a +1 award only if the increase from last year’s budget is approximately 12.5% or higher. This allows for analysts to consider a country’s actions on two levels: progress towards the stated goal since the commitment was first made; and changes in progress from one year to the next. A +1 may therefore also be awarded if the year-on-year increase is considerably smaller than 12.5% but previous increases in ODA budgets have been far greater than expected.

The following is an illustration of the various funding mechanisms that might be employed in the fulfillment of a multiyear financial commitment. The hypothetical situation is one in which a funding initiative with a baseline value of \$1 billion is to be doubled over six years.

Year	Even Yearly Payments	Geometric Progression	Random Progression	Lump-Sum
0	\$1 billion	\$1 billion	\$1 billion	\$1 billion
1	\$1.17 billion	\$1.12 billion	\$1.4 billion	\$2 billion
2	\$1.34 billion	\$1.26 billion	\$1.4 billion	\$2 billion
3	\$1.5 billion	\$1.41 billion	\$1.5 billion	\$2 billion
4	\$1.67 billion	\$1.59 billion	\$1.65 billion	\$2 billion
5	\$1.84 billion	\$1.78 billion	\$1.8 billion	\$2 billion
6	\$2 billion	\$2 billion	\$2 billion	\$2 billion

The crux of evaluation, therefore, is to determine if progress has been made toward the ultimate goal and if it is still feasible for the given country to achieve that goal. These two criteria can be met under any one of the four funding schemes shown above.

Multiyear “Other” Commitments

Multiyear “other” commitments are commitments that declare they are going to accomplish a non-monetary goal over a set number of years. There have been a number of these commitments that have been measured for compliance in the past. In 2000 one such commitment read as follows: “We therefore commit ourselves in working in strengthened partnership with governments, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international organizations and other relevant actors in civil society to deliver three critical UN targets:

- a) reduce the number of HIV/AIDS-infected young people by 25% by 2010;
- b) reduce tuberculosis deaths and prevalence of the disease by 50% by 2010;
- c) reduce the burden of disease associated with malaria by 2010.

In these instances, formulas should be established based on initial commitments that measure how much should be done by each actor. These should first and foremost be based on what it actually says in the commitment. If different countries commit different levels of involvement, or if the commitment states that actions will be taken through an allocated organization, this is what should be measured. Next, a simple model which assumes equal distribution of action over the set length of the commitment should be established. If an actor fails to commit to the previously promised action(s) or it fails to commit in any new way and is behind the minimum formula, it will receive a score of -1. If a country takes new actions and is behind on the minimum funding formula it will receive a 0. If an actor commits in new ways and/or is ahead or on track with the formula it will receive a score or +1. It should be noted that in multi-year “other” commitment cases, funding may be an indicator of compliance, but does not necessary need to be, if the commitment itself does not specify funds as part of the action.

Double Counting

Over the years, concerns have arisen over double counting. Double counting refers to actors who consider a single contribution as fulfillment of more than one commitment. Most recently this concern refers to ODA and debt relief. It should first be noted that at the Gleneagles Summit in 2005 when such initiatives took form, it was outright established that ODA and debt relief were to be considered separately. And it can be assumed that because the commitments are referred to separately in the communiqués, they are indeed meant to be committed to individually. For instance, in the 2007 Heiligendamm document, commitments for debt relief and ODA were both identified, and there were done so separately (Commitment 143 stating: “These include the historic multilateral debt relief of up to US\$60 billion, the implementation of which is now well underway. Commitment 144 stating: “They also include increasing, compared to 2004, with other donors, ODA to Africa by US\$25 billion a year by 2010”). Therefore, funding allocation must be specified to each area by each actor to be considered compliance in both areas. Any indication by an actor that one donation should

be considered to fulfill more than one commitment is not the case, and should be considered for only one commitment. For more information see the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development at <http://www.oecd.org/dac>.

Burden Sharing

Actors are to be held responsible according to their relative capability at the time of the summit. Although relative capability may change from the time of the summit to when commitments are measured for compliance, commitments are made with the understanding that certain situations and crises may arise in the future that cause changes in the respective countries/areas. Governing officials are aware of this possibility, and therefore no excuse(s) should be interpreted, justified or accepted for not complying with a commitment, and no adjustments should be made to compensate for changes in capability (in regards to an actors level of allocation, whether it be funding or otherwise).

The relative weight of individual countries' contributions should not be determined based on purchasing power parity (PPP) or GDP alone, unless explicitly stated in the commitment. This method is deceptive, as GDP represents the total wealth of the economy, held by the public and private sectors, and by nationals and foreigners alike. A preferable method is to use the PPP value of the various governments' revenues, which is a better metric of fiscal capacity to fund new projects or increase funding of existing initiatives. Although the ordinal ranking of the G8 member states is not altered substantially by using revenues instead of GDP, the proportional weight of each country changes considerably when revenues are used instead of GDP:

Example of G8 members:

Member	GDP (PPP, 2007)	Ranking by GDP	Proportion of total GDP	Government revenue (PPP, 2007)	Ranking by revenue	Proportion of total fiscal capacity
Canada	\$1.27 trillion	8	4.2%	\$0.57 trillion	7	5.8%
France	\$2.07 trillion	6	6.8%	\$1.31 trillion	4	13.3%
Germany	\$2.83 trillion	3	9.3%	\$1.47 trillion	2	15.0%
Italy	\$1.8 trillion	7	5.9%	\$0.98 trillion	6	10.0%
Japan	\$4.34 trillion	2	14.3%	\$1.46 trillion	3	14.9%
Russia	\$2.08 trillion	5	6.8%	\$0.30 trillion	8	3.1%
United States	\$13.86 trillion	1	45.6%	\$2.57 trillion	1	26.2%
United Kingdom	\$2.15 trillion	4	7.1%	\$1.16 trillion	5	11.8%
European Union	\$14.45 trillion			N/A	N/A	

Interpretive guidelines should be written by a single individual (the director of compliance studies) as soon as possible after the confirmation of the final list of commitments to be assessed in the current year's compliance report. This ensures consistency in the language and level of detail used for all commitments. The interpretive guidelines should also be considered a draft until they are reviewed by the various components of the group (chair, management and partners at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow). Analysts should receive the draft guidelines soon after being recruited, and then receive the final version once all corrections and feedback have been incorporated into the document.

Pre-Compliance

Anatomy of a Typical Interpretive Guideline

The interpretive guideline should consist of four components:

1. the actual commitment text, drawn from the most recent commitment bank;

2. a breakdown of the commitment text and explanation of the components, with definitions if necessary;
3. a background section on the commitment topic; and
4. scoring guidelines specific to the commitment.

Although the interpretive guidelines have not included citations in the past, future versions should include footnotes for the commitment text, background section and commitment breakdown (if necessary). The interpretive guidelines are frequently posted along with the interim and final compliance reports. Citations help to ensure that the material can be verified and they also reduce the workload of editors for the interim compliance report, as the interpretive guidelines background sections are used by team leaders as the basis of the background sections in the interim compliance report.

Writing the Interpretive Guidelines

The commitment text component is self-explanatory. The director of compliance should use only the text included in the commitment bank. This may or may not include the context sections placed in square brackets in the commitment bank.

Commitment Breakdown

The commitment breakdown is an important precursor to the scoring guidelines. It provides a concise study of the goals of the commitment and the tools or policy that are to be employed in the completion of the goals.

For example, G20 Toronto Commitment 2007-26:

We agreed to strengthen financial market infrastructure by accelerating the implementation of strong measures to improve transparency and regulatory oversight of hedge fund, credit rating agencies and over-the-counter derivatives, in an internationally consistent and nondiscriminatory way.

The breakdown for this commitment was as follows:

Although the commitment to strengthening the financial market infrastructure is large, the action to which the G20 member states have committed is quite simple: accelerating the implementation of measures to improve transparency and regulation to strengthen the financial market infrastructure. These measures include, but are not limited to:

1. Accelerating the implementation of strong measures to improve transparency and regulatory oversight of hedge fund
2. Improving transparency and oversight of “credit rating agencies”
3. Improving transparency and oversight of “over-the-counter derivatives”
4. Doing this all in an “international consistent and non-discriminatory way”

The breakdown is not simply a reorganization of the commitment. It should separate the commitment into two parts: the goals to be attained and the means by which those goals are to be reached. In the case of the above commitment, the second component is easy, as the commitment itself contains the means of encouraging the strengthening of the financial market infrastructure. As well, the actors and parties involved should be made explicit. In the above example, the only actors are the G20 members. Sometimes, however, the commitments call for several different parties to be addressed. G20 Commitment 2010-33 highlights this issue:

We have strengthened our commitment to the IMF/World Bank Financial Sector Assessment Program (FSAP) and pledge to support robust and transparent peer review through the FSB.

The commitment makes explicit mention of the Financial Stability Board, International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. This is made clear in the commitment breakdown:

The commitment contains one action, to “strengthen our commitment to the IMF/World Bank Financial Sector Assessment Program (FSAP).” One aspect of this action requires the “pledge to support robust and transparent peer review through the FSB” from the G20 members. Fulfillment is not limited to these actions and may take other forms, but fulfillment is dependent on the FSB, World Bank and IMF process.

Some of the commitments contain technical terms or jargon that may not be readily understood by laypeople or by those not familiar with the given commitment topic. Confusion may be avoided by clarifying this language in the commitment breakdown. For example, the G8’s 2009-100 commitment on renewable energy says:

work to identify sources of financing for CCS demonstration projects

The breakdown for this commitment clarifies what is meant by the phrase “CCS demonstration projects,” which is core to the commitment but not widely understood by those without technical knowledge:

The component to watch for in this commitment:

1. The financing must go towards CCS demonstration projects: Carbon Capture and Storage demonstration projects. Other renewable, or energy efficient initiatives are not acceptable.

These projects must have an identified source of funding. Identifying a possible project is only part of the commitment.

Thus, the commitment breakdowns should provide textual analysis of the commitments with the goal of clarifying the meaning rather than the context of the commitment. Context is to be addressed in the background section.

Background for a Given Commitment

The commitment breakdowns are often not sufficient to provide analysts with the information needed to understand the evolution of a commitment or the context in which the commitment was created. Background sections help to fill this knowledge gap. Unlike the breakdown sections, these parts of the interpretive guidelines should have historical components and should examine the evolution of the commitment topic — including areas that are not explicitly mentioned in the commitment text. Although the background section may include general information, it should always contain the names of the documents from previous summits in which the topic appeared.

This does not mean that issues that have not been addressed at previous summits should have small or superficial background sections. Rather, information should be taken from the organizations that do work in the relevant field. For example, UNIFEM and the UN were used as sources for information on which the background section of the 2007 Sexual and Reproduction Education (2007-233) commitment was based.

The background should briefly report all previous commitments on or closely related to the same subject (to be listed in Appendix A) and the compliance results of all assessed commitments in the issue area (to be listed in Appendix B).

Scoring Guidelines

The scoring guidelines are both the most controversial and the most important part of the Interpretive Guidelines. They provide team leaders and analysts with instruction on how to weigh the various components of their reports and come up with an evaluation that they feel accurately reflects the progress of a given country towards the completion of the promises and goals included in the commitment.

The general guidelines for scoring are as follows:

-1	No progress toward compliance or actions counter to compliance
0	Partial compliance with the stated goals of the commitment
+1	Complete or near complete compliance with the stated goals of the commitment

Although not explicitly stated, countries that are constitutionally prohibited from complying with a commitment (e.g., Canada with commitments on the minutiae of financial regulation) have been awarded a score of 0. The scoring guidelines should include this information when there is a potential for a government to be constitutionally limited in its actions.

Similarly, if a country has already fulfilled all components of a commitment, it should be awarded a score of +1. Such situations may arise in commitments concerning trade, convention/treaty ratifications, economic reforms or “consultations” (i.e., a commitment to hold consultations on a specific reform or policy) and are fairly rare. In general, commitments contain at least one component that has not been completed in full by any of the members. Nevertheless, if this caveat may be added into the scoring guidelines if it is likely to affect compliance with a specific commitment, such as for simple, single action commitments calling for the ratification (but not implementation) of a convention.

The scoring guidelines included in the Interpretive Guidelines should be tailored to each of the commitments. Do not seek to include extremely detailed information about the actions that have been taken in the past to meet the specified goals of the commitment — such information should be provided by the team leader. Rather, use the components of the commitment outlined in the commitment breakdown section in generalized examples for each of the scores listed above.

For example, G20 Toronto commitment 2010-26:

We agreed to strengthen financial market infrastructure by accelerating the implementation of strong measures to improve transparency and regulatory oversight of hedge fund, credit rating agencies and over-the-counter derivatives, in an internationally consistent and nondiscriminatory way

The breakdown for this commitment was as follows:

Although the strengthening the financial market infrastructure commitment is large, the action to which the G20 member states have committed is quite simple: accelerating the implementation of measures to improve transparency and regulation to strengthen the financial market infrastructure. These measures include, but are not limited to:

1. Accelerating the implementation of strong measures to improve transparency and regulatory oversight of hedge fund
2. Improving transparency and oversight of “credit rating agencies”
3. Improving transparency and oversight of “over-the-counter derivatives”
4. Doing this all in an “international consistent and non-discriminatory way”

The corresponding scoring guidelines are:

-1	Country implements no new measures to strengthen the financial market infrastructure.
0	Country implements few new policies directed towards strengthening financial market infrastructure. State concentrates exclusively on implementing measures to improve transparency and regulatory oversight, but does not do it in an internationally consistent and nondiscriminatory way.
+1	Country implements new policies directed towards strengthening the financial market infrastructure. The state concentrates on implementing measures to improve transparency and regulatory oversight and does it in an internationally consistent and nondiscriminatory way.

The guidelines do not use the specific components of the breakdown, but each score is supplemented by a generalized example of the sort of actions that states may take and programs implemented that warrant a given score. Remember that the scores are awarded in a holistic manner — thus individual actions rarely warrant a score on their own. A number of actions and statements must be weighed together and their cumulative effect must be evaluated before a score is awarded.

Special Considerations

In evaluating the results of the compliance reports, the following considerations should be kept in mind:

- Compliance is assessed against a selected set of priority commitments, rather than all commitments the last summit produced. The priority commitments selected are not randomly chosen but identified according to a disciplined and systematic process intended to produce a representative subset of the total according to such dimensions as issue areas, ambition, specified time for completion, instruments used and, more generally, the degree of precision, obligation and delegation of each. The aim is to provide a comprehensive portrait of the compliance performance of the summit as a whole. As such, the individual commitments selected cannot in all cases claim to be the most important ones in their appropriate issue area, nor do they necessarily represent that issue area lodged.
- In addition to the specific commitments assessed in the compliance reports, summits have value in establishing new principles in normative directions, in creating and highlighting issue areas and agenda items, and in altering the publicly allowable discourse used. Furthermore, some of the most important decisions reached and consensus forged at summits may be done entirely in private and not encoded in the public communiqué record.
- Some commitments inherently take longer to be complied with than the time available between one Summit and the next.
- In some cases, it may be wise not to comply with a summit commitment, if global conditions have dramatically changed since the commitment was made or if new knowledge has become available about how a particular problem can best be solved.
- As each of the member countries has its own constitutional, legal and institutional processes for undertaking action at the national level, each is free to act in particular cases on a distinctive national time scale. Of particular importance here is the annual cycle for the creation of budgets, legislative approval and the appropriation of funds.
- Commitments encoded in the communiqué may also be encoded precisely or partially in communiqués from other international forums, the decisions of other international organizations, or even national statements such as the State of the Union Address in the United States, the Queen's Speech in the United Kingdom and the Speech from the Throne in Canada. Without detailed process-tracing, it cannot be assumed that compliant behaviour on the part of countries is fully caused by the single fact of a previous G7/G8/G20 commitment.

- Compliance is assessed against the precise, particular commitments made by the G7/G8/G20, rather than what some might regard as necessary or appropriate action to solve the problem being addressed.
- With compliance assessed on a three-point scale, judgements inevitably arise about whether particular actions warrant the specific numerical value assigned. As individual members can sometimes take different actions to comply with the same commitment, no standardized cross-national evaluative criterion can always be used. Comments regarding the judgements in each case, detailed in the extensive accompanying notes, are always welcomed by our global audience.
- Because the evaluative scale used in this compliance report runs from -100% to +100%, it should be assumed that any score in the positive range represents at least some compliance with the specific commitments made by the G7/8. It is not known if commitments in other international forums or at the national level on occasions such as the State of the Union Address, Queen's Speech or Speech from the Throne, etc., are complied with to a greater or lesser degree than the commitments made by the G7/G8/G20.
- It may be that commitments containing high degrees of precision, obligation and delegation, with short specified timetables for implementation, may induce governments to act simply to meet the specified commitment rather than in ways best designed to address core and underlying problems over a longer term.
- In some cases, full compliance by all members of the G7/8 or the G20 with a commitment is contingent on co-operative behaviour on the part of other actors.
- Although the analysts of the G7 and G8 Research Group the G20 Research Group make an exceptional effort to seek relevant information on the summit countries, credible commentary on the information offered about the compliance-related activity of some G7/G8/G20 members remains at times incomplete. The greater such incompleteness, the lower the scores would likely be as a result.

Interim vs. Final Compliance Reports

In 2002, the G8 Research Group completed — for the first time — an interim compliance report, which focused on the extent to which the previous summit's commitments were complied with by the time the G8's hosting chair had passed on to the next member — which happens on January 1 of each year.

The G20 Research Group began issuing interim compliance reports after the 2010 Seoul Summit, once the leaders began meeting once annually instead of twice.

The BRICS Research Group has produced only one compliance report per summit.

The G7/8 interim compliance reports assess how the commitments are evolving in the post-summit period with respect to their implementation up until January 1, when the G7/8 presidency changes to the next country in the hosting rotation. These reports are published online and are produced as a preliminary diagnostic — as an invitation for others to provide more complete information on members' compliance performance to date. Final compliance reports — typically issued on the eve of the next summit, build on the interim reports to assess the extent to which compliance has evolved since their publication. The same template is used for both the interim and final compliance reports. The G20 interim compliance report follows the same format.

Chapter 6: Compliance Report Writing

The first step in writing a compliance report is to set up a compliance template. At the top of the page clearly state the:

- Report Title: e.g., “Compliance Assessment of [G8 2012-28 on Syria]”
- Your name and the date of the assessment e.g., John Kirton, December 31, 1999
- The specific commitment being assessed, by its discrete number and the full text of the commitment
- The source document and its date
- The implementing period covering by start and end dates.
- A summary table of the overall results by country and component score
- Background, including a definition of the issue area and a summary chart of all the similar companion commitments made at the same summit
- General interpretative guidelines, drawn from the coding manual and used in this assessment
- Specific interpretative guidelines, invented for this assessment, with justifications
- Scoring metric
- Member-specific reports, which provide a record of relevant implementing behaviour and rationale, by member, for each of the core commitments assessed (see Appendix A).
- Appendices: tables for similar commitments, issue area compliance and, where possible, financial contributions or treaty signatures/ratifications related to the commitment being assessed, so the reader can see at one glance which member did how much (and when)

After the template is completed, the research process begins. Analysts should always familiarize themselves with the agencies and ministries responsible for the topics and issues addressed by the commitment. Commitments often span the jurisdictions of various government ministries and agencies. For example, a pledge to increase energy efficiency among consumers, businesses and generators may involve the ministries of the environment, industry, natural resources, consumer affairs and of the economy. Commitments that address development issues may require analysts to follow press releases and news stories emanating from the ministries of foreign affairs and/or international cooperation, agencies tasked with the implementation of government projects (e.g., USAID, DfID, Agenzia Italiana della Cooperazione) and non-profit organizations awarded contracts and grants by government agencies. Before serious and in-depth research can begin, analysts should have a complete list of the pertinent organizations and independent news media to follow throughout the compliance cycle.

Analysts are instructed to collect information from a restricted set of sources. Press releases and news items issued by government sources directly are to be given priority in the research process, as this allows for analysts to include information that has not been analyzed and processed by a third party in their compliance reports. Next, analysts collect information from international organizations such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the African Union. Finally, analysts use articles from major news sources from around the world. Analysts must be extremely selective in identifying press sources and use articles from news services that are generally recognized as being reliable and as having a strong editorial board. Furthermore, the use of online sources only for the compilation of the compliance report greatly enhances the ability of readers to verify the findings.

Analysts collect information about their specific commitment over a period that ranges from two to five months. The actual compilation of the compliance report does not begin until a week or two weeks prior to the due date for submission of the report to the team leader. This allows for analysts to include the most current and up-to-date information possible in their reports. Analysts sort through the research they have conducted and select the most current and salient items with respect to the focus of the commitment. Pertinent facts are then arranged according to relevance to the

commitment, relative importance in the fulfillment of the stated commitment, and time of issuance. Statements or press releases by the minister or ministry directly charged with compliance should come first, then those made by the head of government, followed by officials, ministries or agencies of lesser importance in terms of their relationship to the commitment. Similarly, statements about funding directly related to the commitment should be prioritized, followed by tangential or overarching funding (e.g., disbursements targeted at the general commitment area rather than the specific topic), statements of support or reiteration, and joint press releases with other political figures or international organizations.

Once research has been sorted and categorized, writing the actual compliance report is a simple affair. The report must always begin with a clear statement about the actor's performance: "Member X has complied with its commitment on Y as agreed at the Z summit." This statement may be followed by a brief explanation of the reasons for compliance/noncompliance, particularly if the report is long or contains a description of a large number of disparate programs. The following paragraphs should contain the information collected and arranged according to the guidelines above. Analysts are instructed to use neutral language in their reports, such that programs, statements and initiatives are presented according to their relevance to the topic at hand, rather than as a subjective evaluation of the policies and priorities of a given government. The prose of the body of the report should be clear and concise, with short sentences preferred over complex ones. Analysts should describe programs and funding with a few sentences and, if possible, provide quotes from speeches or press releases by the appropriate government officials.

All information included in the body of the compliance report must be cited. Analysts are encouraged to cite as often as they feel necessary, particularly when figures and official statements are used. Although the style of citation has undergone minor changes from one year to the next, the basic format for the footnotes included in the Report is as follows:

Title of Article, Source of Article (City of Publication). Publication Date. Date Accessed.
web address.

For example, the citation for the 2005 Gleneagles Summit document entitled "Africa" would be:

Africa, G8 Research Group 8 July 2005. Access Date: 15 March 2008.
<http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/africa.html>.

The source of the article should be the organization that maintains the website on which the article was posted — regardless of whether the original document was issued by a different organization. This ensures that any discrepancies between the original document and the one used by the analyst will not be ascribed to error on the part of the analyst.

The last part of the compliance report is the concluding statement. The concluding statement should reiterate the score awarded to the actor in question and provide a brief explanation of why the score has been awarded. It should be no longer than one sentence. For example:

Thus, member X has been awarded a score of 0 for its contributions to fund Y and its lack of a comprehensive policy on Z.

This provides a firm reassertion of main points of the compliance report.

Appendix A: Compliance Report Template

This template refers only to the G7. For G20 or BRICS compliance, change as appropriate but follow the same format, listing the countries in alphabetical order with the European Union at the end.

Title

Authors

Date submitted

Compliance Period: From [date] to [date]

[Year of Summit] [Location of Summit] [G7] [Interim or Final] Compliance Report

[Issue Area]

Commitment

[Copy exact text of commitment]

Document that contains the commitment

Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Canada			
France			
Germany			
Italy			
Japan			
United Kingdom			
United States			
European Union			
Score			

The overall score is determined by averaging the total scores by country and issue area and converting that score to a %. Exclude N/A (due to lack of available data) from the calculation.

Background

[Provide a brief overview of the issue area and the context of and triggers leading to this commitment appearing in the final communiqué or declaration. Include an appendix of the text of all similar commitments in the recent past, with their compliance score if available and an appendix of issue area compliance.]

Commitment Features

Definitions used for key terms

General Interpretive Guidelines Used and Justifications

Specific Interpretive Guidelines Created and Justifications

Scoring Guidelines

-1	
0	
1	

Lead Analyst: [name]

Canada: +1

Provide a 1/2-page–1-page analysis for each country, in the order below, including footnotes for each empirical reference. Include for each country concrete examples of how compliance has been achieved (if any). If compliance has not been achieved, provide a rationale (if available).

France: 0

Analyst: [name]

Germany: –1

Analyst: [name]

Italy: +1

Analyst: [name]

Japan: 0

Analyst: [name]

United Kingdom: –1

Analyst: [name]

United States: +1

Analyst: [name]

European Union: 0

Analyst: [name]

Compiled by [team leader, analysts' names listed alphabetically, academic institution, date]

Conclusion

Describe the overall pattern, such as compliance by subjects of G7/8, OECD, BRICS members and the rank of compliance (beyond the 3 strata) starting with who complied the first and most.

Appendix A: Similar Commitments on Issue, by Year

Appendix B: Compliance in Issue Area, by Year, by Member

Note: as this commitment is coded by its issue area, this table of compliance scores shows how it contributes to an is changed from the cumulative set and trend of the compliance of all other commitments previously assessed for compliance in the same institution.

Appendix B: Where to Find G7/8 and G20 Compliance Information Online

This reference guide contains useful online sources that can be used in preparing compliance reports as well as G8 and G20 country and issue area studies.

G7/8-Specific Sites

- G7 Information Centre: <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca>
- Official G7/8 host websites

G20-Specific Sites

- G20 Information Centre: <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca>
- G20: <http://www.g20.org>
- Official G20 host websites

BRICS-Specific Sites

- BRICS Information Centre: <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca>
- Official BRICS host websites
- Higher School of Economics website: www.hse.ru/en/org/hse/iori/bric

General Sources

- Strategies for Locating Foreign Government Information on the Internet: <http://www.libraries.psu.edu/crsweb/docs/forgate.htm>
- Foreign Government Statistics <http://www.lib.umich.edu/libhome/Documents.center/forstats.html>
- U.S. Census Bureau International Database: <http://www.census.gov/ftp/pub/ipc/www/idbnew.html>
- Political Reference Almanac: <http://www.polisci.com/almanac/almanac.htm>
- Political Resources on the Web: <http://www.politicalresources.net/>
- Country at a Glance: http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/infonation/e_glance.htm
- Library of Congress Country Studies: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html#toc>
- The CIA World Fact Book: <http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/>
- U.S. State Department Background Notes: <http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/>

International Organizations

- United Nations: <http://www.un.org/>
- IMF: <http://www.imf.org>
- World Bank: <http://www.worldbank.org>
- World Health Organization: <http://www.who.int/>
- UNESCO: <http://www.unesco.org/>
- UNEP: <http://www.unep.org/>
- WTO: <http://www.wto.org>
- OECD: <http://www.oecd.org>
- NATO: <http://www.nato.int>
- Group of 77 (G77): <http://www.g77.org/>

- Financial Stability Board (G20): <http://www.financialstabilityboard.org/>
- Basel Committee on Banking Supervision: <http://www.bis.org/bcbs/>
- Bank for International Settlements: <http://www.bis.org/>
- International Energy Agency: <http://www.iea.org/>

International News Sources and Newswires

- International Herald Tribune: <http://www.iht.com/frontpage.htm>
- New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com/>
- Financial Times: <http://www.usa.ft.com/>
- Reuters: <http://www.reuters.com/>
- Associated Press: <http://www.ap.org/>
- Canada Newswire: <http://www.newswire.ca/>
- Agence France-Presse: <http://www.afp.com/english/home/>
- UPI World: http://www.vny.com/cf/News/upisearch.cfm?content=srv_intnews

Member-Specific Online Resources

Argentina

Government Resources

- General Secretariat to the Presidency: www.secretariageneral.gov.ar
- Office of the Cabinet Chief: www.jgm.gov.ar
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship: <http://www.cancilleria.gov.ar/>
- Ministry of Economy and Public Finance: infoprensa@mecon.gov.ar
- Ministry of Health: www.msal.gov.ar
- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries: www.minagri.gob.ar
- Ministry of Defense: www.mindef.gov.ar
- Banco Central de la Republica Argentina: www.bcra.gov.ar

Online News Sources

- Buenos Aires Herald: www.buenosairesherald.com
- Clarin: www.clarin.com
- Ambino Financiero: www.ambito.com.ar

Australia

- Government of Australia: <http://australia.gov.au/>
- Parliament of Australia: <http://www.aph.gov.au/>
- AusAID: <http://www.usaid.gov.au/>
- Australian Ministry of Trade: <http://www.austrade.gov.au/>

Online News Sources

- The Australian: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/>
- The Australian Financial Review: <http://afr.com/>

Brazil

Government Resources

- Brazil Government: http://www.brasil.gov.br/?set_language=en
- Brazilian Cooperation Agency: <http://www.abc.gov.br/>

- Banco Central do Brasil: <http://www.bcb.gov.br/?english>
- Ministry of Finance: <http://www.fazenda.gov.br/>
- Ministry of the Environment: <http://www.mma.gov.br/sitio/en/>
- Ministry of External Relations: <http://www.itamaraty.gov.br/english>
- Federal Senate: <http://www.senado.gov.br/>

Online News Sources

- Brasil em Folhas: <http://www.folha.info>
- Correio Braziliense: <http://www.correiobraziliense.com.br>
- Diário Oficial da União: <http://www.dou.com.br>
- Estado de Minas: <http://www.em.com.br>

Canada

Government Resources

- Government of Canada (primary page): <http://canada.gc.ca/>
- Federal Dept. index page: http://canada.gc.ca/depts/major/depind_e.html
- DFAIT: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/menu-e.asp>
- Department of Finance: <http://www.fin.gc.ca>
- Prime Minister: http://pm.gc.ca/prime_minister/-ssi
- Parliament: <http://www.parl.gc.ca/36/main-e.htm>
- Statistics Canada: <http://www.statcan.ca/>
- Federal Information by subject: <http://dsp-psd.pwgsc.gc.ca/dsp-psd/Reference/fed-e.html>
- Federal Budget Information: <http://www.fin.gc.ca/access/budinfoe.html>
- Government Electronic Publications: <http://dsp-psd.pwgsc.gc.ca/dsp-psd/epubs-e.html>

Online News Sources

- Globe and Mail: <http://www.globeandmail.ca>
- Toronto Star: <http://www.thestar.com>
- National Post: <http://www.nationalpost.com>
- Vancouver Sun: <http://www.vancouver.sun.com>
- Ottawa Citizen: <http://www.ottawacitizen.com>
- CBC News: <http://cbc.ca>
- CTV: <http://www.ctvnews.com/>

China

Government Resources

- People's Republic of China Government: <http://www.gov.cn/english/>
- Ministry of Finance: <http://www.mof.gov.cn/>
- Ministry of Environmental Protection: <http://english.mep.gov.cn/>
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/>
- People's Bank of China: <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/publish/english/963/index.html>
- Ministry of Industry and Information Technology: <http://www.miit.gov.cn/>
- National Development and Reform Commission :<http://en.ndrc.gov.cn/>
- International Poverty Reduction Centre in China: <http://www.iprcc.org/publish/page/en/>

Online News Sources

- China Daily: <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/>

France

Government Resources

- Main Government Page: <http://www.admifrance.gouv.fr>
- President: <http://www.elysee.fr/ang/index.shtm>
- Prime Minister: <http://www.premier-ministre.gouv.fr/>
- Bank of France: <http://www.banque-france.fr/gb/home.htm>
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/mae/index.gb.html>
- Ministry of the Economy, Finance, and Industry: <http://www.telecom.gouv.fr/francais.htm>
- Ministry of the Environment: <http://www.environnement.gouv.fr/>
- National Assembly: <http://www.assemblee-nat.fr/0>
- Senate: <http://www.senat.fr/>
- National Institute of Statistics: <http://www.insee.fr/>
- Service des Statistiques Industrielles (SESSI): <http://www.evariste.anvar.fr>

Online News Sources

- International Herald Tribune: <http://www.ihf.com/frontpage.htm>
- La Tribune: <http://www.latribune.fr/>
- Le Monde: <http://www.lemonde.fr/>
- Le Monde Diplomatique: <http://www.monde-diplomatique.fr/>
- Tocqueville Connection: <http://www.ttc.org/> (english language analysis of French News)

Germany

Government Resources

- Der Bundeskanzler: <http://www.bundeskanzler.de/>
- Federal German Government: <http://www.bundesregierung.de>
- Federal Statistical Office: http://www.statistik-bund.de/e_home.htm
- Foreign Office: <http://www.auswaertiges-amt.government.de/>
- Federal Ministry of Economics: <http://www.bmwi.de/>
- Federal Ministry of Finance: <http://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/>
- German Central Bank: http://www.bundesbank.de/index_e.html

Online News Sources

- Handelsblatt: <http://www.handelsblatt.de/cgi-bin/hbi.exe?FN=hb&SFN=hp>
- German News (english edition): <http://www.mathematik.uni-ulm.de/de-news/>
- Frankfurter Allgemeine: <http://www.faz.de/>
- Frankfurter Rundschau: <http://www.f-r.de/>
- Die Welt: <http://www.welt.de>
- Germany Online: <http://www.germany-info.org>

India

Government Resources

- Government of India: <http://india.gov.in/>
- Ministry of External Affairs: <http://meaindia.nic.in/>
- Ministry of Finance: <http://finmin.nic.in/>
- Ministry of Environment and Forest: <http://moef.nic.in/index.php>
- Central Bank of India: <https://www.centralbankofindia.co.in/site/IndexCBI.aspx>

- Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation:
http://mospi.nic.in/Mospi_New/site/home.aspx

Online News Sources

- The Times of India: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>
- The Economic Times: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/>

Indonesia

Government Resources

- Government website: <http://www.indonesia.go.id/en/>
- President of Republic of Indonesia: <http://www.presidentri.go.id/index.php/eng/>
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.deplu.go.id/Pages/Mission.aspx?l=en>
- Ministry of Finance: <http://www.depkeu.go.id/Eng/>
- Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources: <http://www.esdm.go.id/index-en.html?>
- Directorate General for National Export Development: <http://www.nafed.go.id/>

Online News Sources

- Inside Indonesia: <http://www.insideindonesia.org/>
- Jakarta Globe: <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/home/>
- The Jakarta Post: <http://www.thejakartapost.com/>

Italy

Government Resources

- Government Page: <http://www.parlamento.it/>
- Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri: <http://www.palazzochigi.it/>
- Ministero Degli Affari Esteri: <http://www.esteri.it/>
- Italian Trade Commission of Canada: <http://www.italcomm.com/e/>
- Italian Political Parties: <http://www.agora.stm.it/politic/italy1.htm>
- Ministry of Finance/Ministero delle Finanze: <http://www.finanze.it/>

Online News Sources

- La Buvette: <http://www.axnet.it/buvette/>
- Milano Finanza: <http://www.milanofinanza.it/>
- Il Manifesto: <http://www.mir.it/>
- La Padania: <http://www.lapadania.com>

Japan

Government Resources

- Prime Minister's Official Residence: <http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/index-e.html>
- Ministry of Finance: <http://www.mof.go.jp/english/>
- Ministry of International Trade and Industry: <http://www.miti.go.jp/index-e.html>
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.mofa.go.jp>
- Japanese Market Information: <http://www.csjapan.doc.gov/links/market.html>
- The Information Technology Promotion Agency: <http://www.ipa.go.jp/>

Online News Sources

- Asahi Shinbun: <http://www.asahi.com/english/english.html>
- Daily Yomiuri: <http://www.yomiuri.com.jp/index-e.htm>
- Mainichi Newspapers: <http://www.mainichi.com.jp/english/>
- Japan Times: <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/>
- Foreign Press Centre: <http://www.nttls.co.jp/fpc/>
- NHK: <http://www.nhk.or.jp/index-e.html>
- Kyodo News: <http://home.kyodo.co.jp/>
- Nikkei Net: <http://www.nni.nikkei.co.jp/>

Korea

Government Resources

Office of the President: <http://english.president.go.kr/main.php>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade: <http://www.mofat.go.kr/english/main/index.jsp>

Ministry of Strategy and Finance: <http://english.mosf.go.kr/>

Ministry of the Environment: <http://eng.me.go.kr/>

Statistics Korea: <http://kostat.go.kr/eng/>

Online News Sources

The Seoul Times: <http://theseoultimes.com/ST/index.html>

Maeil Business Newspaper: <http://www.mk.co.kr/>

Korea Times: <http://www.mk.co.kr/>

Korea Herald: <http://www.koreaherald.com/>

Yonhap News: <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/>

Mexico

Government Resources

- President's webpage: <http://presidencia.gob.mx/?DNA=118>
- Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources:
<http://www.semarnat.gob.mx/English/Pages/home.aspx>
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.sre.gob.mx/en/>
- Bank of Mexico: <http://www.banxico.org.mx/>
- Ministry of Finance and Public Credit: <http://www.shcp.gob.mx/Paginas/Default.aspx>
- Mexican Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AMEXCID)
<http://sre.gob.mx/lcid/?author=2>

Online News Sources

- El Universal: <http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/pre-home.html>
- Reforma: <http://www.reforma.com/>
- La Jornada: <http://www.jornada.unam.mx/ultimas/>

Russia

Government Resources

- Government Site: <http://www.gov.ru>
- President: <http://president.kremlin.ru/>
- Duma: <http://www.duma.ru/>
- Council of the Russian Federation: <http://www.akdi.ru/sf/>
- Central Bank: <http://www.cbr.ru/eng/>
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs: http://www.mid.ru/mid/eng/BOD_1.HTM
- Ministry of Finance: <http://www.minfin.ru/>

Online News Sources

- All News Russia: <http://www.allnews.ru/>
- Interfax: <http://www.interfax-news.com/>
- Russia Today: <http://www.russiatoday.com>
- Radio Free Europe: <http://www.rferl.org/bd/ru/>
- TASS: <http://www.tass.net/>
- ITAR/TASS: <http://www.itar-tass.com/>
- Russian National News Service: <http://www.russianstory.com>

Saudi Arabia

Government Resources

- Saudi Arabia Monetary Agency: <http://www.sama.gov.sa/sites/SAMAEN/Pages/Home.aspx>
- List of Government Agencies:
http://www.saudiembassy.net/about/other_government_agencies.aspx
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs:
<http://www.mofa.gov.sa/detail.asp?InServiceID=205&intemplatekey=MainPage>
- Ministry of Finance: <http://www.mof.gov.sa/en/default.asp>
- Ministry of Information: <http://www.saudinf.com/>
- Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources: <http://www.mopm.gov.sa/mopm/main.do>

Online News Sources

- Arab News: <http://www.arabnews.com/>
- Saudi Gazette: <http://www.saudigazette.com.sa/>
- United States Embassy: <http://www.saudiembassy.net/affairs/recent-news/>

South Africa

Government Resources

- Department of Environmental Affairs: <http://www.environment.gov.za/>
- Department of National Treasury: <http://www.treasury.gov.za/>
- International Relations and Cooperation: <http://www.dfa.gov.za/>
- Statistics South Africa: <http://www.statssa.gov.za/>

Online News Sources

- Cape Argus: <http://www.capeargus.co.za/>
- Business Day: <http://www.businessday.co.za/>
- The Star: <http://www.thestar.co.za/>
- Mail and Guardian: <http://www.mg.co.za/>

Turkey

Government Resources

- Turkish Parliament: <http://www.tbmm.gov.tr/english/english.htm>
- Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/default.en.mfa>
- Ministry of Finance: <http://www.maliye.gov.tr/>
- Ministry of Environment and Forests:
<http://www.cevreorman.gov.tr/cob/anasayfa.aspx?sflang=en>
- Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey: <http://www.tcmb.gov.tr/yeni/eng/>

Online News Sources

- Aksam: <http://www.aksam.com.tr/>
- Milliyet: <http://www.milliyet.com.tr/2010/12/08/index.html>
- Hurriyet: <http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/anasayfa/>

United Kingdom

Government Resources

- No. 10 Downing St.: <http://www.number-10.gov.uk/>
- Main Parliament site: <http://www.parliament.uk/>
- House of Commons: <http://www.parliament.uk/commons/HSECOM.HTM>
- House of Lords: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/ldhome.htm>
- Department of Trade and Industry: <http://www.dti.gov.uk/>
- Foreign & Commonwealth Office: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/>
- Ministry of Defense: <http://www.mod.uk/>
- Her Majesty's Treasury: <http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/>

Online News Sources

- Financial Times: <http://www.usa.ft.com/>
- The Guardian: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>
- The Herald: <http://www.theherald.co.uk/>
- The Times of London: <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/>
- The Sunday Times: <http://www.sunday-times.co.uk/>

United States

Government Resources

- The President and the White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>
- Senate: <http://www.senate.gov>
- House of Representatives: <http://www.house.gov/>
- Congress.org: <http://congress.org/main.html>
- C-Span: <http://www.c-span.org/guide/congress>
- Fednet: <http://www.fednet.net>
- U.S. State Department: <http://www.state.gov/>
- Office of Management and Budget: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/>
- NAFTA Secretariat: <http://www.nafta-sec-alena.org/english/>
- Federal Web Locator: <http://www.infoctr.edu/FWL/>
- You can also try the “hot documents” site at the University of Michigan’s U.S. Document Centre:
<http://www.lib.umich.edu/libhome/Documents.center/federal.html>

Online News Sources

- New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com/>
- Washington Post: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>
- USA Today: <http://www.usatoday.com>
- Wall Street Journal: <http://public.wsj.com/home.html>
- Los Angeles Times: <http://www.latimes.com>
- CNN: <http://www.cnn.com>
- ABCnews: <http://abcnews.go.com>
- MSNBC: <http://msnbc.com/news/default.asp?nocookies>
- Drudge Report: <http://www.drudgereport.com/>

European Union

Government Resources

- The European Commission: http://europa.eu.int/comm/index_en.htm
- Council of the European Union: <http://ue.eu.int/>
- Economic and Social Committee: <http://www.esc.eu.int/>
- European Parliament: <http://www.europarl.eu.int/default.htm>
- Court of Auditors: <http://www.eca.eu.int/>
- Court of Justice: <http://curia.eu.int/>
- Committee of Regions: <http://www.cor.eu.int/>
- European Investment Bank: <http://eib.eu.int/>
- European Central Bank: <http://www.ecb.int/>
- Europa (the EU's server): <http://europa.eu.int/index-en.htm>
- Directorates-General (DGs) of the European Commission: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/dgs_en.htm

Online News Sources

- Press releases: <http://www.europa.eu.int/news/pr-en.htm>
- Publications Office: <http://eur-op.eu.int/general/en/>

Autonomous Analytical Assessments

- Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network
- Trade: Professor Simon Evenett, University of St. Gallen, Switzerland

Advocacy Assessments

- International Chamber of Commerce, ICC Scorecard, Annually since 2010 for the B20

If the Web Fails

- Consult with reference librarians
- Email web administrators, NGOs, international organizations and governments
- most governments and larger NGOs have staff hired specifically to answer questions
- provide detailed explanations of the information required and the research already completed
- Contact relevant organizations and embassies
- ask to speak to the media liaison or press relations person
- explain in detail the research question and the sources already researched

- while some embassies may not be helpful at the outset — and it is possible to be passed from official to official — normally, the embassies eventually forward the necessary information
- Contact relevant professors and scholars
- explain the specific research question and why they have been chosen as a contact
- ask if they are aware of anyone conducting research in this area or if they themselves know where to find the necessary information

If the information is not forthcoming after exhausting all of these channels, it is quite likely that the information is not available in the public domain. When information is not available, the countries receive a compliance score of N/A and the score is excluded from the final calculations that determine the overall compliance levels.

The scholarly literature on G7/8 and G20 diplomacy often identifies which countries initiate, support, or oppose initiatives within the preparatory process for the subsequent summit, indicating which member pushed within the G process for implementing action.

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Appendix E: G7/G8/G20 Summit Performance Indicators by Function

1. The Domestic Political Summit

- A. Media Coverage at Home: Attention and Approval
- B. Elite Editorial Consensus
- C. Public Opinion Poll Change
- D. Election Record During and After
- E. Civil Society Participation, Protests, Police
- F. Societal Behaviour Changed
- G. Attendance of Leader
- H. National Policy Address
- I. Host Economic Costs + Benefits

2. The Deliberative Summit

- A. Length of Leaders Participation
- B. Length of Summit in Days
- C. Length of Summit in Hours
- D. Length of Summit Working Sessions
- E. Location of Summit
- F. Level of Spontaneity

3. The Directional Summit

- A. Number of Words in Leaders' Collective Summit-Released Documentation
- B. Number of Separate Summit Released Collective Documents by Leaders
- C. Number of Priority Values Identified and Affirmed in Communiqué Chapeau
- D. Number of Linkages Identified and Affirmed in Communiqué Chapeau

4. The Decisional Summit

- A. Number of Commitments
- B. Breadth of Commitments (by domain, and issue area)
- C. Ambition-Significance of Commitments
- D. Money Mandated

5. The Delivery Summit

- A. Compliance
- B. Money Mobilized and Disbursed
- C. Member Behaviour Reinforced, Constrained and Altered
- D. Member's Conception of Interests and Identities Changed
- E. Outside Country Behaviour Altered

6. The Development of Global Governance Summit

- A. Remit Mandates
- B. G8 Ministerial Institutions Created, Adjusted Affirmed
- C. G8 Official Institutions Created, Adjusted, Affirmed
- D. Instructions to Outside Intergovernmental Institutions

7. Overall Assessments

- A. Bayne Grades (1987, 2000, 2001-) and Grid (2001-)
- B. Sherpa Consensus (Kirton 1989)
- C. G8 Research Group Summit Performance Assessment, 1996-)

Appendix F: Causal Models of Summit Performance

A. G7/8

1. American Leadership (Putnam and Bayne, 1984, 1987)

Decisional Performance, occasionally high, due to:

- A. U.S. able and willing to lead with support of a strong second
- B. Reigning ideas and historical lessons as interpreted by leaders
- C. Electoral certainty
- D. Transnational actors alliances

2. Concert Equality (Wallace 1984, Kirton 1989)

Comprehensive Performance, high, low, then very high, due to:

- A. Equal vulnerability activated by shocks
- B. Multilateral Organizational Failure
- C. Collectively predominant and internally equal capabilities
- D. Common principles of open democracy, individual liberty, social advancement
- E. Domestic political capital and control
- F. Constricted participation

3. False New Consensus (Bergsten and Henning 1996)

Decisional Performance, declining during 1990s, due to:

- A. False new consensus that economic globalization makes governments impotent
- B. American economic and political decline due to cold war's end and poor policy
- C. Traditional differences between the U.S. and Germany

4. Democratic Institutionalism (Ikenberry 1993, Kokotsis 1998)

Delivery Performance, increasing into 1990s, due to:

- A. Effective multilateral organizations controlled by G7/G8
- B. G7 institutionalization at ministerial and official level
- C. Strong G8 bureaucratic units in domestic governments
- D. Leader's commitments to international co-operation, G7/G8 institutions, individual issue
- E. Popular support for leaders and issue

5. G8 Nexus (Gill 1998)

Directional and Decisional Performance, increasingly effective but contested, due to:

- A. Marketization, globalization and liberalization, producing a global concentration of wealth and power
- B. Similar political outlook and congruent political/economic principles of elite
- C. Dominance of financial-asset (bond-currency) market interests in leading states

6. Collective Management (Bayne 2000, 2001, 2002)

Comprehensive (Five Function) Performance, increasingly effective, due to:

- A. Complexity of new and unexpected global problems
- B. Inadequacy of other global institutions
- C. Globalization constraint on independent major power action
- D. G8 iteration, agenda focus, leaders-only format; institutionalization

7. Ginger Group (Baker 2000, Hodges 1999)

Deliberative Performance, increasingly effective, due to:

- A. Financial market globalization

- B. Small private club of governmental agents
- C. Common worldview

8. Group Hegemony (Bailin 2002, 2003)

Decisional Performance, constantly high, due to:

- A. Concentration of power > small group size > designate K-Group
- B. Group Identity > small group size > designate K-Group
- C. Economic Liberalism > mutual interests > reach mutual agreements
- D. Preparatory Process > mutual interests > reach mutual agreements
- E. System of Interaction > shadow of the future > develop trustworthy relations
- F. Documentation > shadow of the future > develop trustworthy relations

9. Meta Institution (Pentilla, 2003)

Decisional Performance, increasingly high, due to:

- A. Concerted power of G8 members
- B. Failure of established international organizations

10. New Directions

B. G20

1. Systemic Hub Model (Kirton 2013)

Appendix G: Indicators of Major Causal Variables

Relative Capability

Collective Predominance:

- G7/8 GDP per World Total (current US\$)
- G7/8 GDP per World Total (1995 base US\$)
- G20 GDP per World Total (current US\$)

Internal Equality:

- GDP Inequality Within the G7/8 and G20 (current \$, sigma GDP)
- GDP Inequality within the G7/8 (1995 base sigma)
- US GDP Share of G7/8 Total GDP
- US GDP Share of G20 Total GDP
- Average US\$ Depreciation
- Cumulative US\$ Depreciation

Relative Vulnerability

Collective Vulnerability:

- Energy Dependence (NEI/DEC)
- Terrorist Attacks by Number, Global Total
- Deaths from Human-Induced Ecological Disasters
- Annual Average Change in NYSE, NIKKEI, and LSE Indexes

Internal Equality of Vulnerability:

- US Bank Failures by Number

Interdependence

- G7-bound Trade as % of total (average for G7)G20-bound Trade as % of total (average for G20)

Common Principles (Shared Social Purpose)

- Freedom House Democratization Index
- Ideological Consensus

Political Control and Capital

- Years Since Last Election

Appendix H: Summary of Variables, Methods and Sources

Bayne Grade — Numerical equivalent of the letter-grade assessment of summit performance compiled by the G8 Research Group and Sir Nicholas Bayne (source: <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca>)

Summit Length (days) — Length of the G7/8 summit in days (source: fact sheet at <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca>)

Number of Summit Communiqués — Number of official documents issued at the summit (source: internal G8 Research Group compilation available by request from g8@utoronto.ca or g20info@library.utoronto.ca)

Number of Words in Summit Documents — Length of the official documents produced at the summit measured in words (source: internal G8 Research Group compilation; available by request from g8@utoronto.ca).

Number of Commitments — Number of total commitments identified in the summit documents (for methodology see Kokotsis, Ella. *Keeping International Commitments: Compliance, Credibility, and the G7, 1988-1995*. Transnational Business and Corporate Culture series. New York: Garland Pub., 1999; source: internal G8 Research Group compilation available by request from g8@utoronto.ca).

Compliance — Average standardized compliance with the commitments undertaken by summit members (for methodology see Kokotsis, Ella. *Keeping International Commitments: Compliance, Credibility, and the G7, 1988-1995*. Transnational Business and Corporate Culture series. New York: Garland Pub., 1999; source: internal G8 Research Group compilation at <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca>).

Remit Mandates — Remit mandates are formal instructions contained in the documents the leaders collectively issue at the annual G7/8 summit, specifying that they will deal with an item at their Summit the following year or in subsequent years (source: fact sheet at <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca>).

Ministerial Bodies Created — Number of ministerial bodies created at the summit. Inter-summit ministerials and equivalents are meetings of G7/8 ministers or heads or equivalents from these actors (collective statements issued in the name of the G7/8, conference calls) between the end of one year's annual summit and the start of the summit the regularly scheduled annual following year (source: fact sheet at <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca>).

Leadership Bodies Created, Approved or Adjusted (source: internal G8 Research Group compilation available by request from g8@utoronto.ca).

Average Depreciation of the US\$ and Cumulative Depreciation of the US\$ — Denotes the average depreciation of the US\$ against the basket of G8 currencies between the end of a summit and the start of the next one. The formula used is: $AVERAGE([E^{t+1}_{\$/i} - E^t_{\$/i}] / E^t_{\$/i})$, where i iterates through all 7 other currencies, and t and $t+1$ are the days on which the Summit ends and the next one starts, respectively (source: UBC Pacific Exchange Rate Service located at <http://fx.sauder.ubc.ca/>).

U.S. Bank Failures — Number of U.S. commercial and savings banks and insurance trusts failures, as defined by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. For methodology and data see the “Historical Banking Statistics” series at <http://www.fdic.gov>.

G7/8 GDP as percentage of total world GDP (in current US\$ and in 1995-base year US\$) — Denotes the ratio of the cumulative G7/8 GDP to the total world GDP as reported by the World Development Indicators Database of the World Bank. The two variables measure GDPs in current and real (1995 base-year) U.S. dollars. (complete methodology and source: <http://www.worldbank.org>). *Methodological note:* Because base-year deflation uses a fixed consumption

pattern (an assumption likely to introduce distortions for years significantly removed from the 1995 base-year), the “real US\$” deflated numbers should be interpreted with caution.

Inequality of G7/8 GDP composition (in current US\$ and in 1995-base year US\$) — This is the standard deviation of the set of the individual G7/8 members GDP shares in the G7/8 cumulative GDP in each year. The two variables measure GDP in current and real (1995 base-year) U.S. dollars. (complete methodology and source: <http://www.worldbank.org>). *Methodological note:* Because base-year deflation uses a fixed consumption pattern (an assumption likely to introduce distortions for years significantly removed from the 1995 base-year), the “real US\$” deflated numbers should be interpreted with caution.

Terrorist Attacks — Total terrorist attacks worldwide (series covers 1981–2002 only) as reported by the U.S. Department of State in its Patterns of Global Terrorism report in 2003 (source: <http://www.state.gov>, Statistical Appendix).

Ideological Consensus of G7/8 Leaders — This number signifies the ideological likeness of the leaders of the G7/8 members defined as the ratio of leaders of same or similar ideological/political persuasion to the total number of Summit leaders (source: contact G8@utoronto.ca).

Average Years since Last Election — Average of the years since the last election of each of the leaders attending the Summit (source: internal G8 Research Group compilation available by request from g8@utoronto.ca).

Freedom House Democratization Index — An index of global democratization developed by the Freedom House Foundation (methodology and source: <http://www.freedomhouse.org>).

Energy Dependence — Measures the dependence of the G7/8 on outside (non-G7/8 produced) energy imports. The data used for the compilation of this time-series covers tradable energy (oil, natural gas and coal) measured in Mtoe (millions of tons of oil equivalent). The following formula is used to arrive at the aggregate annual ratio: Total G7/8 energy consumption [Mtoe] — Total G7/8 energy production [Mtoe] = Net G7/8 Energy Imports [NEI in Mtoe] —> Energy dependence = [(NEI) / (Total G7/8 energy consumption)] (sources: British Petroleum Database, <http://www.bp.com>; UNCTAD TRAINS Database, <http://www.unctad.org>; Euromonitor Database, <http://www.euromonitor.com>).

G7/8-Bound Trade as Percentage of Total Trade of G7/8 Members — The share of G7/8-bound trade in the total trade of G7/8 members (annual average for the G7/8; trade measured in customs-reported value) (sources: UN Common Database, <http://unstats.un.org>; Euromonitor Database, <http://www.euromonitor.org>).

Deaths and Injuries from Human-Induced Ecological Disasters Worldwide — Total number of deaths and injuries from human-precipitated ecological disasters; annual aggregate (source: UNEP GEO Data Portal, <http://geodata.grid.unep.ch/>).

Average Change in Major Stock Indexes (NYSE, NIKKEI and London Stock Exchange) — Data compiled for value of transactions, annual averages (source: Wren Research Database, <http://www.wrenresearch.com.au/>).

U.S. GDP as percentage of G7/8 Total GDP — Calculated in current US\$ (source: World Development Indicators Database, <http://www.worldbank.org>).

Appendix I: Dictionary

A. Definition of Words

Access: access should be interpreted to mean the right to obtain or make use of the entity in reference. In terms of health, according to the World Health Organization, “access” is a broad concept that measures three dimensions of key health sector interventions.

Actions:

Address:

Advance: move or push forward, make progress, give active support to, promote, cause an event to occur at an earlier date (OECD 1990:17)

Affirm:

Agree:

Approach (N): a way of dealing with a situation or problem, initial proposals (or request made to someone).

Arising from

As needed: according to need

Assessments: evaluate or estimate the nature, ability or quality (OED)

Associate: is intended to identify a common purpose, action or condition that the parties agree to unite over.

Availability: defined in terms of the reachability (physical access), affordability (economic access) and acceptability (socio-cultural access) of services that meet a minimum standard of quality. Making services available, affordable and acceptable is an essential precondition for universal access.

Balanced (G20 2011-247):

Based on:

Call on: to promote or motion others (depending on the commitment) to associate with the mentioned requirement.

Certain: when a reference is made to a “certain” entity or group of entities, there is a specific actor/group that is being referenced. In these cases, additional information should be obtained from sources to clarify the member(s) referenced. It should not be interpreted to mean all members.

Close as possible: should be interpreted to mean to come near or close to the goal without there being a major hindrance, obstacle or circumstance of some kind. It should not be interpreted to mean any effort made.

Commit: to do or perform, to pledge or bind (a person or an organization) to a certain course or policy.

Complete: finish

Conduct: organize and carry out (OED)

Consistently:

Continue to provide: refers to commitments that are established and implemented. It should be interpreted to mean new actions will be added to the already existing ones. It should not be interpreted to mean no new allocations.

Cooperation: the action or process of working together to the same end

Counter:

Coverage: defined as the proportion of a population needing an intervention who receive it. Coverage is influenced by supply (provision of services) and by demand from people in need of services.

Cross-border: involving movement or activity across a border between two countries

Defeat: should be interpreted to mean to overcome or eliminate.

Develop: when a commitment states it will develop, it should be interpreted to mean that a new initiative will be established in the area. It should not apply to old initiatives.

Determined

Determined to Assist: implies success is based on action in the said area and not necessarily on the outcomes of these initiatives or actions

Discourage

Effectively: should be interpreted to mean operating in a way that produces the intended result. It does not mean any effort, especially thoughtless ones.

Efficiency:

Effort:

Eliminate: synonym=end

Encourage: to say “encourage” does not imply strong measurability in the commitment. It should be taken as a soft commitment where no concrete action is to be taken.

Enhance: to heighten or intensify

Ensure:

Equitable: should be interpreted to mean fair and just as indicated by law.

Especially: to single out one thing over all others, more than usually, for a particular purpose or person, in particulars

Essential:

Establish:

Facilitate:

Few: should be interpreted to mean not many, but more than one. An indefinitely small number.

Fraud: wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain

Governance:

Immediate:

Impact: defined as reduced new infection rates or as improvements in survival. It results from the coverage of services, modulated by the efficiency and effectiveness of interventions and changes in other relevant factors. Impact goals were set in the context of the Millennium Development Goals.

Implement: when a reference is made to “implement” it should be interpreted to mean taking steps forward. While the commitment may be a part of a longer-term initiative and actions on it may continue into the prolonged future, steps need to be taken in the near future to be considered implementation. This should not, therefore, be interpreted to mean only prolonged or delayed action.

Improve: improve is defined as “make or become better” or “produce something better than” (as improve upon) (OECD 1990:594). In a G20 context, when a commitment states that it will “improve” it should be interpreted to mean that old initiatives will be updated. It should not be interpreted to mean a brand new initiative.

Including:

Inclusive: all parties are included in the discussion and decision making process taking into account relative capabilities.

Increasing: when a commitment indicates that it will “increase” efforts it should be interpreted to mean additional efforts to an old commitment. It should not be interpreted as adding new efforts in new ways.

Inefficient: not producing the effect intended or desired

Initiate: when a commitments states that it will “initiate” it should be interpreted to mean new efforts. It should not apply to old efforts or initiatives that have been referred to in the past.

Intensify: increase existing actors

Joint (efforts):

Legitimacy:

Long-term: medium term is from the summit cycle until five years; and long term is any commitment with a delivery date of over five years.

Mainstreaming:

Make effort: when a commitment states it will “make an efforts” it should be interpreted to mean efforts in the immediate future. It could be based on old efforts, but new steps or initiatives need to accompany the commitment. It should not be interpreted to apply to compliance that has already taken place in the area.

Market manipulation: a deliberate attempt to interfere with the free and fair operation of the market and create artificial, false or misleading appearances with respect to the price of, or market for, a security, commodity or currency

Meaningful: should be interpreted to mean in an important or significant way. See *significantly* for further instruction.

Measure: when a commitment states that it will “measure” it should be interpreted to mean that steps should be made toward something that is assessable. It should be clear and not vague. It should

be shown that measurement is possible, either by past examples, or clear descriptions of how it will be implemented in the future.

Medium-term: medium term is from the summit cycle until five years; [G20 2008-51]

Meet shortfall: when a commitment states it will “meet shortfalls” it should be interpreted as referring to past initiatives that have failed to be met. It should not be interpreted to apply to new initiatives or old initiatives that have met full compliance.

Moving forward: when a reference is made to “moving forward” it should be interpreted to mean taking additional steps and should include new initiatives in the area. It should not include past compliance efforts, or continued fulfillment of old promises.

Openness: the term should be interpreted within the context of the commitment and taken to mean either, unrestricted access to something or to be transparent.

Operationalization (G20 2011-247):

Outcome (G20 2011-247)

Outstanding:

Particularly: deserving of special mention, to a higher degree than is usual or average. Synonym is “especially.”; to give special emphasis to a point, specially.

Phase out: To bring or come to an end, one stage at a time. The particular time may or may not be specified in the commitment itself e.g., phase out over medium term.

Preventing:

Promote: support or renew old efforts or create new efforts in the area. It should not have to be a brand new initiative. To contribute to growth or prosperity of, to help bring into being.

Promptly:

Pursue: follow in order to catch or capture, to try to get a do over a period of time.

Rationalize: to rationalize is to justify or to give an explanation as to the meaning of the issue/items being discussed.

Reaffirm: “affirm again” whereby affirm is to assert strongly, state as fact, confirm or ratify a judgment (OECD 1990).

Realistic: should be interpreted to mean practical or obtainable. It should not be interpreted to mean far-reaching or ideal.

Rectify: adjust or make right, correct or amend (OECD 1990).

Reform:

Reiterate (G20 2013-140):

Relevance:

Resolve:

Review: a formal assessment of something with the intention of instating change if necessary

Remain committed, reaffirm commitment or reiterate: refers to commitments that have been established in the past. It should not be considered a new initiative; however, new efforts in the area should be made.

Resilience:

Rights:

Robust: should be interpreted as an inclusive action. Something embodying strength.

Scaling up: should be interpreted to mean progression or movement forward. It does not include past or previous performance. It does not include action already taken. It can include past measures if further or additional attention is applied to them.

Short-term: short term is measured from summit to summit;

Significantly: when a commitment states that it will achieve or work “significantly” or in a “significant way” the work must be meaningful or to an important degree, suggesting it must matter in the eyes of the public. It must not occur by accident or chance and therefore it should be statistically significant.

Stand ready:

State-building:

Steps:

Strengthening: to make or become stronger

Subsidy: financial aid given by the government to individuals or groups.

Substantially: an ample or considerable amount in the eyes of the public. Considered of importance. It should be essential to the whole. It should not be minimal or small in comparison to the other parts.

Support: the action, or act of providing aid, assistance, or backing up an initiative, or entity.

Take concrete steps: when a commitment states that it will take “concrete steps” it should be interpreted to mean visible new steps, which could apply to new or old initiatives. It should not be interpreted to mean questionable compliance or half-hearted actions.

Threat:

Together with:

Transparent: open, frank, candid.

Undertake:

Universal: when a commitment states a target of “universal” access it should be interpreted to mean all of the intended group. It should not be interpreted to mean a partial or percentage of the whole. It should not be interpreted to mean a small amount or a minority.

Urgently: when a reference states it must be employed “urgently” it should be interpreted as a short-term initiative that should be put into action in the present and/or very near future. It should not include prolonged and/or delayed efforts and compliance.

Work (G20 2013-140):

Work towards: actors are applying international diplomacy, such as drafting proposals, putting forth new ideas, encouraging new initiatives, etc. It does not include putting forward no effort, resisting or destroying efforts put forth by other actors, or merely tagging along with the consensus reached.

Definitions of Concepts

Words or phrases used in commitments should be interpreted as they are meant. Words and/or phrases that have a deeper underlying meaning and cannot be understood upon first reading should be researched and interpreted as the leader's intended. If a word or phrase is still ambiguous the glossary in the appendix below can be used as a guide for how to interpret and measure such word and/or phrases.

Specific Interpretive Guidelines

In addition to the general interpretive guidelines, brand new commitment specific guidelines are necessary. It is necessary to breakdown the commitment and define the relevant words or phrases to increase the clarity for measurement purposes. The following terms have been defined from previously made commitments.

Access: access should be interpreted to mean the right to obtain or make use of the entity in reference. In terms of health, according to the World Health Organization "Access" is a broad concept, which, measures three dimensions of key health sector interventions:

1. *Availability*, defined in terms of the reachability (physical access), affordability (economic access) and acceptability (socio-cultural access) of services that meet a minimum standard of quality. Making services available, affordable and acceptable is an essential precondition for universal access.
2. *Coverage*, defined as the proportion of a population needing an intervention who receive it. Coverage is influenced by supply (provision of services) and by demand from people in need of services.
3. *Impact*, defined as reduced new infection rates or as improvements in survival. It results from the coverage of services, modulated by the efficiency and effectiveness of interventions and changes in other relevant factors. Impact goals were set in the context of the Millennium Development Goals.

Aid for Trade: development assistance funding that finances trade related initiatives. This includes funding for; the building of infrastructure, trade policy and regulations and trade-related adjustment, economic infrastructure and building productive capacity.

Climate change: means a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods — definition as per Article 1: Definitions, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (New York) 2014. Date of Access: 6 July 2014. http://unfccc.int/essential_background/convention/background/items/2536.php

Copenhagen Accord: an international climate change accord reached on 18 December 2009 at 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Common but differentiated: there is an understanding outlined in the UNFCCC that each country depending on their social and economic conditions has different capacities, strengths and weaknesses when it comes to implementing the Convention. It also acknowledged that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries

Deforestation: the deliberate cutting of trees to make room for cleared land, or for timber profits.

Development assistance or international aid, overseas aid, official development assistance (ODA) or foreign aid: aid given by governments and other agencies to support the economic, environmental, social and political development of developing countries. It is distinguished from humanitarian aid by focusing on alleviating poverty in the long term, rather than a short term response.

Financial inclusion is a complex and multidimensional. However, an inclusive financial system provides access to financial services for all in a reliable, convenient, affordable, continuous, and flexible manner by focusing on financially underserved as well as financially excluded.

Financial support can take the following forms: grants, interest-free loans or equity investments, and can be referred to as foreign aid, humanitarian assistance, development aid or official development aid.

Forests: tropical (and sub-tropical) rainforests are by far the most vulnerable to deforestation and illegal logging, but temperate forests are also mentioned in G8 reports and other types of forests include Mediterranean, boreal, coniferous, montane and plantation.

Fossil fuel subsidy: a form of financial assistance paid to fossil fuel producers or consumers.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Gases which exist in earth's atmosphere and trap the sun's radiation, producing heat and allowing for life to exist on earth. These gases include: water vapour; carbon dioxide; methane nitrous oxide and ozone. Human activity of burning fossil fuels, deforestation and intense agriculture and animal husbandry, all add huge quantities of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, trapping earth's heat and exacerbating climate change. Definition as per the David Suzuki Foundation, Climate Change Basics: Greenhouse Gases, 2014. Date of Access: 21 July 2014. <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/issues/climate-change/science/climate-change-basics/greenhouse-gases/>

Green recovery: a synergistic relationship between economic recovery and environmental protection. Financial contributions to the transition to a green economy through investment in any sustainable development initiative.

Liquidity risk: a financial term to mean the risk that a given security or asset cannot be traded quickly enough in the market to prevent loss.

Liquidity cushion: a reserve fund containing money market and highly liquid investments.

Market manipulation: a deliberate attempt to interfere with the free and fair operation of the market and create artificial, false or misleading appearances with respect to the price of, or market for, a security, commodity or currency

National (Financial) regulatory system (G20 2008-51):

Objective provisions and principles: Outlined in the UNFCCC are unbiased democratically negotiated commitments and statements developed by the parties associated with the convention. These clauses are agreed upon by the group and therefore objective as they have not been developed by one party alone.

Radicalization:

“Reducing Emissions from Deforestation”: Given that forests, especially large tropical forests in Africa, South America and Southeast Asia, act as crucial carbon sinks, reducing deforestation increases the amount of carbon that these sinks are able to absorb each year. Reducing deforestation,

protecting existing forests and re-foresting are all critical components of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating the effects of climate change.

Regulators: are supervisors who are to assess the adequacy and functioning of the institutional body and are expected to take action when necessary.

Review business conduct rules: an assessment of the manner in which a business operates, to ensure that the business does not act against the interests of its clients. While circumstances will vary from country to country, key issues to address include margin lending, blackout trading, “rumourage,” short selling, bribery, predatory lending practices, excessive executive pay practices (bonuses, dividends, share options, severance pay) and, more generally, a lack of transparency in the business sector, and a lack of oversight and supervision of market practices and regulatory standards.

Sink or carbon sink: anything that absorbs more carbon than it releases. The ocean, soil, and forests are all considered carbon sinks, as they absorb significant quantities of carbon. Forests are considered crucial carbon sinks as the tropical forests of Asia, Africa and South America alone absorb ‘about 18% of all carbon dioxide added by fossil fuels. Source: One-Fifth of Fossil Fuel Emissions Absorbed by Threatened Forests, Science Daily (Yorkshire) 19 February 2009. Date of Access: 6 July 2014. <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/02/090218135031.htm>

Sustainable forest management: a dynamic and evolving concept [which] aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental value of all types of forests, for the benefit of the present and future generations. Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)/REDD+, Global Environmental Facility, Investing in Our Future (Washington) 2013. Date of Access: 6 July 2014. <http://www.thegef.org/gef/contact>

Sustainable global growth: the pursuit of sustainable development where the pattern of resource use aims to meet human needs while preserving the environment; where this pursuit expands from domestic policy to the broader scope of international cooperation.

Strengthening cross-border cooperation: the process of working together to address issues including: cross-border tax evasion, money laundering, financing and providing of safe havens for terrorists, and illicit finance emanating from states.

Stress tests: test that assess bank resilience and include a “comprehensive firm-wide perspective across risks and different books.” Also includes tests across credit, market and liquidity risks and include severe and extreme market events. Banks should, at a minimum, outline details of the methodologies, models and scenarios selected for the conduct of the particular stress tests, as well as summary of the findings and results.

Technical cooperation or assistance: It is often associated with actions aimed at strengthening individual and organizational capacity by providing expertise (short- and long-term technical assistance personnel, institutional twinning arrangements, mobilization of diaspora, etc.), training and related learning opportunities (peer exchange, tertiary education, etc.), research and equipment. Technical cooperation can take the form of activities that boost the level of knowledge, skills, technical know-how or productive aptitudes of people in developing countries, or can be services such as consultancy, technical support or the provision of know-how that contribute to the execution of a capital project. Free-standing technical cooperation falls in the category of technical cooperation as much as technical cooperation that is embedded in an investment program or included in a program-based approach does.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): a convention to unify countries in an effort to mitigate, adapt and finance climate change. The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the body that oversees the implementation of the convention and monitors progress.