

The  
G7 Research Group  
at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at Trinity College  
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## **Interim Compliance with Commitments of the 2018 G7 Halifax Environment Ministers Meeting**

For the period of 18 September 2018 to 31 January 2019

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## Introduction

On May 5-6, 2019, G7 environment ministers will gather in Metz, France, for the 23rd time since they first met in 1992. At Metz, they will likely make many precise, future-oriented, politically obligatory commitments, across several key environmental issues such as biodiversity and climate change. But many observers will wonder whether these commitments will be complied with, once the ministers return home and the normal constraints and rhythms of domestic politics begin anew.

The evidence suggests these promises could well be kept. G7 environment ministers have made 518 commitments since they started doing so in 1995 through to their most recent meeting in Halifax, Canada, on September 19–21, 2018. There was a great gap from 2010 to 2015 when the ministers did not meet. Yet from 2016 to 2018, when they resumed, they made a record number of commitments: 66 at Toyama, Japan, in 2016; 49 at Bologna, Italy, in 2018, and a historic high of 69 at Halifax in 2018.

Yet compliance with these commitments has generally been low. Of the 35 commitments assessed for compliance by members during the year after the meeting was held, compliance from 1997 through to 2017 averaged only 51%. For the Miami meeting in 1997, it averaged 40%. For Toyama in 2016 it averaged 57%. For Bologna in 2017 it averaged the same 57%.

It is important to know if the historically high number of commitments made at Halifax in 2018 are being followed by historically high compliance with them. The G7 Research Group therefore conducted a special study of compliance with three of the key Halifax commitments – those on air quality, on financial tools and on extreme weather events. Compliance was assessed on an interim basis, from the end of the Halifax ministerial meeting through to January 31, 2019, or roughly halfway between the gathering in Halifax in September 2018 and the one in Metz in May 2019. These three compliance reports show the following results.

Interim compliance with the three assessed Halifax commitments has thus far averaged 65% — higher than any measured compliance from G7 environment ministerial meetings in earlier years (see Table 1). None of the three Halifax commitments had compliance in the negative range. The commitment on air quality led with 75% compliance (or +0.50 on the scientific scale where +100 is full compliance, 0 is partial compliance and –100 is no compliance). The commitment on financial tools for climate resilience followed with compliance of 69% (+0.38). The commitment on extreme weather events lagged, with compliance of only 50% (0).

By member, compliance was led by Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom and the European Union with 83% each. Next came France and Japan with 67% each. At the bottom came Italy with 34% and the United States with 17%.

**Table 1: 2018 Interim Compliance with Environment Ministers' Commitments**

Country	Overall average		Extreme weather	Financial tools for climate resilience	Air quality
Canada	+0.66	83%	0	+1	+1
Germany	+0.66	83%	0	+1	+1
United Kingdom	+0.66	83%	0	+1	+1
European Union	+0.66	83%	0	+1	+1
France	+0.33	67%	0	0	+1
Japan	+0.33	67%	0	0	+1
Italy	–0.33	34%	0	0	–1
United States	–0.66	17%	0	–1	–1
Average	+0.29	65%	0 (50%)	+0.38 (69%)	+0.50 (75%)

### **Acknowledgements**

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## Extreme Weather Resilience

“Recognizing the devastating impacts of extreme weather events in recent years, particularly in vulnerable coastal communities, G7 Ministers highlighted their commitments to help strengthen the resilience of coastal communities, by supporting well-informed development planning, effective emergency preparedness, and recovery efforts to “build back better.”

*G7 Joint Ministerial Session on Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Communities*

### Assessment

Country	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Canada		0	
France		0	
Germany		0	
Italy		0	
Japan		0	
United Kingdom		0	
United States		0	
European Union		0	
Average		0	

### Background

The Canadian Presidency of the G7 in 2018 introduced the theme “working together on climate change, oceans and clean energy.”<sup>1</sup> At the meeting of G7 Environment and Energy Ministers in Halifax in September 2018, G7 ministers agreed on the importance of a quick transition towards “a sustainable, resilient, low carbon future,” which includes the development of global solutions with international partners.<sup>2</sup> Solutions to new threats resulting from extreme weather events were a focus of this ministerial meeting. Climate-vulnerable regions and coastal communities are facing challenges such as droughts, floods, rising sea levels, thinning sea ice, and ocean acidification. Such extreme weather events are now occurring in worsening scale and increasing frequency.<sup>3</sup>

In 1992, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, references to the protection of oceans and coastal areas occurred in Chapter 17 of the Agenda 21 action plan. Chapter 17 urged coastal states to initiate systems “for the integrated management and sustainable development of coastal states and marine areas and their resources” and create contingency plans. These plans would be used to respond to climate change, foster environmentally-friendly technology and infrastructure, and improve livelihoods in coastal communities.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Canada’s G7 Themes, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 July 2018. Access Date: 7 February 2019. <https://g7.gc.ca/en/g7-presidency/themes/>.

<sup>2</sup> Working Together on Climate Change, Oceans, and Clean Energy, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 September 2018. Access Date: 7 February 2019. <https://g7.gc.ca/en/g7-presidency/themes/working-together-climate-change-oceans-clean-energy/>.

<sup>3</sup> G7 Public Engagement Paper – Working Together on Climate Change, Oceans and Clean Energy, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 May 2018. Access Date: 7 February 2019. <https://g7.gc.ca/en/g7-presidency/themes/working-together-climate-change-oceans-clean-energy/g7-public-engagement-paper/>.

<sup>4</sup> Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro) 13 August 1992. Access Date: 7 February 2019. [http://www.un.org/Depts/los/consultative\\_process/documents/A21-Ch17.htm](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/consultative_process/documents/A21-Ch17.htm).

At the 2009 G8 L'Aquila Summit, G8 leaders acknowledged the importance of defining and implementing climate change adaptation policies, particularly in least developed countries and small island developing states (SIDS).<sup>5</sup>

In 2010, at the G8 Muskoka Summit, G8 leaders discussed the significance of climate resilient economies, specifically regarding the poorest and most vulnerable communities around the world. Solutions focused on innovation in infrastructure and technology as measures of adapting to climate change.<sup>6</sup>

In 2015, at the G7 Elmau Summit, a background report on long-term climate finance was released. This document states that in 2013, USD5 billion was allocated by multilateral development banks to address climate change adaptation. Of this figure, 22 per cent was spent on building coastal infrastructure.<sup>7</sup>

On 11 August 2015, the United Nations published its post-2015 development agenda, with a specific focus on the unique challenges facing low-lying coastal areas as a result of climate change. Goal 14 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals outlined the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources, and highlighted the need for resilient marine and coastal ecosystems.<sup>8</sup>

At the 2016 G7 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 leaders adopted and published the Principles for Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment. The fourth principle emphasizes on the promotion of climate change resilience through infrastructure investment, with a specific focus on ecosystem-based approaches and green infrastructure.<sup>9</sup>

On 15 November 2017, the World Bank published a report on improving the climate and disaster resilience of transport infrastructure in SIDS. This report recommended further steps for the construction of resilient transport infrastructure in vulnerable coastal communities, and outlined the climate and disaster risks faced by such communities.<sup>10</sup>

On 20 September 2018, the G7 Ministers of Environment, Oceans and Energy held a Joint Ministerial Session on Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Coastal Communities. The ministers met with representatives from Jamaica, Kenya, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Norway, Seychelles and Vietnam and various international organizations, industries and youth groups. The session hosted numerous discussions about effective strategies for resilience and the vulnerability of SIDS and other low-lying developing countries. To support SIDS and coastal communities in other developing countries, G7 Ministers and Heads of Delegations agreed to introduce the G7 Initiative on Earth Observation and Integrated Coastal Zone Management. Furthermore, Ministers agreed to focus on innovation and clean energy technology, and promote relevant efforts on behalf of both G7 members and international organizations.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> G8 Leaders Declaration: Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, G8 Information Centre (L'Aquila) 8 July 2009. Access Date: 7 February 2019. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/2009-declaration.html>.

<sup>6</sup> G8 Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, G7 Information Centre (Muskoka) 26 June 2010. Access Date: 10 February 2019. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html>.

<sup>7</sup> Background Report on Long-Term Climate Finance, G7 Information Centre (Schloss Elmau) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 10 February 2019. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-climate-finance.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations Development Programme (New York) 11 August 2015. Access Date: 10 February 2019. [https://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/08/120815\\_outcome-document-of-Summit-for-adoption-of-the-post-2015-development-agenda.pdf](https://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/08/120815_outcome-document-of-Summit-for-adoption-of-the-post-2015-development-agenda.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Principles for Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment, G7 Information Centre (Ise-Shima) 26 May 2016. Access Date: 10 February 2019. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/infrastructure-investment.html>.

<sup>10</sup> Climate and Disaster Resilient Transport in Small Island Developing States: A Call for Action, World Bank (Washington D.C.) 15 November 2017. Access Date: 10 February 2019. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/28798>.

<sup>11</sup> Chairs' Summary: G7 Joint Ministerial Session on Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Communities, Government of Canada (Halifax) 21 September 2018. Access Date: 7 February 2019. <https://g7.gc.ca/en/g7-presidency/themes/working-together-climate-change-oceans-clean-energy/g7-ministerial-meeting/joint-chairs-summary/>.

## Commitment Features

This commitment focuses on strengthening the resilience of coastal communities to the rising number of extreme weather events. Scientific research attributes the increasing prevalence of extreme weather events to climate change. Since 2012, the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society has published an annual collection of studies measuring this link. Of the 131 studies the Bulletin has highlighted, around 65% have found climate change to be a contributing and increasing factor on the severity or prevalence of extreme weather, which disproportionately affects coastal communities.<sup>12</sup>

“Coastal communities” is defined as the close to 2.4 billion people, or 40% of the world’s population, that live within 100 kilometres of the coast.<sup>13</sup> The G7 Ministers have committed to strengthening “resilience,” which is understood to mean actions to “resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover” from extreme weather events “in a timely and efficient manner.”<sup>14</sup>

“Strengthen” is defined as actions to “make or become stronger,” in this context to enhance the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather events.<sup>15</sup> “Support” is understood to mean “the action, or act of providing aid, assistance, or backing up an initiative, or entity.”<sup>16</sup>

The three strategies listed in the commitment to strengthen resilience include 1) supporting well-informed development planning, 2) effective emergency preparedness, and 3) recovery efforts to “build back better.” The first strategy to support well-informed development planning advises that actions and plans devised by countries to encourage growth should take into account the increasing prevalence of extreme weather events. “Well-informed” is defined as “having extensive knowledge especially of current topics and events [or] in a particular subject,” which can be manifested in evidence-based policy-making and government-commissioned measures to investigate or research an issue area to inform policy processes.<sup>17</sup>

The second strategy is to support emergency preparedness. Preparedness is understood to mean the “knowledge and capacities developed by governments, response and recovery organizations, communities and individuals to effectively anticipate, respond to, and recover from” extreme weather events.<sup>18</sup> Examples of emergency preparedness include measures to enhance the coordination and timeliness of government response to extreme weather events.

The third strategy is to support recovery efforts to “build back better.” “Build back better” means to take advantage of the period after a disaster to improve the resilience of coastal communities against extreme weather events. This is achieved by integrating disaster risk reduction measures into the rebuilding of physical infrastructure, societal systems, the economy, and the environment.<sup>19</sup> Examples of “building back better”

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<sup>12</sup> Core Concept: How does climate change influence extreme weather? Impact attribution research seeks answers, Proceedings of the National Academy of Science of the United States of America (Washington D.C.) 14 August 2018. Access Date: 17 February 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1811393115>.

<sup>13</sup> Factsheet: People and Oceans, The Ocean Conference United Nations, (New York) 9 June 2017. Access Date: 17 February 2019. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Ocean-fact-sheet-package.pdf>.

<sup>14</sup> Terminology, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (Geneva) 2 February 2017. Access Date: 17 February 2019. <https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/terminology>.

<sup>15</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 7 May 2018. Access Date: 27 February 2019.

<sup>16</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 7 May 2018. Access Date: 27 February 2019.

<sup>17</sup> Well-informed, Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary (Springfield) Access Date: 27 February 2019. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/well-informed>

<sup>18</sup> Terminology, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (Geneva) 2 February 2017. Access Date: 17 February 2019. <https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/terminology>.

<sup>19</sup> Terminology, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (Geneva) 2 February 2017. Access Date: 17 February 2019. <https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/terminology>.

include efforts to build more resilient infrastructure than before to recover after natural disasters and extreme weather events.

To achieve full compliance, the G7 member needs to demonstrate that it has helped to strengthen the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather events by supporting well-informed development planning, effective emergency preparedness, and recovery efforts to “build back better.” All three components of this commitment are necessary for full compliance. However, if the support is considered related to building resilience against extreme weather events, yet “extreme weather events” is not mentioned explicitly, full compliance can still be scored.

Some action must be taken in relation to all three strategies in coastal communities to merit a score of +1. If some but not all the aforementioned strategies are addressed, i.e., one or two out of the three areas of action are fulfilled, the G7 member achieves partial compliance. If the G7 member has taken no action to strengthen the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather events, the G7 member is to be assigned a score of non-compliance, or -1.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member has NOT helped strengthen the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather events by supporting well-informed development planning, effective emergency preparedness, OR recovery efforts to “build back better.”
0	The G7 member has helped strengthen the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather events by supporting well-informed development planning OR effective emergency preparedness, OR recovery efforts to “build back better.”
+1	The G7 member has helped strengthen the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather events by supporting well-informed development planning, effective emergency preparedness, AND recovery efforts to “build back better.”

### Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to help strengthen the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather events, by supporting well-informed development planning, effective emergency preparedness, and recovery efforts to “build back better.”

On 25 October 2018, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna and the Prime Minister of the Netherlands Mark Rutte announced Canada’s participation in the new Global Commission on Adaptation. Canada has pledged to contribute CAD7.5 million to the Global Commission, and the funds will be used to build resilience and find solutions to climate change.<sup>20</sup>

On 14 November 2018, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Ralph Goodale announced nearly CAD1 million for three flood risk mapping projects to guide weather-related emergency planning and response to natural disasters.<sup>21</sup> This funding is allocated from the National Disaster Mitigation Program, established for the period of 2015-2020 “as part of the Government of Canada’s commitment to build safer and more resilient communities.”<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Canada joins the Netherlands in new Global Commission on Adaptation to build resilience to the effects of climate change, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 October 2018. Access Date: 21 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2018/10/canada-joins-the-netherlands-in-new-global-commission-on-adaptation-to-build-resilience-to-the-effects-of-climate-change.html>.

<sup>21</sup> Governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador fund flood mitigation projects, Cision (St John’s) 14 November 2018. Access Date: 20 February 2019. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/governments-of-canada-and-newfoundland-and-labrador-fund-flood-mitigation-projects-700511641.html>.

<sup>22</sup> National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP), Public Safety Canada (Ottawa) 24 May 2018. Access Date: 20 February 2019. <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/mrgnc-mngmnt/dsstr-prvntn-mtgn/ndmp/index-en.aspx>.

On 30 November 2018, Minister of Transport Marc Garneau announced a pledge of over CAD2.5 million “to develop, test and evaluate a new maritime awareness information system in Canada” for pilot projects in four coastal communities in British Columbia.<sup>23</sup> The funding originates from Canada’s Oceans Protection Plan, an ongoing initiative by the government since 2016 to sustain “the economic, environmental, social, and cultural health of our oceans and coasts.”<sup>24</sup>

Canada has strengthened the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather events by supporting well-informed development planning and emergency preparedness. However, Canada has not yet supported post-emergency recovery efforts to “build back better,” thus accomplishing two out of the three components of this commitment.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Anna Bubrmann*

### **France: 0**

France has partially complied with its commitment to help strengthen the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather events, by supporting well-informed development planning, effective emergency preparedness, and recovery efforts to “build back better.”

On 21 September 2018, the World Meteorological Organization launched a West Africa project led and funded in part by France through the Climate Risk and Early Warning System initiative. The project will test and promote early warning systems in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger.<sup>6</sup>

On 27 September 2018, in conjunction with the European Union and New Zealand, France launched a Pacific initiative during the Planet Summit in New York. France’s contribution will “help the Pacific region adapt to the effects of climate change, protect biodiversity, and to increase resilience.”<sup>25</sup>

France has not contributed to all three pillars of this commitment to strengthen the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather events. France has acted through multilateral platforms to enhance emergency preparedness in developing countries vulnerable to climate change, but no actions were found to foster well-informed development planning or recovery efforts to “build back better.” France has fulfilled one of the three components of this commitment.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Ivan Hsieh*

### **Germany: 0**

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to help strengthen the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather events, by supporting well-informed development planning, effective emergency preparedness, and recovery efforts to “build back better.”

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<sup>23</sup> Government of Canada provides over \$2.5 million to four British Columbia coastal communities to increase availability of Maritime Data, Cision (Ottawa) 30 November 2018. Access Date: 19 February 2019. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-provides-over-25-million-to-four-british-columbia-coastal-communities-to-increase-availability-of-maritime-data-701661531.html>.

<sup>24</sup> Report to Canadians: Investing in our coasts through the Oceans Protection Plan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 November 2018. Access Date: 20 February 2019. <https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/report-canadians-investing-coasts-oceans-protection-plan.html>.

<sup>25</sup> EU, France, Australia and New Zealand launch Pacific initiative for biodiversity, climate change and resilience, European Commission (Brussels) 27 September 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/eu-france-and-new-zealand-launch-pacific-initiative-biodiversity-climate-change-and\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/eu-france-and-new-zealand-launch-pacific-initiative-biodiversity-climate-change-and_en).

On 21 September 2018, the World Meteorological Organization launched a West Africa project funded in part by Germany through the Climate Risk and Early Warning System initiative. The project will test and promote early warning systems in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger.<sup>26</sup>

Germany has not contributed to all three pillars of this commitment to strengthen the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather events. Germany has acted through multilateral platforms to enhance emergency preparedness in developing countries vulnerable to climate change, but no actions were found to foster well-informed development planning or recovery efforts to “build back better.”

Thus, Germany receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Ivan Hsieh*

### **Italy: 0**

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to help strengthen the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather events, by supporting well-informed development planning, effective emergency preparedness, and recovery efforts to “build back better.”

On 28 November 2018, as a member of the Special Envoy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, Minister Plenipotentiary Roberto Natali attended the ceremony for the construction of the Community Multi-Purpose Emergency Centre in San Ignacio, Belize. The project, entitled “Reducing the Carbon Footprint of San Ignacio and Five Surrounding Villages in the Cayo District,” is funded by the governments of Italy and Belize and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC). The project will replace street lights in San Ignacio with energy-efficient Light Emitting Diode lights, and the newly constructed centre will be used as both a disaster shelter and a community centre.<sup>27</sup>

On 1 December 2018, the government of Italy was commended by the CCCCC for contributing USD600,000 towards the new Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) system.<sup>28</sup> The LiDAR system will improve the ability of the CCCCC to observe changes to the Caribbean’s land and marine environments.<sup>29</sup>

Italy has endeavoured to improve emergency preparedness alongside Belize and through the CCCCC. However, Italy has not strengthened the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather events by supporting well-informed development planning or recovery efforts to “build back better.” Italy achieved one out of the three pillars of this commitment.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Sonja Dobson*

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<sup>26</sup> West Africa regional institutions to provide better support for early warnings, Crews Initiative (Geneva) 19 September 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.crews-initiative.org/en/news/news/west-africa-regional-institutions-provide-better-support-early-warnings>.

<sup>27</sup> CCCCC, Govts of Belize, Italy Break Ground for Multi-Purpose Facility, CARICOM Today (Belmopan) 4 December 2018. Access Date: 20 February 2019. <https://today.caricom.org/2018/12/01/ccccc-govts-of-belize-italy-break-ground-for-multi-purpose-facility/>.

<sup>28</sup> US Government continues to support Caribbean in managing impacts of natural disasters, 6 December 2016. Access Date: 21 February 2019. <https://www.breakingbelizenews.com/2018/12/06/us-government-continues-to-support-caribbean-in-managing-impacts-of-natural-disasters/>.

<sup>29</sup> CCCCC adds LiDar to Caribbean Climate change fight, Caribbean News Service, 1 December 2018. Access Date: 21 February 2019. <https://caribbeannewsservice.com/now/ccccc-adds-lidar-to-caribbean-climate-change-fight/>.

### **Japan: 0**

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to help strengthen the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather events, by supporting well-informed development planning, effective emergency preparedness, and recovery efforts to “build back better.”

On 3 October 2018, the government sent the Japan Disaster Relief Team to provide emergency relief supplies in the earthquake and tsunami in Sulawesi, in the Republic of Indonesia.<sup>30</sup>

On 16 November 2018, the government announced USD378,309 in funding to the Disaster Risk Reduction Strengthening Project in Chitwan District in Nepal. The purpose of this project is to strengthen community resilience to disasters in the flood-prone area of the Madi Municipality and landslide-prone area in Rapti Municipality. This project will increase capacity development in local governments and communities through Local Disaster Management Committees and Community Disaster Management Committees. This project will also build and maintain infrastructure, and strive to raise awareness in schools about relevant issues of disaster preparedness.<sup>31</sup>

Japan has contributed to strengthening the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather events by supporting well-informed development planning and effective emergency preparedness. However, Japan has not supported recovery efforts to “build back better.”

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Sonja Dobson*

### **United Kingdom: 0**

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to help strengthen the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather events, by supporting well-informed development planning, effective emergency preparedness, and recovery efforts to “build back better.”

On 21 October 2018, Lloyd’s and the UK-funded Centre for Global Disaster Protection released a report that outlined four innovative financial instruments to boost insurance coverage and to generate funds and investments in infrastructure that can withstand disaster. These financial instruments include loans that incorporate insurance and bonds whose payments are linked to the success of resilience measures.<sup>32</sup>

The UK has contributed to strengthening the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather events by supporting well-informed development planning. However, the UK has not supported recovery efforts to “build back better” or improve the effectiveness of emergency preparedness.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Ivan Hsieh*

### **United States: 0**

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to help strengthen the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather events, by supporting well-informed development planning, effective emergency preparedness, and recovery efforts to “build back better.”

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<sup>30</sup> Emergency Assistance to the Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster in the Republic of Indonesia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 3 October 2018. Access Date: 21 February 2019. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002181.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002181.html).

<sup>31</sup> Japanese Assistance for the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Strengthening Project in Chitwan District, Embassy of Japan in Nepal (Kathmandu) 16 November 2018. Access Date: 21 February 2019. <https://www.np.emb-japan.go.jp/files/000420070.pdf>.

<sup>32</sup> 'Insurance gap' threatens disaster-vulnerable poor nations: Lloyd's, Reuters (London) 21 October 2018. Access Date: 21 February 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-global-insurance-disaster/insurance-gap-threatens-disaster-vulnerable-poor-nations-lloyds-idUSKCN1MV10J>.

On 26 September 2018, the US State Department approved the Integrated Country Strategy for the Dominican Republic. Mission Objective 3.2 of the Strategy addresses “Community Resilience to the Adverse Impacts of Environmental Threats Increased.”<sup>33</sup>

On 9 November 2018, the US agency, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, announced USD28.9 million in contribution to the 2018 National Coastal Resilience Fund. This funding will be used to improve natural features that protect coastal communities from extreme weather events in 22 states and Puerto Rico.<sup>34</sup>

The US has contributed to strengthening the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather events by supporting well-informed development planning and effective emergency preparedness. However, the United States has not supported recovery efforts to “build back better.”

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Sonja Dobson*

### **European Union: 0**

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment to help strengthen the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather events, by supporting well-informed development planning, effective emergency preparedness, and recovery efforts to “build back better.”

On 27 September 2018, in conjunction with France and New Zealand, the EU launched a Pacific initiative during the Planet Summit in New York. The EU contributed EUR 10 million to “help the Pacific region adapt to the effects of climate change, protect biodiversity, and to increase resilience.”<sup>35</sup>

On 16 October 2018, the EU announced its support for the Global Commission on Adaptation, an international initiative that aims to develop “climate-resilient food and rural livelihood security; resilient cities; ecosystem-based solutions; adaptation finance; resilient global supply chains; climate resilient infrastructure; and climate-resilient social protection.”<sup>36</sup>

On 25 October 2018, the European Commission approved an investment package of EUR243 million towards the LIFE programme.<sup>37</sup> The LIFE climate change adaptation projects will provide EUR44.2 million to six thematic areas, including “ecosystem-based adaptation, health and wellbeing, mountain/island areas adaptation focusing on the agriculture sector, urban adaptation/planning, vulnerability assessments/adaptation strategies, and water (including flood management, coastal areas and desertification).”<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> Integrated Country Strategy: Dominican Republic, United States State Department (Washington D.C.) 28 August 2018. Access Date: 21 February 2019. <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/284649.pdf>.

<sup>34</sup> NFWF, NOAA announce \$28.9 million in grants for the 2018 National Coastal Resilience Fund, NOAA (Washington D.C.) 9 November 2018. Access Date: 21 February 2019. <https://www.noaa.gov/media-release/nfwf-noaa-announce-289-million-in-grants-for-2018-national-coastal-resilience-fund>.

<sup>35</sup> EU, France, Australia and New Zealand launch Pacific initiative for biodiversity, climate change and resilience, European Commission (Brussels) 27 September 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/eu-france-and-new-zealand-launch-pacific-initiative-biodiversity-climate-change-and\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/eu-france-and-new-zealand-launch-pacific-initiative-biodiversity-climate-change-and_en).

<sup>36</sup> Global Commission on Adaptation launched in The Hague, European Commission (Brussels) 16 October 2018. Access Date: 21 January 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/global-commission-adaptation-launched-hague\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/global-commission-adaptation-launched-hague_en).

<sup>37</sup> LIFE Programme: Member States to benefit from quarter of a billion euros of investments in environment, nature and climate action, European Commission (Brussels) 25 October 2018. Access Date: 21 January 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/life-programme-member-states-benefit-quarter-billion-euros-investments-environment-nature-and\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/life-programme-member-states-benefit-quarter-billion-euros-investments-environment-nature-and_en).

<sup>38</sup> LIFE Programme: Member States to benefit from quarter of a billion euros of investments in environment, nature and climate action, European Commission (Brussels) 25 October 2018. Access Date: 21 January 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/life-programme-member-states-benefit-quarter-billion-euros-investments-environment-nature-and\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/life-programme-member-states-benefit-quarter-billion-euros-investments-environment-nature-and_en).

On 29 October 2018, the EU committed EUR300 million to clean, healthy and safe oceans, specifically including programs that provide support dedicated to coastal environmental services.<sup>39</sup> High Representative and Vice President Federica Mogherini stated, “the state of our oceans calls for determined global action. With 23 new commitments, the European Union stays engaged to ensure safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed oceans.”<sup>40</sup>

On 12 November 2018, the evaluation of the EU’s 2013 adaptation strategy was published by the European Commission.<sup>41</sup> Within the evaluation, one of the key findings that “in the future, an effort must be made to ensure most, or all EU cities count on a thorough adaptation plan to protect citizens from both extreme and slow-onset climate hazards.”<sup>42</sup>

On 21 November 2018, the EU hosted a conference that delivered a “Call to Action,” which aims to allow countries to “better coordinate and align the various data collection initiatives and work together towards a more concerted, fit for purpose and cost-effective European ocean observing capability.”<sup>43</sup> One of the first issues discussed was coastal damage and threats in Europe.<sup>44</sup>

On 5 December 2018, a study commissioned by the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy was published. The study examined the resources available for members to develop climate resilient infrastructure. The seven criteria used were data availability, guidance, methodologies, tools, design standards, system and legal framework and institutional capacity, covering the transport, broadband, urban, development, energy, water, and waste sectors.<sup>45</sup>

On 11 December 2018, the European Environment Agency published a briefing that itemizes how the EU is addressing climate change adaptation.<sup>46</sup> This includes detailed descriptions of vulnerable regions (Northern Periphery and Arctic/South West Europe/Mediterranean) and current action plans (web-based adaptation platforms/knowledge centres/transnational cooperation).<sup>47</sup>

On 13 December 2018, the European Investment Bank signed a EUR100 million loan transaction with Caruna, an electricity distribution system operator in Finland. This loan will support the replacement of 9,000 km of medium and low voltage overhead lines and more than 10,500 km of underground cables. This is

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<sup>39</sup> European Union commits €300 million for clean, healthy and safe oceans, European Commission (Brussels) 29 October 2018. Access Date: 21 January 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-6209\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6209_en.htm).

<sup>40</sup> European Union commits €300 million for clean, healthy and safe oceans, European Commission (Brussels) 29 October 2018. Access Date: 21 January 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-6209\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6209_en.htm).

<sup>41</sup> Europe is ready for climate impacts: Commission evaluates its strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 12 November 2018. Access Date: 19 February 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/europe-ready-climate-impacts-commission-evaluates-its-strategy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/europe-ready-climate-impacts-commission-evaluates-its-strategy_en).

<sup>42</sup> Europe is ready for climate impacts: Commission evaluates its strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 12 November 2018. Access Date: 19 February 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/europe-ready-climate-impacts-commission-evaluates-its-strategy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/europe-ready-climate-impacts-commission-evaluates-its-strategy_en).

<sup>43</sup> Europe steps up efforts to coordinate ocean observing and monitoring for society, European Ocean Observing System (Brussels) 21 November 2018. Access Date: 21 February 2019. <https://eoosconference2018.eu/press-release>.

<sup>44</sup> Europe steps up efforts to coordinate ocean observing and monitoring for society, European Ocean Observing System (Brussels) 21 November 2018. Access Date: 21 February 2019. <https://eoosconference2018.eu/press-release>.

<sup>45</sup> Climate change adaptation of major infrastructure projects, European Commission (Brussels) 5 December 2018. Access Date: 21 February 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/information/publications/studies/2018/climate-change-adaptation-of-major-infrastructure-projects](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/studies/2018/climate-change-adaptation-of-major-infrastructure-projects).

<sup>46</sup> Addressing climate change adaptation in transnational regions in Europe, European Environment Agency (Copenhagen) 11 December 2018. Access Date: 21 February 2018. <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/climate-change-adaptation/adaptation-policies/adaptation-policies-in-transnational-regions#tab-figures-used>.

<sup>47</sup> Addressing climate change adaptation in transnational regions in Europe, European Environment Agency (Copenhagen) 11 December 2018. Access Date: 21 February 2018. <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/climate-change-adaptation/adaptation-policies/adaptation-policies-in-transnational-regions#tab-figures-used>.

intended by the Finnish government as a measure to increase resilience to extreme weather events such as storms and heavy snow.<sup>48</sup>

The EU has contributed to strengthening the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather events by supporting well-informed development planning and effective emergency preparedness. However, the EU has not supported recovery efforts to “build back better.”

Thus, the European Union receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Ivan Hsieh & Benson Ompoc*

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<sup>48</sup> EIB backs security of energy supply in Finland by weatherproofing Caruna, European Investment Bank (Kirchberg) 13 December 2018. Access Date: 21 February 2019. <http://www.eib.org/en/infocentre/press/releases/all/2018/2018-308-eib-backs-security-of-energy-supply-in-finland-by-weatherproofing-caruna.htm>.

## Financial Tools

“Many Ministers recognized the need to advance efforts to broaden innovative financial tools such as climate risk insurance coverage, to help reduce vulnerability, build resilience and drive sustainable investment including in Small Island Developing States and other vulnerable countries.”

*Chair’s Summit: G7 Environment Ministers’ Meeting*

### Assessment

Country	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France		0	
Germany			+1
Italy		0	
Japan		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States	-1		
European Union			+1
Average		+0.38	

### Background

A report by the International Panel on Climate Change states that “a changing climate leads to changes in the frequency, intensity, spatial extent, duration, and timing of extreme weather and climate events, and can result in unprecedented extreme weather and climate events.”<sup>49</sup> While it is key to mitigate and reduce the impacts of climate change, adaptation and resilience are also needed to respond to the effects of climate change.<sup>50</sup> This is particularly true for countries vulnerable to the effects of climate change, who will be disproportionately impacted by climate-induced risks of disaster.<sup>51</sup>

When vulnerable countries face disasters, reactive management results in the diversion of developmental finance.<sup>52</sup> Disaster risk insurance prevents this by “strengthening disaster preparedness, rapid response, and recovery.”<sup>53</sup> An example of such global initiatives is the InsuResilience Global Partnership for Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance Solutions. This partnership was born out of the 2015 G7 Climate Risk Insurance Initiative launched at the Elmau Summit in 2015. The partnership includes G20 members and Vulnerable 20 countries, among other partners of this initiative. Created with the objective to “increase resilience amongst the most poor and vulnerable people,” the InsuResilience Global Partnership works with inter-sectoral members in “civil society, international organizations, the private sector, and academia.”<sup>54</sup> An example of InsuResilience’s recent work is its response to Hurricane Irma and Maria. InsuResilience worked with the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility to provide USD55 million to 10 Caribbean countries to address the destruction resulting from Hurricane Irma and Maria.<sup>55</sup>

<sup>49</sup> Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC (Geneva) 2012. Access Date: 4 July 2018. [https://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/special-reports/srex/SREX\\_Full\\_Report.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/special-reports/srex/SREX_Full_Report.pdf).

<sup>50</sup> About, InsuResilience (Bonn) Access Date: 4 July 2018. <https://www.insuresilience.org/about/>.

<sup>51</sup> About, InsuResilience (Bonn) Access Date: 4 July 2018. <https://www.insuresilience.org/about/>.

<sup>52</sup> About, InsuResilience (Bonn) Access Date: 4 July 2018. <https://www.insuresilience.org/about/>.

<sup>53</sup> About, InsuResilience (Bonn) Access Date: 4 July 2018. <https://www.insuresilience.org/about/>.

<sup>54</sup> About the InsuResilience Global Partnership, InsuResilience Global Partnership. Access Date: 30 August 2018. <https://www.insuresilience.org/about/>

<sup>55</sup> ‘InsuResilience to Provide the Poor with More Financial Protection Against Climate Risks, UNFCCC (Bonn) 14 November 2017. Access Date: 4 July 2018 <https://unfccc.int/news/insuresilience-to-provide-the-poor-with-more-financial-protection-against-climate-risks>.

Climate risk insurance, sometimes called disaster risk insurance, is a form of disaster risk financing. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), “disaster risk insurance schemes cover—against a premium—the costs incurred by the insured entity from extreme weather and natural disasters (such as earthquakes or floods). In the event of extreme weather and natural disasters, the insurer refunds a percentage of the costs incurred. Insurance schemes are widely used to increase the resilience of individuals, companies and public entities to external shocks and reduce their future expenditures in case of a disaster.”<sup>56</sup>

At the G7 Elmau Summit in 2015, G7 members agreed to increase direct insurance coverage by 400 million people in the most vulnerable developing countries by 2020 through existing risk insurance facilities.<sup>57</sup> This Climate Risk Insurance Initiative was further articulated in an annex to the summit communiqué, which stated the overall objective of the measure - to “stimulate the creation of effective climate risk insurance solutions and markets and the use of insurance-related schemes for people and assets at risk in poor and vulnerable developing countries...enabl[ing] climate change adaptation and contribut[ing] to enhancing economic growth, poverty reduction and climate resilience.”<sup>58</sup> The G7 Research Group measured compliance to the Elmau commitment to “intensify...support particularly for vulnerable countries’ own efforts to manage climate change related disaster risk.” The compliance report found an average compliance score of +0.63, or 81%.<sup>59</sup>

At the 2012 Camp David Summit, leaders affirmed that “investment initiatives can be financed using a range of mechanisms, including leveraging the private sector” in the context of economic growth.<sup>60</sup>

At the 2013 Lough Erne Summit, the final communiqué committed leaders to “explore and identify...the further steps it can take...in collaboration with...International Financial Institutions” to further development efforts in developing countries.<sup>61</sup> At this summit, leaders also committed to improving the transparency of “international public climate finance flows.”<sup>62</sup>

At the 2014 Brussels Summit, G7 leaders committed to “(strengthening) efforts to improve measurement, reporting, verification and accounting of emissions and improve the reporting of international climate finance flows.”<sup>63</sup> Leaders at Brussels also committed to working with international financial institutions to “supply technical assistance, including leveraging the private sector, and facilitate exchanges with Ukraine and other European countries seeking to develop indigenous hydrocarbon resources and renewable energies, as well as to improve energy efficiency.”<sup>64</sup>

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<sup>56</sup> Disaster Risk Insurance, UNDP, Financing Solutions for Sustainable Development (New York) Access Date: 30 August 2018. <http://www.undp.org/content/sdfinance/en/home/solutions/disaster-risk-insurance.html>

<sup>57</sup> Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, The G7 Research Group (Toronto). Access Date: 4 July 2018. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>58</sup> Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 4 July 2018. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>59</sup> 2015 Schloss Elmau G7 Summit Final Compliance Report, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 23 May 2016. Access Date: 4 July 2018. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2015compliance-final/2015-g7-compliance-final-160523.pdf>.

<sup>60</sup> Camp David Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Camp David) 19 May 2012. Access Date: 5 February 2019. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2012campdavid/g8-declaration.html>

<sup>61</sup> G8 Lough Erne Leaders Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Lough Erne) 18 June 2013. Access Date: 5 February 2019. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2013lougherne/lough-erne-communique.html>

<sup>62</sup> G8 Lough Erne Leaders Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Lough Erne) 18 June 2013. Access Date: 5 February 2019. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2013lougherne/lough-erne-communique.html>

<sup>63</sup> The Brussels G7 Summit Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Brussels) 2014. Access Date: 5 February 2019. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/brussels-declaration.pdf>

<sup>64</sup> The Brussels G7 Summit Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Brussels) 2014. Access Date: 5 February 2019. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/brussels-declaration.pdf>

At the 2016 Ise Shima Summit, G7 members were “ready to further promote the relevant initiatives on climate risk insurance...such as InsuResilience.”<sup>65</sup> However, there was no mention of climate risk insurance in the Taormina summit communiqué.

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, the G7 leaders also committed to using innovative financial tools to further gender equality.<sup>66</sup> Part of this commitment included the promise to “enhance the economic resilience of vulnerable developing countries, as well as to respond effectively to extreme weather events and other hazards.”<sup>67</sup> Furthermore, in June 2018, at the G7 Joint Development and Finance Ministers’ Meeting in Whistler, ministers reinforced their commitment to “innovative financing” for the purpose of “mobilizing private capital for sustainable development” and “building economic resilience against extreme weather events.”<sup>68</sup> Both declarations relied on the UN’s Addis Ababa Action Agenda from the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.<sup>69</sup> The document includes affirmation of the need for using finance to promote climate resiliency in vulnerable countries.<sup>70</sup> The Finance and Development Ministers in Whistler also reaffirmed the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s (OECD’s) Development Assistance Committee Blended Finance Principles, the OECD financial guidelines for achieved the Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>71</sup>

In June 2018, the G7 Charlevoix summit’s commitment to disaster risk insurance was articulated in the Charlevoix Blueprint for Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Coastal Communities, which was also endorsed in the summit communiqué by all G7 members.<sup>72,73</sup> This places disaster risk insurance as part of a broader G7 commitment to reduce vulnerability to climate change, recognizing that climate change plays a role in the economic, social and environmental well-being of the planet. This commitment at the Charlevoix summit builds on the previous commitment at Elmau by encouraging new types of insurance products, specifying high quality insurance coverage, and by not limiting action to existing initiatives.<sup>74</sup>

As of this point, the G7 Research Group has calculated that the average rate of compliance for this commitment is -0.50. Germany, the only state to have fully complied, has commissioned a study on climate change and insurance by the Munich Climate Change Insurance Initiative that included research on developing countries; contributed financially to African Risk Capacity; and contributed financially to the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction’s implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Insurance. Germany and the United Kingdom have also partnered to form the Global Risk Financing Facility. The United Kingdom and Japan have also both partly complied to this commitment. Japan has used the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum to both extend coverage to individual vulnerable countries and explore

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<sup>65</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 4 July 2018.

<http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>

<sup>66</sup> Charlevoix Commitment on Innovative Financing for Development, G7 2018 Charlevoix (Charlevoix) 28 August 2018. Access Date: 5 February 2019. <https://g7.gc.ca/en/official-documents/charlevoix-commitment-innovative-financing-development/>

<sup>67</sup> Charlevoix Commitment on Innovative Financing for Development, G7 2018 Charlevoix (Charlevoix) 28 August 2018. Access Date: 5 February 2019. <https://g7.gc.ca/en/official-documents/charlevoix-commitment-innovative-financing-development/>

<sup>68</sup> Co-Chairs’ Summary: G7 Joint Development and Finance Ministers’ Meeting, G7 Information Centre (Whistler) 1 June 2018. Access Date: 5 February 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/finance/180601-joint.html>

<sup>69</sup> Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, United Nations (New York) 27 July 2015. Access Date: 5 February 2019. [https://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA\\_Outcome.pdf](https://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf)

<sup>70</sup> Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, United Nations (New York) 27 July 2015. Access Date: 5 February 2019. [https://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA\\_Outcome.pdf](https://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf)

<sup>71</sup> OECD DAC Blended Finance Principles, OECD. Access Date: 5 February 2019. <http://www.oecd.org/development/financing-sustainable-development/blended-finance-principles/>

<sup>72</sup> Charlevoix Blueprint for Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Communities, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 4 July 2018. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/oceans-blueprint.html>

<sup>73</sup> The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 9 June 2018. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

<sup>74</sup> Charlevoix Blueprint for Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Communities, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 4 July 2018. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/oceans-blueprint.html>

new insurance products for this purpose. However, Japan has yet to do either of these tasks on a global, rather than regional, level. The United Kingdom's Department for International Development, on the other hand, has extended coverage through the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Fund and partnered with global institutions to explore new types of products. However, the country has yet to contribute to extend coverage through a global facility or explore new types of products through a regional facility.

In September 2018, G7 Ministers of Environment and Energy convened in Halifax under the theme of Climate Change, Oceans and Clean Energy. Building on the Charlevoix Blueprint for Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Coastal Communities, the ministers acknowledged the usage of innovative tools including climate risk insurance.<sup>75</sup>

### **Commitment Features**

At the G7 Environment Ministers' Meeting in Halifax in September 2018, G7 ministers "recognized the need to advance efforts to broaden innovative financial tools such as climate risk insurance coverage, to help reduce vulnerability, build resilience and drive sustainable investment including in Small Island Developing States and other vulnerable countries."

In this commitment, "to advance efforts" is understood as "to make or cause to make progress through vigorous or determined attempt," which indicates a collective commitment among the G7 to work towards using more financial tools.<sup>76</sup> Rather than a commitment that refers to specific resources or a target increase, this commitment should be understood as both action-based and of learning, inquiry, and detailed discussion. Thus, this commitment does not bind G7 members to act to develop financial tools – taking investigative efforts and demonstrating such explorative actions publicly, according to compliance assessment methodology, would always count towards compliance.<sup>78</sup> Examples of such exploration can include but are not limited to: publishing reports, proposals, or recommendations; as well as participation or leadership in discussions about and/or the commitment of resources towards financial tools.

In the text of the commitment, "broadening" is defined as actions to widen or "expand to encompass more people or things."<sup>79</sup> The instruments to be used are innovative financial tools, where "innovative" is defined as tools that feature "new methods [that are] advanced and original."<sup>80</sup> Climate risk insurance is referenced in the commitment as an example of innovative financial tools. It is noteworthy that the text of the commitment, "such as," implies that the use of climate risk insurance is encouraged but not mandatory to achieve full compliance. Other examples of innovative financial tools aside from climate risk insurance include equity (risk capital) funds, loans from local banks and bonds. More generally, innovative financial instruments are mechanisms governments can use to provide financial support for private individuals or groups without directly giving them money through, for instance, a subsidy.<sup>81</sup> Examples of innovative financial instruments, as set out in the Charlevoix Summit, include crowdfunding and investor partnerships.<sup>82</sup>

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<sup>75</sup> G7 Environment Ministers Meeting on Climate Change and Clean Growth — Chair's Summary, G7 Information Centre. (Toronto, Canada) 19 September 2018. Access Date: 1 February 2019. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/environment/2018-environment.html>

<sup>76</sup> Advance, English Oxford Living Dictionaries (Oxford) Access Date: 1 February 2018. <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/advance>.

<sup>77</sup> Effort, English Oxford Living Dictionaries (Oxford) Access Date: 1 February 2018. <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/effort>.

<sup>78</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 7 May 2018. Access Date: 30 August 2018.

<sup>79</sup> Broaden, English Oxford Living Dictionaries (Oxford) Access Date: 1 February 2019. <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/broaden>

<sup>80</sup> Innovative, English Oxford Living Dictionaries (Oxford) Access Date: 1 February 2019. <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/innovative>

<sup>81</sup> Innovative Financial Instruments, European Commission, Access Date: 2 February 2019.

The commitment sets the target audience of such financial tools to be Small Island Developing States and other vulnerable countries. Thus, actions that count towards compliance must have an explicit focus on aiding emerging economies and/or countries that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Seeing that this commitment was built from the Charlevoix Blueprint for Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Coastal Communities, intended “beneficiaries in need” of such disaster risk insurance coverage can and should include coastal communities and/or communities affected by marine health; or residents of developing countries and communities vulnerable to the effects of climate change.<sup>83</sup>

Thus, compliance in the first part of this commitment means that G7 members has to demonstrate investigation in extending disaster risk insurance coverage to those most affected by climate change-induced developmental challenges, explicitly through both global and regional partners. As the text of the commitment explicitly references the Small Island Developing States, member compliance with this part of the commitment should prioritize its involvement.

The commitment states three goals in G7’s efforts to broaden financial tools. The first is to “reduce vulnerability,” the second is to “build resilience” and the third is to “drive sustainable investment.” Any form of efforts to broaden the innovative financial tools with the three aforementioned goals is considered for compliance.

Thus, G7 members must act to support the development of innovative financial tools, especially climate risk insurance, to support the three goals. “Vulnerability” is defined as “the quality of state of being exposed to the possibility of being attacked or harmed” and hence actions should act as a preventive measure and help prepare for future disasters.<sup>84</sup> “Resilience” is defined as the “the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties” and in this context, recovering after a disaster. As a result, actions need to help beneficiaries return to the normal state in a timely manner to count as compliance.<sup>85</sup> “Sustainable investment” refers to actions that are of a longer term as they need to be “maintained at a certain rate or level.”<sup>86</sup>

In summary, the commitment outlines the use of one general instrument — innovative financial tools — and three outcomes: 1) Help reduce vulnerability 2) Build resilience 3) Drive sustainable investment for G7 action.

For a full compliance score of +1, the G7 member must explore all three dimensions of this commitment. It is key to note that the G7 member does not have to concretely act to deliver disaster risk insurance — explorative and investigative gestures also count towards compliance.

For partial compliance, the G7 member will receive a score of 0 for taking actions in two out of the three aforementioned areas. Alternatively, if the G7 member has demonstrated concrete efforts in broadening climate risk insurance, but actions weaker than merited by the term “exploration” in the other two areas (such as verbal declaration of support in the absence of policy action), such scenarios would also be scored partial compliance, or 0.

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[https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/growth-and-investment/financing-investment/innovative-financial-instruments\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/growth-and-investment/financing-investment/innovative-financial-instruments_en)

<sup>82</sup> Charlevoix Commitment on Innovative Financing for Development. G7 2018 Charlevoix (Charlevoix) Access Date: 2 February 2019. [https://g7.gc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/InnovativeFinancingForDeveloppement\\_V2.pdf](https://g7.gc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/InnovativeFinancingForDeveloppement_V2.pdf)

<sup>83</sup> Small Island Developing States, Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform (New York) Access Date: 30 August 2018. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sids/list>

<sup>84</sup> Vulnerability, English Oxford Living Dictionaries (Oxford) Access Date: 1 February 2018. <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/vulnerability>

<sup>85</sup> Resilience, English Oxford Living Dictionaries (Oxford) Access Date: 1 February 2018. <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/resilience>.

<sup>86</sup> Sustainable, English Oxford Living Dictionaries (Oxford) Access Date: 1 February 2018. <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/resilience>.

Action in less than two of the aforementioned three areas will lead to a non-compliance score of -1, which means the G7 member failed to comply with this commitment.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member advances efforts to broaden innovative financial tools in one or less of the three areas of the commitment: 1) help reduce vulnerability 2) build resilience, and 3) drive sustainable investment.
0	The G7 member advances efforts to broaden innovative financial tools in two of the three areas of the commitment: 1) help reduce vulnerability 2) build resilience, and 3) drive sustainable investment.
+1	The G7 member advances efforts to broaden innovative financial tools in all three of the areas of the commitment: 1) help reduce vulnerability 2) build resilience, and 3) drive sustainable investment.

*Author: Tacye Hong and Clara Cesira Geddes  
Compliance Directors: Tacye Hong and Clara Cesira Geddes*

### Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to advance efforts to broaden innovative financial tools to help reduce vulnerability, build resilience and drive sustainable investment including in small island developing states and other vulnerable countries.

On 19 September 2018, at the G7 Ministerial Meeting on Working Together on Climate Change, Oceans, and Clean Energy, Minister Catherine McKenna announced CAD2 million in new funds for the National Adaptation Plan Global Network. This fund will be managed by the International Institute for Sustainable Development, and it seeks to help developing countries adapt to the impacts of climate change.<sup>87</sup>

On 20 September 2018, during the Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Coastal Communities meeting, the government announced funding of CAD60 million to support clean energy development and ensure equitable access to employment and energy resources for females in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).<sup>88</sup>

On 24 October 2018, the Expert Panel on Sustainable Finance, a joint effort of the Departments of Finance and Environment and Climate Change, released its interim report.<sup>89</sup> The expert panel was asked to consider “challenges related to sustainable finance and climate-related risk disclosure.”<sup>90</sup> The report suggests that Canada needs to move faster and more decisively to focus on opportunities with long-term environmental impact.<sup>91</sup> The panel represents an attempt by Canada to drive sustainable investment.

On 25 October 2018, Minister McKenna and Prime Minister of the Netherlands Mark Rutte announced Canada’s participation in the Global Commission on Adaptation. The Global Commission on Adaptation is

<sup>87</sup> G7 environment meetings in Halifax focus on climate action, and the \$26 trillion opportunity of clean growth and tackling air pollution, Government of Canada (Halifax) 19 September 2018. Access Date: 3 November 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2018/09/g7-environment-meetings-in-halifax-focus-on-climate-action-and-the-26-trillion-opportunity-of-clean-growth-and-tackling-air-pollution.html>

<sup>88</sup> News release: Environment, Ocean and Energy Ministers ready to take action on our oceans and seas; conclude G7 joint meeting on Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Coastal Communities, Government of Canada (Halifax) 20 September 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2018/09/environment-oceans-and-energy-ministers-ready-to-take-action-on-our-oceans-and-seas-conclude-g7-joint-meeting-on-healthy-oceans-seas-and-resilient-.html>.

<sup>89</sup> Expert Panel on Sustainable Finance delivers its interim report, Government of Canada (Toronto) 24 October 2018. Access Date: 18 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2018/10/expert-panel-on-sustainable-finance-delivers-its-interim-report.html>.

<sup>90</sup> Expert Panel on Sustainable Finance delivers its interim report, Government of Canada (Toronto) 24 October 2018. Access Date: 18 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2018/10/expert-panel-on-sustainable-finance-delivers-its-interim-report.html>.

<sup>91</sup> Interim Report of the Expert Panel on Sustainable Finance, Government of Canada. 24 October 2018. Access Date: 23 February 2019. [http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2018/eccc/En4-350-1-2018-eng.pdf](http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2018/eccc/En4-350-1-2018-eng.pdf).

an initiative led by the Netherlands to support solutions that enhance climate change resilience. Canada will contribute CAD7.5 million in support of the work of the Global Commission on Adaptation.<sup>92</sup>

On 26 November 2018, Minister Bibeau made a speech in Washington in which she announced a \$15 million Canadian contribution to the UNDP's EnGenDER Project, aimed at "helping Caribbean governments apply for the climate financing they so urgently need."<sup>93</sup> This financial commitment represents an attempt by Canada to drive sustainable investment.

On 26 November 2018, during the same speech, Minister Bibeau also announced that 70 per cent of the CAD100 million pledge for disaster risk insurance in vulnerable countries from the 2018 G7 summit has been allocated to Caribbean island territories.<sup>94</sup> Moreover, she announced an additional CAD20 million for the Canada-Caribbean Resilience Facility at the World Bank.<sup>95</sup> The federal government is working with Caribbean island territories to support the development of disaster risk facilities in the Caribbean.<sup>96</sup>

On 26 November 2018, Minister Wilkinson made a speech in Nairobi, Kenya, in which he reiterated Canada's support for building coastal communities that are resilient to climate change by building a "Sustainable Blue Economy" and providing assistance to Small Island Developing States in the areas of "public financial management, financial sector supervisory capacity, and fostering inclusive growth."<sup>97</sup> This represents an attempt by Canada to build resilience.

On 13 December 2018, the Canadian government reiterated its commitment to invest \$275 million in the "Powering Past Coal" fund to help developing countries build low-carbon energy systems.<sup>98</sup> The investment was made through the World Bank and has the explicit purpose of attracting more investment from the

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<sup>92</sup> News release: Canada joins the Netherlands in new Global Commission on Adaptation to build resilience to the effects of climate change, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 October 2018. Access Date: 6 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2018/10/canada-joins-the-netherlands-in-new-global-commission-on-adaptation-to-build-resilience-to-the-effects-of-climate-change.html>

<sup>93</sup> Address by Minister Bibeau to the Building Resilience to Disaster and Climate Change in the Caribbean Conference, Government of Canada (Washington), 26 November 2018. Access Date: 18 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2018/12/address-by-minister-bibeau-to-the-building-resilience-to-disasters-and-climate-change-in-the-caribbean-conference.html>.

<sup>94</sup> Address by Minister Bibeau to the Building Resilience to Disasters and Climate Change in the Caribbean Conference, Global Affairs Canada, (Ottawa) 26 November 2018. Access Date: 7 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2018/12/address-by-minister-bibeau-to-the-building-resilience-to-disasters-and-climate-change-in-the-caribbean-conference.html?fbclid=IwAR1RnDyaUpCOWkj2Xjn2FZ3H2UAEurCICYyZ1iZbJJsWhbffAcioKGJv9A8>.

<sup>95</sup> Address by Minister Bibeau to the Building Resilience to Disasters and Climate Change in the Caribbean Conference, Global Affairs Canada, (Ottawa) 26 November 2018. Access Date: 7 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2018/12/address-by-minister-bibeau-to-the-building-resilience-to-disasters-and-climate-change-in-the-caribbean-conference.html?fbclid=IwAR1RnDyaUpCOWkj2Xjn2FZ3H2UAEurCICYyZ1iZbJJsWhbffAcioKGJv9A8>.

<sup>96</sup> Address by Minister Bibeau to the Building Resilience to Disasters and Climate Change in the Caribbean Conference, Global Affairs Canada, (Ottawa) 26 November 2018. Access Date: 7 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2018/12/address-by-minister-bibeau-to-the-building-resilience-to-disasters-and-climate-change-in-the-caribbean-conference.html?fbclid=IwAR1RnDyaUpCOWkj2Xjn2FZ3H2UAEurCICYyZ1iZbJJsWhbffAcioKGJv9A8>.

<sup>97</sup> Fighting back against climate change: Canada helps create more resilient coastal communities, Government of Canada (Nairobi), 26 November 2018. Access Date: 18 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2018/11/fighting-back-against-climate-change-canada-helps-create-more-resilient-coastal-communities.html>.

<sup>98</sup> The Government of Canada welcomes new Powering Past Coal members and announces support for phasing out coal at home and abroad, Government of Canada (Katowice) 13 December 2018. Access Date: 18 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2018/12/the-government-of-canada-welcomes-new-powering-past-coal-members-and-announces-support-for-phasing-out-coal-at-home-and-abroad.html>.

private sector in the field.<sup>99</sup> This financial commitment represents an attempt by Canada to drive sustainable investment.

Canada has taken actions to broaden innovative financial tools to help reduce vulnerability, build resilience and drive sustainable investment including in Small Island Developing States and other vulnerable countries.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: David Baldrige*

### **France: 0**

France has partially complied with its commitment to advance efforts to broaden innovative financial tools to help reduce vulnerability, build resilience and drive sustainable investment including in Small Island Developing States and other vulnerable countries.

On 26 September 2018, France, along with Germany and various philanthropic organizations, launched the Climate Finance Partnership.<sup>100</sup> According to the European Climate Foundation, the Partnership represents “an unprecedented cooperation between philanthropies, governments and private investors, which have committed to jointly developing an investment vehicle that will aim to invest in climate infrastructure in emerging markets.”<sup>101</sup> BlackRock asset management will “design a structure” that can allocate catalytic capital investment from governments and philanthropic institutions into climate infrastructure development.<sup>102</sup>

On 26 September 2018, France, along with Canada, Germany, and the UK, announced an initiative to streamline “international support” for green energy development in various South East Asian countries.<sup>103</sup> France will “offer financial resources and make technical assistance available to accelerate the energy transition.”<sup>104</sup>

On 27 September 2018, the French government, along with the EU, announced the contribution of 10 million Euros towards the Euro Joint Pacific Initiative for Biodiversity, Climate Change and Resilience.<sup>105</sup>

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<sup>99</sup> The Government of Canada welcomes new Powering Past Coal members and announces support for phasing out coal at home and abroad, Government of Canada (Katowice) 13 December 2018. Access Date: 18 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2018/12/the-government-of-canada-welcomes-new-powering-past-coal-members-and-announces-support-for-phasing-out-coal-at-home-and-abroad.html>.

<sup>100</sup> Governments and Philanthropies Announce Ground-Breaking Partnership with BlackRock to Mobilize and Deploy Climate Finance at Scale, European Climate Foundation (New York) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 22 February 2019. <https://europeanclimate.org/governments-and-philanthropies-announce-ground-breaking-partnership-with-blackrock-to-mobilize-and-deploy-climate-finance-at-scale/>

<sup>101</sup> Governments and Philanthropies Announce Ground-Breaking Partnership with BlackRock to Mobilize and Deploy Climate Finance at Scale, European Climate Foundation (New York) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 22 February 2019. <https://europeanclimate.org/governments-and-philanthropies-announce-ground-breaking-partnership-with-blackrock-to-mobilize-and-deploy-climate-finance-at-scale/>

<sup>102</sup> Governments and Philanthropies Announce Ground-Breaking Partnership with BlackRock to Mobilize and Deploy Climate Finance at Scale, European Climate Foundation (New York) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 22 February 2019. <https://europeanclimate.org/governments-and-philanthropies-announce-ground-breaking-partnership-with-blackrock-to-mobilize-and-deploy-climate-finance-at-scale/>.

<sup>103</sup> Governments and Philanthropies Announce South East Asia Energy Transition Partnership, European Climate Foundation (New York) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 22 February 2019. <https://europeanclimate.org/governments-and-philanthropies-announce-south-east-asia-energy-transition-partnership/>.

<sup>104</sup> Governments and Philanthropies Announce South East Asia Energy Transition Partnership, European Climate Foundation (New York) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 22 February 2019. <https://europeanclimate.org/governments-and-philanthropies-announce-south-east-asia-energy-transition-partnership/>.

<sup>105</sup> Government Launch Initiative on Biodiversity, Resilience and Climate Change, International Institute for Sustainable Development 11 October 2018. Access Date: 22 February 2019. <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/governments-launch-initiative-on-biodiversity-resilience-and-climate-change/>.

One of the goals of this project is “to build an international coalition to catalyze and streamline funding” into initiatives related to the “climate action and biodiversity protection.”<sup>106</sup>

On 28 November 2018, the French government held Climate Finance Day, where various international stakeholders discussed “the different ways to align capital flows on the Paris Climate Agenda.”<sup>107</sup> The event included sessions raising awareness on various financial institutions such as private equity firms and central banks as well as the newly developed instrument of “Green Loans.”<sup>108</sup>

On 5 December 2018, the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France reiterated France’s commitment to the Paris agreement and specifically noted its commitment to the Green Climate Fund to support climate finance in the developing world.<sup>109</sup>

On 18 December 2018, the French government announced, at the Ministerial Meeting on Climate Finance at COP24, that it will increase its funding for climate change adaptation initiatives in developing countries from €3 billion per year to EUR5 in 2020.<sup>110</sup> This sum is 60% more than what France contributed in 2014.<sup>111</sup> France also pledged EUR15 million to UN funds for “climate adaptation for developing countries” and EUR20 million specifically for “the least developed countries.”<sup>112</sup> France also reiterated its commitment to “replenishing the Green Climate Fund.”<sup>113</sup>

France has launched several initiatives to fund climate resilience and sustainable investment in the developing world. The Climate Finance Partnership is the clearest example of an innovative financial tool. The French government has also promoted stakeholder discussion on climate funding as well as funding new projects for climate adaptation. However, given the lack of French action in the realm of tools that reduce vulnerability, France has not fully complied with this commitment.

Thus, France has received a score of 0.

*Analyst: Clara Cesira Geddes*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to advance efforts to broaden innovative financial tools to help reduce vulnerability, build resilience and drive sustainable investment including in Small Island Developing States and other vulnerable countries.

On 19 September 2018, Germany was the first donor to the World Food Programme (WFP) and the African Risk Capacity’s new pilot climate risk financing mechanism, ARC Replica. The BMZ has committed EUR10

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<sup>106</sup> Government Launch Initiative on Biodiversity, Resilience and Climate Change, International Institute for Sustainable Development 11 October 2018. Access Date: 22 February 2019. <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/governments-launch-initiative-on-biodiversity-resilience-and-climate-change/>.

<sup>107</sup> Climate Finance Day, Climate Finance Day n.d. Access Date: 22 February 2019. [http://www.climatefinanceday.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/GRTCFD2018-PR-Day3\\_EN.pdf](http://www.climatefinanceday.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/GRTCFD2018-PR-Day3_EN.pdf).

<sup>108</sup> Climate Finance Day, Climate Finance Day n.d. Access Date: 22 February 2019. [http://www.climatefinanceday.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/GRTCFD2018-PR-Day3\\_EN.pdf](http://www.climatefinanceday.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/GRTCFD2018-PR-Day3_EN.pdf).

<sup>109</sup> Climate Change: France and China Reiterate their Firm Support for the Paris Agreement, Embassy of France in Washington, D.C. December 5 2018. Access Date: 22 February 2019. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article8937>.

<sup>110</sup> COP 24: France Increases its Contribution to Climate Funding, French Government (Paris) 11 December 2018. Access Date: 22 February 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/cop-24-france-increases-its-contribution-to-climate-funding>.

<sup>111</sup> COP 24: France Increases its Contribution to Climate Funding, French Government (Paris) 11 December 2018. Access Date: 22 February 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/cop-24-france-increases-its-contribution-to-climate-funding>.

<sup>112</sup> COP 24: France Increases its Contribution to Climate Funding, French Government (Paris) 11 December 2018. Access Date: 22 February 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/cop-24-france-increases-its-contribution-to-climate-funding>.

<sup>113</sup> COP 24: France Increases its Contribution to Climate Funding, French Government (Paris) 11 December 2018. Access Date: 22 February 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/cop-24-france-increases-its-contribution-to-climate-funding>.

million to the WFP via public development bank KfW Bankengruppe throughout the year of 2019.<sup>114</sup> ARC Replica is a product designed to expand climate risk insurance coverage and improve the quality of emergency humanitarian response in African countries that are prone to climate risks.<sup>115</sup>

On 26 September 2018, the Ministry for the Environment announced that it will join the Climate Finance Partnership. The partnership works to design an investment structure that promotes contributions to a targeted set of sectors, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy storage, and low-carbon and electrified transportation. Such funds will be used across countries in three regions, including Latin America, Asia, and Africa.<sup>116</sup>

On 12 October 2018, in partnership with the government of the United Kingdom and the World Bank Group, Germany announced a USD145 million Global Risk Financing Facility (GRiF) to strengthen the financial resilience of countries vulnerable to climate and disaster risks. Over the next five years, the GRiF will provide financing for national disaster response mechanisms and programs, better allowing governments to implement effective insurance solutions.<sup>117</sup>

On 8 November 2018, Germany committed EUR5 million to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Insurance.<sup>118</sup> This fund aims to help the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction achieve its mandate, which includes promoting mechanisms for disaster risk transfer and insurance for public and private investments.<sup>119</sup>

On 29 November 2018, Germany announced to increase the contribution to Green Climate Fund. The German development minister Gerad Müller said “the German government would pay another 1.5 billion euros into the UN Green Climate Fund, double the amount contributed until now.” This fund supports projects on climate protection and adaption to climate change in developing and emerging countries.<sup>120</sup>

On 12 December 2018, Germany, via the KfW Bankegruppe, contributed an additional 15 Million Euro to the Central America and Caribbean Catastrophe Insurance Risk Program (CACCIRP). This is also the biggest contribution to the CACCIRP from a single donor.<sup>121</sup> CACCIRP Program aims to improve affordability of high-quality sovereign catastrophe risk transfer associated with earthquakes and climate risk for CACCIRP Participating countries.<sup>122</sup>

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<sup>114</sup> Climate risk insurance: Germany supports new initiative, World Food Programme (Rome) 19 September 2018. Access Date: 10 February 2019. <https://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/climate-risk-insurance-germany-supportsnew-initiative>.

<sup>115</sup> ARC Replica, World Food Programme February 2018. Access Date: 10 February 2019. [https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000063792/download/?\\_ga=2.21551483.1331056199.1540157252-838637024.1538527934](https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000063792/download/?_ga=2.21551483.1331056199.1540157252-838637024.1538527934).

<sup>116</sup> One Planet Summit 2018 announcements, PR Newswire (New York) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/one-planet-summit-2018-announcements-300719892.html>

<sup>117</sup> World Bank Group, Germany, and UK launch \$145 million facility to support earlier action on climate and disaster shocks, The World Bank (Washington) 12 October 2018. Access Date: 10 February 2019 <https://www.insuresilience.org/world-bank-group-germany-and-uk-launch-145-million-financing-facility-to-support-earlier-action-on-climate-and-disaster-shocks/>.

<sup>118</sup> Germany gives € 5 million for Sendai Framework implementation, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (Geneva) 6 November 2018. Access Date: 10 February 2019. <https://www.unisdr.org/archive/61797>

<sup>119</sup> Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 — 2030, United Nations. Access Date: 10 February 2019. [https://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291\\_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf](https://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf).

<sup>120</sup> Germany will double contribution to Green Climate Fund, Clean Energy Wire. 29 November 2018 Access Date: 12 February 2019 <https://www.cleanenergywire.org/news/germany-will-double-contribution-green-climate-fund-minister>.

<sup>121</sup> Caribbean and Central American Countries to Improve Insurance Coverage against Earthquake and Climate Risks. 12 December 2018 Access Date: 15 February 2019 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2018/12/12/caribbean-and-central-american-countries-to-improve-insurance-coverage-against-earthquakes-and-climate-risks>.

<sup>122</sup> Central America and Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Project. Access Date: 17 February 2019 <http://projects.worldbank.org/P149670?lang=en>.

Germany has been progressively enhancing the response mechanism against climate change, through developing financial instruments and continuously funding on international program, which initiates not only timely measures but also encourages governments on implementing sustainable policies to lower the vulnerability of their countries. The country has also helped in building a closer partnership and bonding with both G7 countries and V20 countries.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrew Chan*

### **Italy: 0**

Italy partially complied with the commitment to broaden innovative financial tools such as climate risk insurance coverage, to help reduce vulnerability, build resilience and drive sustainable investment including in small island developing states and other vulnerable countries.

On 24 September 2018, the Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea, the National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research, UNEP-DTU and the United Nations Office for Project Services signed a co-financed contract as a part of the multilateral Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT). The objective of the contract is to build capacity in recipient countries for the implementation and reporting of their national mitigation and adaptation commitments and financial resources used. Phase one includes six countries: Botswana, Ethiopia, Iran, Maldives, Tunisia, and the Bahamas.<sup>123</sup>

On 25 September 2018, at the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and United Arab Emirates' Ministry of Climate Change and Environment signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate in the area of sustainable development. The two countries will “identify and leverage new opportunities and tools to achieve sustainability in urban planning and land development, construction, transport, renewable energy, energy efficiency, resource-efficiency, and clean production.”<sup>124</sup>

On 21-23 November 2018, Italy hosted 55 European countries for the 2018 European Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction. Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte focussed on protecting development and growth from disasters associated with climate change.<sup>125</sup>

On 22 November 2018, a plenary session entitled “Making the economic case for disaster risk reduction,” led by the Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection and the Italian Banking, Insurance and Finance Federation, addressed the role of the insurance sector as an “absorber of risk and provider of risk expertise.”<sup>126,127</sup> The Chair’s Communiqué emphasized that the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which includes promoting disaster risk insurance, should be accelerated with a deadline

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<sup>123</sup> Firmato contratto ICAT-ISPRA per attività di supporto in 12 Paesi beneficiari, Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare (Rome) 24 September 2018. Access Date: 18 October 2018. <http://www.minambiente.it/notizie/firmato-contratto-icat-ispra-attivita-di-supporto-12-paesi-beneficiari>

<sup>124</sup> UAE, Italy sign Sustainable Development Cooperation Agreement, Emirates 24/7 (Dubai) 25 September 2018. Access Date: 18 October 2018. <https://www.emirates247.com/news/emirates/uae-italy-sign-sustainable-development-cooperation-agreement-2018-09-25-1.673606>

<sup>125</sup> Italy to Host European Discussions on Disaster Losses, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (Geneva, Brussels) 4 October 2018. Access Date: 20 February 2019. <https://www.unisdr.org/archive/61027>

<sup>126</sup> 2018 European Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction on 21 — 23 November, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (Rome) Access Date: 20 February 2019. <https://www.unisdr.org/conference/2018/efdr>

<sup>127</sup> Conference Handbook, European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (Rome) 21 November 2018. Access Date: 20 February 2019. [https://www.preventionweb.net/files/57664\\_handbookprogrammelowdef.pdf](https://www.preventionweb.net/files/57664_handbookprogrammelowdef.pdf)

of 2020.<sup>128,129</sup> It also emphasized the crucial role of financial innovation.<sup>130</sup> The Declaration of Stakeholders also mentioned promoting and exploring investments in disaster resilience.<sup>131</sup>

On 12 December 2018 at the 24th Conference of the Parties in Poland, Italy made a pledge of EUR 7 million to the Adaptation Fund in support of climate adaptation projects in the most vulnerable communities of developing countries as well as in establishing innovative climate finance such as Direct Access, which helps build national capacity and promotes country ownership in climate change adaptation.<sup>132</sup>

Through its funding pledge to the Adaptation Fund as well as recognizing the role of the insurance sector and financial innovation, Italy has made efforts to broaden innovative financial tools to promote climate resilience and reduce vulnerability. However, Italy has not taken steps to promote sustainable investment, fulfilling only two of the three goals.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Laila Kanji*

### **Japan: 0**

Japan has partially complied with the commitment to broaden innovative financial tools such as climate risk insurance coverage, to help reduce vulnerability, build resilience and drive sustainable investment including in Small Island Developing States and other vulnerable countries.

On 9 October 2018, the Government Pension Investment Fund (GPIF), the world's largest single pension fund with over USD1.5 trillion in assets, announced that it had joined the Climate Action 100+ initiative as a supporter. An investor representative of the initiative commented that "GPIF is a global leader whose support will bring influence and insight to the ambition of Climate Action 100+ to ensure the goals of the Paris Agreement are met, to the benefit of companies and their long-term investors."<sup>133</sup>

On 11-12 October 2018, the government hosted the fifth annual Innovation for Cool Earth Forum in Tokyo.<sup>134</sup> The conference addressed climate change through innovation under the theme "Driving Green Innovation," and it invited participants from the private sector, academia and policy realms. Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Kenwa Suzuki attended the forum and gave a closing speech. He emphasized that "the importance of technological innovation in the field of climate change is clearly stated in the Paris

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<sup>128</sup> Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 — 2030, United Nations. Access Date: 20 December 2018.

[https://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291\\_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf](https://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf)

<sup>129</sup> High-Level Communiqué of the Chair Protecting Europe's citizens: the social contract on disaster resilience, European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction Conference (Rome) 22 November 2018. Access Date: 20 February 2019.

[https://www.preventionweb.net/files/57664\\_hlcommuniquefinalconverted.pdf](https://www.preventionweb.net/files/57664_hlcommuniquefinalconverted.pdf)

<sup>130</sup> High-Level Communiqué of the Chair Protecting Europe's citizens: the social contract on disaster resilience, European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction Conference (Rome) 22 November 2018. Access Date: 20 February 2019.

[https://www.preventionweb.net/files/57664\\_hlcommuniquefinalconverted.pdf](https://www.preventionweb.net/files/57664_hlcommuniquefinalconverted.pdf)

<sup>131</sup> High-Level Communiqué of the Chair Protecting Europe's citizens: the social contract on disaster resilience, European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction Conference (Rome) 22 November 2018. Access Date: 20 February 2019.

[https://www.preventionweb.net/files/57664\\_hlcommuniquefinalconverted.pdf](https://www.preventionweb.net/files/57664_hlcommuniquefinalconverted.pdf)

<sup>132</sup> Adaptation Fund Breaks Single-Year Resource Mobilization Record with Nearly US\$ 129M in New Pledges Received, Adaptation Fund (Katowice, Poland), 12 December 2018. Access Date: 20 February 2019. <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/adaptation-fund-breaks-single-year-resource-mobilization-record-nearly-us-129m-new-pledges-received/>

<sup>133</sup> GPIF joins Climate Action 100, Government Pension Investment Fund (Tokyo) 9 October 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2018. [https://www.gpif.go.jp/en/Climate\\_Action\\_100%2B.pdf](https://www.gpif.go.jp/en/Climate_Action_100%2B.pdf)

<sup>134</sup> Innovation for Cool Earth Forum (Tokyo) Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.icef-forum.org/>

Agreement.”<sup>135</sup> However, this event is on the topic of innovative technology rather than financial products and thus does not contribute to compliance.

On 17 January 2019, the Japanese government, along with the World Bank, held a “technical briefing” for Japanese insurance providers on the Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility, “a platform for ASEAN countries to access disaster risk financing solutions and increase financial resilience to climate and disaster risks.”<sup>136</sup> The insurance providers at the event plan to continue discussing the potential to “(design) new tools and approaches for making innovative disaster risk finance products available in ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] countries.”<sup>137</sup>

Japan has promoted the exploration of new types of insurance products and has contributed to sustainable investment in developing countries. However, during the compliance period, it has not taken any action in the field of resilience.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Clara Cesira Geddes*

### **United Kingdom: +1**

The United Kingdom fully complied with the commitment to broaden innovative financial tools that help reduce vulnerability, build resilience, and drive sustainable investment.

On 26 September 2018, Prime Minister Theresa May at the United Nations General Assembly announced over GBP160 million of funding to help countries transition to cleaner, greener energy systems and support communities affected by climate change. In addition, she outlined the UK’s role in leading international efforts on climate resilience and assist with evidence gathering on actions needed to adapt to climate change ahead of the Secretary General’s Climate Summit to be held in September 2019.<sup>138</sup>

On 12 October 2018, the UK in partnership with Germany and the World Bank announced the launch of the Global Risk Financing Facility (GRiF), allocating USD145 million to help vulnerable countries manage the financial impact of climate change and natural hazard-induced shocks. The GRiF will also deliver technical assistance to develop, test, scale up, and improve on financial solutions.<sup>139</sup> According to **Secretary of State for the UK’s Department for International Development, Penny Mordaunt**, “through the World Bank’s Global Risk Financing Facility, UK aid is supporting countries to build resilience and put in place finance and

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<sup>135</sup> Norikazu Suzuki Attended the 5th Innovation for Cool Earth Forum (ICEF), Parliamentary Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Japan (Tokyo) 15 October 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018.

[https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/ic/ch/page22\\_003067.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/ic/ch/page22_003067.html)

<sup>136</sup> Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEAFRIF) Technical Briefing for Japanese Insurance Industry, World Bank (Tokyo) 17 January 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2019. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2019/01/17/southeast-asia-disaster-risk-insurance-facility-seadrif-technical-briefing-for-japanese-insurance-industry-drmhubtokyo>

<sup>137</sup> Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEAFRIF) Technical Briefing for Japanese Insurance Industry, World Bank (Tokyo) 17 January 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2019. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2019/01/17/southeast-asia-disaster-risk-insurance-facility-seadrif-technical-briefing-for-japanese-insurance-industry-drmhubtokyo>

<sup>138</sup> UK expertise to help developing countries tackle climate change and move to cleaner energy, GOV.UK (London), 27 September 2018. Access Date: 19 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-expertise-to-help-developing-countries-tackle-climate-change-and-move-to-cleaner-energy>

<sup>139</sup> World Bank Group, Germany, and UK launch \$145 million Financing Facility to support earlier action on climate and disaster shocks, Insuresilience Global Partnership (Bonn), 12 October 2018. Access Date: 19 February 2019. <https://www.insuresilience.org/world-bank-group-germany-and-uk-launch-145-million-financing-facility-to-support-earlier-action-on-climate-and-disaster-shocks/>

systems to ensure they are better prepared to respond to emergencies. This will save lives and also help vulnerable countries recover more quickly after disasters.”<sup>140</sup>

On 16 October 2018, the Global Commission on Adaptation was launched with the UK being one of 17 convening countries. The aim of the Commission is to scale-up and accelerate climate adaptation solutions including “smarter investments, new technologies and better planning to become more resilient to climate-related threats.”<sup>141</sup> The Commission will prepare a flagship report ahead of the September 2019 UN Climate Summit, convening key stakeholders to advance activities related to finance, infrastructure cities, social protection and nature-based solutions.

On 17 October 2018, the UK government announced a new venture capital fund, the Clean Growth Fund, aimed at mobilizing private sector expertise to identify clean technologies and help to commercialise them at scale. Of the GBP 40 million, GBP 20 million consists of government funding with a further GBP20 million given by private investors. Minister for Energy and Clean Growth, Clair Perry, stated that “For decades the UK has been recognised as a leading financial centre and today we’re primed to enhance our already world-leading green finance sector, making sure the bulk of this investment flows through the city of London.”<sup>142</sup>

On 17 October 2018, the UK government also announced the UK Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions (PACT) initiative to provide technical advice to governments around the world, with the first project aimed at “developing harmonized standards for green bonds, strengthening analysis of green asset performance, advice on implementing the recommendations of the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFDs), and supporting the development of a new UK-China Green Finance Centre.”<sup>143</sup> This programme is run by the UK Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.<sup>144</sup>

On 17 October 2018, the UK government stated that the UK’s first ever Green Finance Strategy would be published in Spring 2019, highlighting steps to support developing countries through their low carbon transition and integrate green principles across the financial services sector.<sup>145</sup>

On 10 December 2018, the UK government in partnership with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) announced they were mobilizing USD2 billion in public and private sector financing for certified green buildings in emerging markets to transform overseas construction markets. This is the first time the UK and IFC are collaborating for blended concessional finance for climate change solutions and includes an initial amount of GBP105 million from the UK government for investment and advisory services.<sup>146</sup>

The UK has taken ambitious action to broaden innovative financial tools that help reduce vulnerability, build resilience, and drive sustainable investment through its support for World Bank and IFC finance schemes

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<sup>140</sup> World Bank Group, Germany, and UK launch \$145 million Financing Facility to support earlier action on climate and disaster shocks, Insuresilience Global Partnership (Bonn), 12 October 2018. Access Date: 19 February 2019. <https://www.insuresilience.org/world-bank-group-germany-and-uk-launch-145-million-financing-facility-to-support-earlier-action-on-climate-and-disaster-shocks/>

<sup>141</sup> Global Leaders Call for Urgent Acceleration of Climate Adaptation Solutions, Global Centre on Adaptation (The Hague, Netherlands), 16 October 2018. Access Date: 19 February 2019. <https://gca.org/news/global-leaders-call-for-urgent-acceleration-of-climate-adaptation-solutions>

<sup>142</sup> Driving ambition in green finance. GOV.UK (London), 17 October 2018. Access Date: 19 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/driving-ambition-in-green-finance>

<sup>143</sup> Driving ambition in green finance. GOV.UK (London), 17 October 2018. Access Date: 19 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/driving-ambition-in-green-finance>

<sup>144</sup> Driving ambition in green finance. GOV.UK (London), 17 October 2018. Access Date: 19 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/driving-ambition-in-green-finance>

<sup>145</sup> Driving ambition in green finance. GOV.UK (London), 17 October 2018. Access Date: 19 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/driving-ambition-in-green-finance>

<sup>146</sup> UK-IFC Partnership Aims to Mobilize \$2 Billion in Financing for Green Construction, International Finance Corporation (Washington, DC), 10 December 2018. Access Date: 19 February 2019. <https://ifcextapps.ifc.org/IFCExt/Pressroom/IFCPressRoom.nsf/0/86B72F985A6628748525835F00312CCB>

targeted towards vulnerable countries as well as its through its own government led Clean Growth Fund and PACT initiative.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Laila Kanji*

### **United States: -1**

United States has not complied with its commitment to recognize the need to advance efforts to broaden innovative financial tools such as climate risk insurance coverage, to help reduce vulnerability, build resilience and drive sustainable investment including in small island developing states and other vulnerable countries.

On 25 September 2018 the United States government partnered with the Samoa Chamber of Commerce and Industry to create a training program that will enhance business preparedness for natural disasters, thereby building environmental and disaster resilience.<sup>147</sup> However, the use of financial tools was not explicitly mentioned.

On 22 November 2018, there was a training session hosted to improve the Climate Change monitoring and evaluation skills of national practitioners from the Federated States of Micronesia. The session was hosted in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development's Institutional Strengthening in Pacific Island Countries to Adapt to Climate Change Program, demonstrating an attempt by the United States to reduce vulnerability.<sup>148</sup> Again, there was no mentioning of financial tools.

On 22 January 2019, the United States Agency for International Development published a report entitled "Climate & Ecosystem Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction."<sup>149</sup> The focus of the report is to reduce vulnerability and build resilience to environmental disasters, though without explicitly mentioning the use of financial tools.<sup>150</sup>

The Treasury Department's FY2019 (October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019) budget includes \$68.3 million in funding for the Global Environment Facility.<sup>151</sup> The Global Environment Facility mobilizes funds from the public and private sector to fund projects relating to environmental concerns, though unrelated to this specific commitment.<sup>152</sup> Hence it does not count towards compliance.

Although the United States has taken actions to help reduce vulnerability and build resilience in vulnerable countries, it has not taken actions in broadening innovative financial tools during the compliance period.

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<sup>147</sup> U.S. Government Promotes Disaster Resilience of Small and Medium Businesses in Samoa, United States Agency for International Development (Washington) 25 September 2018. Access Date: 18 February 2019. <https://www.usaid.gov/pacific-islands/press-releases/sep-25-2018-us-government-promotes-disaster-resilience-sme-samoa>

<sup>148</sup> Federated States of Micronesia builds expertise in climate change and disaster management, Pacific Community (Pohnpei, Micronesia) 22 November 2018. Access Date: 18 February 2019. <https://www.spc.int/updates/news/2018/11/federated-states-of-micronesia-builds-expertise-in-climate-change-and-disaster>.

<sup>149</sup> Resilience in Action Technical Brief: Climate & Ecosystem-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction, United States Agency for International Development (Washington) 22 January 2019. Access Date: 18 February 2019 <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/resilience-action-technical-brief-climate-ecosystem-inclusive-disaster-risk-reduction>

<sup>150</sup> Resilience in Action Technical Brief: Climate & Ecosystem-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction, United States Agency for International Development (Washington) 22 January 2019. Access Date: 18 February 2019. [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/63305\\_realriacclimateecosystemdrfinal.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/63305_realriacclimateecosystemdrfinal.pdf).

<sup>151</sup> Treasury International Programs: Congressional Justification for Appropriations, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington) 12 February 2018. Access Date: 18 February 2019. [https://www.treasury.gov/about/budget-performance/CJ19/150s%20FY%202019%20CBJ%20for%20print%20\(FINAL\).pdf](https://www.treasury.gov/about/budget-performance/CJ19/150s%20FY%202019%20CBJ%20for%20print%20(FINAL).pdf).

<sup>152</sup> About Us, Global Environment Facility (Washington) 2018. Access Date: 18 February 2019. <https://www.thegef.org/about-us>.

Thus, the United States receives a score of –1.

*Analyst: David Baldrige*

### **European Union: +1**

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to broaden innovative financial tools that help reduce vulnerability, build resilience, and drive sustainable investment.

On 26 September 2018, during the One Planet Summit, the EU launched the Joint Pacific Initiative for Biodiversity, Climate Change, and Resilience alongside France, Australia and New Zealand. The EUR21 million initiative received EUR10 million each from the EU and France, with the remaining EUR2 million provided by Australia and New Zealand. The initiative focuses on supporting Pacific Island countries and territories in the protection, restoration, and enhancement of biodiversity, in order to reinforce the resilience of their socio-ecological systems and facilitate their adaptation to the impacts of climate change.<sup>153</sup>

On 4 October 2018, the European Commission and Austria's submitted report on climate finance to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was published.<sup>154</sup>

On 6 November 2018, the EU released draft conclusions regarding their climate financing in preparation for the COP24 conference. In which, they reaffirmed its commitment to aid developing countries implement the Paris Agreement by aiming to increase their contribution of EUR20.4 billion for 2017, to USD100 billion by 2020 to 2025. Moreover, they stressed the need for carbon pricing for the advancement of climate-resilient communities.

On 23 November 2018, the EU announced funding of EUR8.05 million to support disaster and climate resilience in Central Asia under the Disaster Risk Management programme. An additional EUR3.9 million will fund the EU-Central Asia Enhanced Regional Cooperation on Environment, Climate Change and Water to improve the environment, climate change, and water policies at national levels in Central Asia.<sup>155</sup>

On 5 December 2018, the EU participated in the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24), where it discussed “Unleashing the potential for climate change action with blockchain and other disruptive technologies.”<sup>156</sup> During this side event, EU representatives and other delegates stated that utilizing better means of investment funds and bonds, as well as insurance, can lead to smarter methods of climate-risk reduction.<sup>157</sup> The discussion encouraged new types of insurance products for emerging risks globally.<sup>158</sup>

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<sup>153</sup> Launch of the joint Pacific Initiative for Biodiversity, Climate Change and Resilience, European Commission (New York) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018.

<sup>154</sup> Subject: Biennial Submissions from the EU and its Member States on their Updated Strategies and Approaches for Scaling up Climate Finance from 2014 to 2020, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Vienna) 4 October 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. [http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/SubmissionPortal/Documents/201810041701---AT-10-04-EU Submission on Strategies and Approaches.pdf](http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/SubmissionPortal/Documents/201810041701---AT-10-04-EU%20Submission%20on%20Strategies%20and%20Approaches.pdf).

<sup>155</sup> EU to promote sustainable development in Central Asia with €124 million, European Commission (Brussels) 23 November 2018. Access Date: 22 December 2018. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-6525\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6525_en.htm)

<sup>156</sup> Unleashing the Potential for Climate Change Action with Blockchain and Other Disruptive Technologies, COP24 Climate change Conference, EU Pavilion (Katowice) 5 December 2018. Access Date: 8 December 2018. [http://ec.europa.eu/clima/events/0124/calendar\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/events/0124/calendar_en.htm) - schedule.

<sup>157</sup> Unleashing the Potential for Climate Change Action with Blockchain and Other Disruptive Technologies, COP24 Climate change Conference, EU Pavilion (Katowice) 5 December 2018. Access Date: 8 December 2018. [http://ec.europa.eu/clima/events/0124/calendar\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/events/0124/calendar_en.htm) - schedule.

<sup>158</sup> Unleashing the Potential for Climate Change Action with Blockchain and Other Disruptive Technologies, COP24 Climate change Conference, EU Pavilion (Katowice) 5 December 2018. Access Date: 8 December 2018. [http://ec.europa.eu/clima/events/0124/calendar\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/events/0124/calendar_en.htm) - schedule.

On 9 December 2018, during COP24, as part of the steering body of the InsuResilience Global Partnership, i.e. the High-Level Consultative Group, EU agreed to work on the vision of scaling up pre-arranged finance to assist the vulnerables.<sup>159</sup> <sup>160</sup>

On 10 December 2018, Director of Planet and Prosperity at the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, Carla Montesi, announced at the COP24 that EU is joining the InsuResilience Global Partnership. <sup>161</sup>

The EU's involvement in the InsuResilience Partnership, its encouragement of green investment, and its funding of resilience initiatives reflect EU's compliance with all three goals.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Kaylin Dave*

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<sup>159</sup> EU Joins the InsuResilience Global Partnership to Boost Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance, European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development 28 December 2018. Access Date: 8 February 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/devco/item-detail.cfm?item\\_id=641729&utm\\_source=devco\\_newsroom&utm\\_medium=Website&utm\\_campaign=devco&utm\\_content=EU joins the InsuResilience Global Partnership to boost disaster risk finan&lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/devco/item-detail.cfm?item_id=641729&utm_source=devco_newsroom&utm_medium=Website&utm_campaign=devco&utm_content=EU%20joins%20the%20InsuResilience%20Global%20Partnership%20to%20boost%20disaster%20risk%20finan&lang=en)

<sup>160</sup> The InsuResilience Global Partnership – A Multi-Stakeholder Initiative to Protect the Poor and Vulnerable Against Disasters, InsuResilience, EU Pavilion (Katowice) 10 December 2018. Access Date: 8 February 2019. <https://www.insuresilience.org/the-insuresilience-global-partnership-a-multi-stakeholder-initiative-to-protect-the-poor-and-vulnerable-against-disasters/>.

<sup>161</sup> EU Joins the InsuResilience Global Partnership to Boost Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance, European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development 28 December 2018. Access Date: 8 February 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/devco/item-detail.cfm?item\\_id=641729&utm\\_source=devco\\_newsroom&utm\\_medium=Website&utm\\_campaign=devco&utm\\_content=EU joins the InsuResilience Global Partnership to boost disaster risk finan&lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/devco/item-detail.cfm?item_id=641729&utm_source=devco_newsroom&utm_medium=Website&utm_campaign=devco&utm_content=EU%20joins%20the%20InsuResilience%20Global%20Partnership%20to%20boost%20disaster%20risk%20finan&lang=en).

## Urgent Action on Air Quality

“Ministers emphasized that air quality is one of the biggest health and environmental risks and committed to tackling air quality including through sharing best practices and lessons learned.”

*G7 Environment Ministers Meeting on Climate Change and Clean Growth – Chair’s Summary*

### Assessment

Member	No Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy	-1		
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States	-1		
European Union			+1
Average Score		+0.50	

### Background

At the Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change and Clean Growth, G7 Ministers emphasized that air quality is one of the biggest health and environmental risks and committed to tackling air quality through sharing best practices and lessons learned.<sup>162</sup> Many ministers also emphasized targeted efforts focused on air pollutants and short-lived climate pollutants will have multiple benefits on climate, human health, the economy, and ecosystems.<sup>163</sup>

The issue of air quality has been discussed at the G7 summits and meetings; however, this was the first time that the G7 isolated the issue of air quality from other environmental commitments to emphasise its importance and urgency.

At the 2009 Siracusa Environmental Ministers Meeting, G8 and other participating countries discussed the merits of a renewed and purposeful focus on safeguarding human health as a fundamental objective of environmental protection and sustainable development.<sup>164</sup> Ministers discussed the unique circumstances of children in their homes, schools and communities, and found that they can do more to ensure that children are born, grow, develop and thrive in environments with clean air, clean water, safe food, and minimal exposure to harmful chemicals.<sup>165</sup>

At the 2016 Toyama Environment Ministers Meeting, G7 members committed to “identifying and adopting measures with co-benefits that can facilitate further mitigation policies” because “it is widely recognized that effective emission reduction measures are in place at the national level in many countries, including measures

<sup>162</sup> G7 Environment Ministers Meeting on Climate Change and Clean Growth — Chair's Summary, G7 Information Centre. (Toronto, Canada) 19 September 2018. Access Date: 14 February 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2018-environment.html>

<sup>163</sup> G7 Environment Ministers Meeting on Climate Change and Clean Growth — Chair's Summary, G7 Information Centre. (Toronto, Canada) 19 September 2018. Access Date: 14 February 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2018-environment.html>

<sup>164</sup> Chair’s Summary, Siracusa Environment Ministerial Meeting, G7 Information Centre. (Toronto, Canada) 24 April 2009. Access Date: 14 February 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/env090424-summary.pdf> 2009.

<sup>165</sup> Chair’s Summary, Siracusa Environment Ministerial Meeting, G7 Information Centre. (Toronto, Canada) 24 April 2009. Access Date: 14 February 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/env090424-summary.pdf> 2009.

covering transportation sources.”<sup>166</sup> It is noted that these measures “must have efficient compliance and enforcement mechanisms if we are to realize the public and environmental health and climate co-benefits of climate actions.”<sup>167</sup> At the same meeting, G7 members reaffirmed the importance of working with partners including under the Climate and Clean Air Coalition and the Global Methane Initiative.<sup>168</sup>

At the 2017 Bologna Environment Ministers Meeting, G7 members “recognize[d] that environmental infrastructure projects can also benefit from many of the approaches taken to enhance access to capital for sustainable small and medium enterprises and note that these projects provide critical environmental benefits such as clean water and air while also spurring economic growth and creating jobs.”<sup>169</sup>

### **Commitment Features**

At the G7 Environment Ministers’ Meeting in Halifax in September 2018, G7 ministers “emphasized that air quality is one of the biggest health and environmental risks and committed to tackling air quality including through sharing best practices and lessons learned.”<sup>170</sup>

This commitment is divided into two parts: the exchange of 1) best practices and 2) lessons learned. “Emphasized” is to give special attention to a certain action.<sup>171</sup> Commitment is to do or perform, to pledge or bind (a person or an organization) to a certain course or policy.<sup>172</sup>

#### **Part One: Exchange of Best Practices**

In order to comply with this part of the commitment, G7 members must take action to promote the exchange of good practices between the private and public sectors. Best practice is a “procedure that has been shown by research and experience to produce optimal results and that is established or proposed as a standard suitable for widespread adoption.”<sup>173</sup> This includes, but is not limited to, knowledge exchange, accessible research, and discourse with the private sector and other governments on possible solutions to tackling air pollution.

#### **Part Two: Exchange of Lessons Learned**

In order to comply with this part of the commitment, G7 members must take action to share lessons, both good and bad, outcomes of policies. A lesson is “something learned by study or experience,” and if this lesson is published publicly, it will count toward compliance.<sup>174</sup> Some areas of initiative that they may speak about is launching a comprehensive government plan to reduce, increasing standards for national air quality, legislative reforms, tax reforms

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<sup>166</sup> Communique, G7 Toyama Environment Ministers’ Meeting, G7 Information Centre. (Toronto, Canada) 16 May 2016. Access Date: 14 February 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2017-environment.html>.

<sup>167</sup> Communique, G7 Toyama Environment Ministers’ Meeting, G7 Information Centre. (Toronto, Canada) 16 May 2016. Access Date: 14 February 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2017-environment.html>.

<sup>168</sup> Communique, G7 Toyama Environment Ministers’ Meeting, G7 Information Centre. (Toronto, Canada) 16 May 2016. Access Date: 14 February 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2017-environment.html>.

<sup>169</sup> Communique, G7 Bologna Environment Ministers’ Meeting, G7 Information Centre. (Toronto, Canada) 12 June 2017. Access Date: 14 February 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2017-environment.html>.

<sup>170</sup> G7 Environment Ministers Meeting on Climate Change and Clean Growth — Chair’s Summary, G7 Information Centre. (Toronto, Canada) 19 September 2018. Access Date: 14 February 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2018-environment.html>

<sup>171</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program (Toronto) 27 September 2017. Access Date: 14 February 2019.

<sup>172</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program (Toronto) 27 September 2017. Access Date: 14 February 2019.

<sup>173</sup> Best Practice, Merriam-Webster. (Springfield) Access Date 15 February 2019. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/best%20practice>.

<sup>174</sup> Lesson, Merriam-Webster. (Springfield) Access Date 15 February 2019. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/lesson>.

To achieve full compliance, a G7 member must comply with both parts of the commitment to take exchange best practices and lessons learned among all stakeholders through accessible research or other forms of public discourse.

For partial compliance, a G7 member must comply with one of two components of the commitment, either to take action to relay best practices or lessons learned among all stakeholders through accessible research or other forms of public discourse. For no compliance, the G7 member does not comply with any of the components of the commitment including: exchanging best practices and lessons learned among all stakeholders through accessible research or other forms of public discourse.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member did not take actions to exchange best practices AND lessons learned among all stakeholders through accessible research or other forms of public discourse.
0	The G7 member did not take actions to exchange best practices OR lessons learned among all stakeholders through accessible research or other forms of public discourse.
+1	The G7 member takes actions to exchange best practices AND lessons learned among all stakeholders through accessible research or other forms of public discourse.

*Author: Georgina Merhom*

### Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied on its commitment on air pollution by taking action to exchange best practices and lessons learned among all stakeholders through accessible research or other forms of public discourse.

On 23 October 2018, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that there will be a federal system in 2019 that puts a price on carbon pollution in Ontario, New Brunswick, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan.<sup>175</sup> A price on pollution gives people the incentive to make cleaner choices and gives businesses incentives to find clean solutions.<sup>176</sup> This is the next step in the government’s plan to protect the environment and grow the economy.<sup>177</sup> Any direct proceeds collected will go directly back to people in these provinces.<sup>178</sup> Households will receive a Climate Action Incentive, which will give most families more than they pay under the new system.<sup>179</sup> Funds will also be given to the provinces’ cities, schools, hospitals, businesses, and Indigenous communities to, for example, help them become more energy efficient and reduce emissions, helping Canadians save even more money, and improve their local economies.<sup>180</sup>

On 12 December 2018, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change released a draft of the “Federal Sustainable Development Strategy for Canada 2019 to 2022.”<sup>181</sup> The strategy included: encouraging businesses, provinces, territories and Canadians to take action to reduce environmental impacts such as greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions, supporting and providing accreditation and verification for clean

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<sup>175</sup> Government Fighting Climate Change, Government of Canada. (Ottawa) 23 October 2018. Access Date: 13 February 2019. <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2018/10/23/government-canada-fighting-climate-change-price-pollution>.

<sup>176</sup> Government Fighting Climate Change, Government of Canada. (Ottawa) 23 October 2018. Access Date: 13 February 2019. <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2018/10/23/government-canada-fighting-climate-change-price-pollution>.

<sup>177</sup> Government Fighting Climate Change, Government of Canada. (Ottawa) 23 October 2018. Access Date: 13 February 2019. <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2018/10/23/government-canada-fighting-climate-change-price-pollution>.

<sup>178</sup> Government Fighting Climate Change, Government of Canada. (Ottawa) 23 October 2018. Access Date: 13 February 2019. <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2018/10/23/government-canada-fighting-climate-change-price-pollution>.

<sup>179</sup> Government Fighting Climate Change, Government of Canada. (Ottawa) 23 October 2018. Access Date: 13 February 2019. <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2018/10/23/government-canada-fighting-climate-change-price-pollution>.

<sup>180</sup> Government Fighting Climate Change, Government of Canada. (Ottawa) 23 October 2018. Access Date: 13 February 2019. <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2018/10/23/government-canada-fighting-climate-change-price-pollution>.

<sup>181</sup> Federal Sustainable Development Strategy, Government of Canada. (Ottawa) 12 December 2018. Access Date: 13 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/conservation/sustainability/federal-sustainable-development-strategy.html>.

technology solutions to reduce greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions, supporting carbon liability disclosure for publicly listed companies, and improving the capacity, quality, safety and accessibility of public transit infrastructure throughout Canada, to support the transition to a low-carbon economy and reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>182</sup>

On 1 January 2019, The Government of Canada published a report titled “Factsheet: Cooking and indoor air quality” to emphasise the potential health effects of exposure to cooking-related pollutants, which can generate combustion by-products such as nitrogen dioxide, and carbon monoxide.<sup>183</sup>

On 22 February 2019, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna, announced a new collaboration between the Canadian Centre for Climate Services and Ouranos, in Quebec.<sup>184</sup> Through this collaboration, the Government of Canada is investing \$1.25 million over five years, in Ouranos—a climate-science consortium based in Quebec. This investment will enhance Ouranos’s ability to share climate-science expertise and help Canadians plan for the impacts of climate change.<sup>185</sup>

Canada took actions to tackle air quality by sharing best practices and lessons learned among all stakeholders through accessible research or other forms of public discourse.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Georgina Merhom*

#### **France: +1**

France has fully complied on its commitment on air pollution by taking action to exchange best practices and lessons learned among all stakeholders through accessible research or other forms of public discourse.

**On 24 September 2018, the 2019 Finance Bill was announced by the French government.<sup>186</sup> It includes increase in tax on fuels** and convergence of diesel and petrol.<sup>187</sup> The Council of Ministers have justified this measure by stating “it is the right decision in a country which sees 48,000 premature deaths a year connected with air pollution.”<sup>188</sup>

On 1 October 2018, France’s Economic Policy Strategy was published by the European Union under the 2019 budgetary plan.<sup>189</sup> France’s strategy states that “the government will also develop new tools to combat

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<sup>182</sup> Federal Sustainable Development Strategy, Government of Canada. (Ottawa) 12 December 2018. Access Date: 13 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/conservation/sustainability/federal-sustainable-development-strategy.html>.

<sup>183</sup> Factsheet – Cooking and Indoor Air Quality, Government of Canada. (Ontario) 1 January 2019. Access Date: 14 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/healthy-living/factsheet-cooking-and-indoor-air-quality.html>

<sup>184</sup> Government of Canada to bring Climate Expert to Canadians, Government of Canada. (Ontario) 22 February 2019. Access Date: 14 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/02/government-of-canada-collaborates-with-quebecs-ouranos-to-bring-climate-expertise-to-canadians.html>.

<sup>185</sup> Government of Canada to bring Climate Expert to Canadians, Government of Canada. (Ontario) 22 February 2019. Access Date: 14 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/02/government-of-canada-collaborates-with-quebecs-ouranos-to-bring-climate-expertise-to-canadians.html>.

<sup>186</sup> The 2019 Finance Bill, Government of France. (Paris) 24 September 2018. Access Date: 14 February 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/the-2019-finance-bill>.

<sup>187</sup> The 2019 Finance Bill, Government of France. (Paris) 24 September 2018. Access Date: 14 February 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/the-2019-finance-bill>.

<sup>188</sup> The 2019 Finance Bill, Government of France. (Paris) 24 September 2018. Access Date: 14 February 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/the-2019-finance-bill>

<sup>189</sup> Draft Budgetary Plan for 2019, European Union. (Brussels) 1 October 2018. Access Date: 14 February 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/economy-finance/2019\\_dbp\\_fr\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/economy-finance/2019_dbp_fr_en.pdf)

air pollution and urban congestion, including giving local and regional authorities more powers to set up low emission zones and to introduce congestion charges.”<sup>190</sup>

On 30 October–1 November 2018, the World Health Organization held its first global conference on air pollution and health.<sup>191</sup> The government of France, along with Germany, Monaco, Norway and Switzerland provided financial support to this conference.<sup>192</sup> The conference provided a forum for discussion between practitioners and other technical and political representatives from the health sector.<sup>193</sup>

France took actions to tackle air quality exchanges in best practices and lessons learned among all stakeholders through accessible research or other forms of public discourse.

Thus, France receives an interim score of +1.

*Analyst: Georgina Merbom*

### **Germany: +1**

France has fully complied on its commitment on air pollution by taking action to exchange best practices and lessons learned among all stakeholders through accessible research or other forms of public discourse.

On 30 October–1 November 2018, the World Health Organisation held its first global conference on air pollution and health.<sup>194</sup> The government of Germany, along with France, Monaco, Norway and Switzerland provided financial support to this conference.<sup>195</sup> The conference provided a forum for discussion between practitioners and other technical and political representatives from the health sector.<sup>196</sup>

Germany exchanged best practices and lessons learned among all stakeholders through accessible research or other forms of public discourse.

Thus, Germany receives an interim score of +1.

*Analyst: Georgina Merbom*

### **Italy: -1**

Italy has not complied on its commitment on air pollution by taking action to exchange best practices and lessons learned among all stakeholders through accessible research or other forms of public discourse.

To date, there is no evidence of Italy’s commitment to tackling air quality through exchanged best practices and lessons learned among all stakeholders through accessible research or other forms of public discourse.

Thus, Italy receives an score of -1.

*Analyst: Georgina Merbom*

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<sup>190</sup> Draft Budgetary Plan for 2019, European Union. (Brussels) 1 October 2018. Access Date: 14 February 2019.

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/economy-finance/2019\\_dbp\\_fr\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/economy-finance/2019_dbp_fr_en.pdf)

<sup>191</sup> First WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health, 30 October – 1 November 2018, WHO. (Geneva) 1 November 2018. Access Date: 14 February 2019. <https://www.who.int/airpollution/events/conference/en>.

<sup>192</sup> First WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health, 30 October – 1 November 2018, WHO. (Geneva) 1 November 2018. Access Date: 14 February 2019. <https://www.who.int/airpollution/events/conference/en>.

<sup>193</sup> First WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health, 30 October – 1 November 2018, WHO. (Geneva) 1 November 2018. Access Date: 14 February 2019. <https://www.who.int/airpollution/events/conference/en>.

<sup>194</sup> First WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health, 30 October – 1 November 2018, WHO. (Geneva) 1 November 2018. Access Date: 14 February 2019. <https://www.who.int/airpollution/events/conference/en>.

<sup>195</sup> First WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health, 30 October – 1 November 2018, WHO. (Geneva) 1 November 2018. Access Date: 14 February 2019. <https://www.who.int/airpollution/events/conference/en>.

<sup>196</sup> First WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health, 30 October – 1 November 2018, WHO. (Geneva) 1 November 2018. Access Date: 14 February 2019. <https://www.who.int/airpollution/events/conference/en>.

### Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied on its commitment on air pollution by taking action to exchange best practices and lessons learned among all stakeholders through accessible research or other forms of public discourse.

On 8 November 2018, Japan shared its experiences with pollution through its “JICA Development Studies Program.”<sup>197</sup> In an article published by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), titled, “Promoting capacity development for preventing pollution in developing countries”, they emphasise that “conservation of the air environment requires not only conventional air pollution prevention measures, but also additional measures as necessary based on scientific knowledge.”<sup>198</sup> JICA is supporting measures to fight air pollution that utilize Japanese expertise not only in Mongolia but also in Iran, Kosovo and elsewhere.<sup>199</sup> JICA is also supporting human resource training in the field of combating air pollution in various countries. In partnership with the Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center (in Toyama Prefecture), which is promoting environmental cooperation toward China, JICA is supporting the development of expert human resources who work to reduce substances that cause air pollution, as well as implementing the Knowledge Co-Creation Program (training program) “Capacity Building towards Air Quality Management” in Japan for officials in charge of managing air quality in developing countries.<sup>200</sup> JICA Senior Advisor Taizo Yamada, said that they “want to use the lessons from Japan’s experience to tackle air pollution in developing countries before it does a lot of damage.”<sup>201</sup>

Japan’s commitment to the exchange of best practices and lessons learned among all stakeholders through accessible research or other forms of public discourse.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Georgina Merhom*

### United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied on its commitment on air pollution by taking action to exchange best practices and lessons learned among all stakeholders through accessible research or other forms of public discourse.

On 14 January 2019, Environment Secretary Michael Gove today launched an ambitious new strategy to clean up our air and save lives.<sup>202</sup> The measures set out in the Clean Air Strategy will cut the costs of air

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<sup>197</sup> **Japan's Modernization Experience as a Legacy for the World' Part 4: Spreading Wisdom About Coping with Pollution and Protecting the Environment**, Japan International Cooperation Agency. (Tokyo) 8 November 2018. Access Date: 26 February 2019. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2018/181108\\_01.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2018/181108_01.html).

<sup>198</sup> **Japan's Modernization Experience as a Legacy for the World' Part 4: Spreading Wisdom About Coping with Pollution and Protecting the Environment**, Japan International Cooperation Agency. (Tokyo) 8 November 2018. Access Date: 26 February 2019. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2018/181108\\_01.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2018/181108_01.html).

<sup>199</sup> **Japan's Modernization Experience as a Legacy for the World' Part 4: Spreading Wisdom About Coping with Pollution and Protecting the Environment**, Japan International Cooperation Agency. (Tokyo) 8 November 2018. Access Date: 26 February 2019. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2018/181108\\_01.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2018/181108_01.html).

<sup>200</sup> **Japan's Modernization Experience as a Legacy for the World' Part 4: Spreading Wisdom About Coping With Pollution and Protecting the Environment**, Japan International Cooperation Agency. (Tokyo) 8 November 2018. Access Date: 26 February 2019. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2018/181108\\_01.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2018/181108_01.html)

<sup>201</sup> **Japan's Modernization Experience as a Legacy for the World' Part 4: Spreading Wisdom About Coping with Pollution and Protecting the Environment**, Japan International Cooperation Agency. (Tokyo) 8 November 2018. Access Date: 26 February 2019. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2018/181108\\_01.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2018/181108_01.html)

<sup>202</sup> Government launches world leading plan to tackle air pollution, UK Government. (London) 14 January 2019. Access Date: 14 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-world-leading-plan-to-tackle-air-pollution>.

pollution to society by GBP1.7 billion every year by 2020, rising to GBP5.3 billion every year from 2030.<sup>203</sup> In addition, the government set a target to reduce people's exposure to particulate matter (PM), which the World Health Organization (WHO) has identified as the most damaging pollutant.<sup>204</sup> To inform development of this new target, the government will publish evidence early this year on what action would be needed to meet WHO guidelines.<sup>205</sup> The Clean Air Strategy 2019 aims to reduce harmful pollution, by taking the following actions: providing a personal messaging system for the air quality forecast, carrying out "targeted local action" to reduce pollution in 'problem' area, committing to a new target for the reduction of harmful nitrogen deposits, reporting annually on the impacts of air pollution on natural habitats, phase-out of coal-fired power stations and moving towards cleaner power sources, legislate to ban the sale of the most polluting fuels, by 2022, ensure only the "cleanest stoves" will be available to purchase, give new powers to local authorities to tackle high pollution in the worst areas, regulate to reduce ammonia emissions from farming, and finally, educate people and organisations on how they can reduce their contribution to air pollution.<sup>206</sup>

The United Kingdom took actions to tackle air quality through exchanged best practices and lessons learned among all stakeholders through accessible research or other forms of public discourse.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives an interim score of +1.

*Analyst: Georgina Merhom*

### **United States: -1**

The United States has not complied on its commitment on air pollution by taking action to exchange best practices and lessons learned among all stakeholders through accessible research or other forms of public discourse.

In January 2019, the United States Environmental Protection Agency published research on health and exposure to air pollution, titled "what health care providers should know about particle pollution and cardiovascular risk."<sup>207</sup>

The United States has not taken any actions to tackle air quality their exchange of discourse through accessible research has been focused on health-related topics, rather than accessible analysis on air pollution.

Thus, the United States receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Georgina Merhom*

### **European Union: +1**

The European Union has fully complied on its commitment on air pollution by taking action to exchange best practices and lessons learned among all stakeholders through accessible research or other forms of public discourse.

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<sup>203</sup> Government launches world leading plan to tackle air pollution, UK Government. (London) 14 January 2019. Access Date: 14 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-world-leading-plan-to-tackle-air-pollution>.

<sup>204</sup> Government launches world leading plan to tackle air pollution, UK Government. (London) 14 January 2019. Access Date: 14 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-world-leading-plan-to-tackle-air-pollution>.

<sup>205</sup> Government launches world leading plan to tackle air pollution, UK Government. (London) 14 January 2019. Access Date: 14 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-world-leading-plan-to-tackle-air-pollution>.

<sup>206</sup> Government launches world leading plan to tackle air pollution, UK Government. (London) 14 January 2019. Access Date: 14 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-world-leading-plan-to-tackle-air-pollution>.

<sup>207</sup> What health care providers should know about particle pollution and cardiovascular risk, US Environmental Protection Agency. (Washington) January 2018. Access Date: 16 February 2019. <https://www.epa.gov/air-research/what-health-care-providers-should-know-about-particle-pollution-and-cardiovascular-risk>.

In January 2019, The European Union announced that in partnership with the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, it will be hosting a second EU Clean Air Forum on 28–29 November 2019.<sup>208</sup> This Forum will focus on three themes: air quality and energy, air quality and agriculture, and clean air funding mechanisms.<sup>209</sup> It will bring together decision-makers, stakeholders and experts on the above topics in a two-day conference to reflect on the development and implementation of effective European, national and local air policies, projects and programmes.<sup>210</sup>

On 30 January 2019, the European Commission published a report titled “Clean Air Outlook – European Commission – Europa EU” which compiles research and policy solutions for air pollution.<sup>211</sup>

In April 2019, all EU member states will be required to produce a National Air Pollution Control Programme to ensure compliance with the 2020 and 2030 reduction commitments outlined in the “Clean Air Outlook – European Commission – Europa EU” report. The Commission evaluation of those programmes will be made public on the EU website.<sup>212</sup>

The European Union took actions to tackle air quality through exchanged best practices and lessons learned among all stakeholders through accessible policy analysis and other forms of public discourse.

Thus, the European Union receives an interim score of +1.

*Analyst: Georgina Merhom*

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<sup>208</sup> EU Clean Air Forum, European Union. (Brussels) January 2019. Access Date: 16 February 2019.

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/eu-clean-air-forum-2019-nov-28\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/eu-clean-air-forum-2019-nov-28_en)

<sup>209</sup> EU Clean Air Forum, European Union. (Brussels) January 2019. Access Date: 16 February 2019.

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/eu-clean-air-forum-2019-nov-28\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/eu-clean-air-forum-2019-nov-28_en)

<sup>210</sup> EU Clean Air Forum, European Union. (Brussels) January 2019. Access Date: 16 February 2019.

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/eu-clean-air-forum-2019-nov-28\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/eu-clean-air-forum-2019-nov-28_en)

<sup>211</sup> The First Clean Air Outlook, European Commission. (Brussels) 30 January 2019. Access Date: 16 February 2019.

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/pdf/clean\\_air\\_outlook.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/pdf/clean_air_outlook.pdf)

<sup>212</sup> Reduction of National Emissions - Guidance on National Air Pollution Control Programmes, European Union. (Brussels) 22 December 2018. Access Date: 16 February 2019. <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/reduction/guidance.htm>